



# HELLENS MUSIC

THROUGH THE YEAR

## Performance Workshops at Hellens

Hellens, Much Marcle, Herefordshire, HR8 2LY

**Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 October 2021, 9am – 5pm**

Pianists, singers and string players of all ages and abilities are invited to perform to a small and supportive audience and to receive instant feedback and advice from a leading professional.

**William Howard – piano**  
**Sarah Gabriel – voice**  
**Matthew Denton – violin**  
**Emma Denton - cello**

These friendly and informal workshops are designed to grow confidence, improve technique, and encourage joy in performing. The spirit of the weekend will be non-competitive but a number of performers will be invited by the tutors to take part in a public concert in the Great Barn at Hellens Manor at 5.30pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

|   | Category                                    | Fee | Workshop duration | Recommended maximum duration of repertoire |
|---|---|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Piano and Strings: Under 18's: Grades 1 – 3 | £5  | 10 mins           | 3 mins                                     |
| 2 | Piano and Strings: Under 18's: Grades 4 - 6 | £10 | 15 mins           | 5 mins                                     |
| 3 | Piano and Strings: Under 18's: Grades 7 +   | £15 | 20 mins           | 8 mins                                     |
| 4 | Piano and Strings: Adult: All abilities     | £20 | 20 mins           | -  |
| 5 | Voice: Under 18's: Grades 1 – 3             | £5  | 10 mins           | 3 mins                                     |
| 6 | Voice: Under 18's: Grades 4 – 6             | £10 | 15 mins           | 3 mins                                     |
| 7 | Voice: Under 18's: Grades 7 +               | £15 | 15 mins           | 3 mins                                     |
| 8 | Voice: Adults: All abilities                | £20 | 15 mins           | 3 mins                                     |
| 9 | Observers                                   | FOC | -                 | -  |

**Repertoire:** Students may have free choice over the repertoire but it should be a piece prepared to performance/exam standard.

**Schedule:** Provisionally under 18's in the morning, adults in the afternoon on both days. The schedule will be confirmed by Friday 15 October 2021 but all students will be encouraged to attend the whole session so that they can learn by observing other students.

**Application procedure:** Please email name, age, approximate level of ability and repertoire to [justinepeberdy@hellensmanor.com](mailto:justinepeberdy@hellensmanor.com) Closing date for applications – Friday 8 October 2021

**String players and pianists** – here is your chance to perform a piece of your own choosing in a relaxed environment! For pianists there is the extra thrill of being able to play on the beautiful Steinway Concert Grand in the Great Barn at Hellens. Each performance will be followed by immediate feedback from William (piano), Matt (upper strings) or Emma (lower strings), with advice on presentation and, if you need it, tips on how to build your confidence when playing in front of an audience. Playing from memory or with the score in front of you are both fine! What we do recommend is that you choose a piece that is well within your capabilities so that you can enjoy thinking about your presentation and performance, while not still worrying about playing the notes. Feedback will be designed to be useful to all participants, so please consider staying to hear the whole morning or afternoon session you are involved in – or, better still, join us for the whole weekend.

The **vocal class** at Hellens is open to all singers. Sarah is particularly interested in being authentically yourself onstage, expressing your individuality as a singer, finding your true singing voice, tackling nerves, and in discovering ways to relish every moment of your performance. These workshops will be taught on a one-to-one basis in front of the group. Equal time will be given to all participants, and a piano accompaniment will be available. Participants should expect to attend their session in full, learning from their own coaching as well as from observing others. Please bring a piece with which you are already familiar (and memorised if you feel able to - we will send you Sarah's tips on memorising once you've applied) enabling you to spend your session enjoying exploring your interpretation of the song.

**William Howard** (piano) described in The Independent as “a pianist of quite special lustrousness and versatility”, is established as one of Britain’s leading pianists, enjoying a career that has taken him to over 40 different countries. His performing life consists of solo recitals, concerto performances, guest appearances with chamber ensembles and instrumentalists. 1983 he founded the Schubert Ensemble, with which he performed for the full 35 years of the Ensemble’s existence. William performs regularly at major venues and festivals in the UK and can be heard frequently on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. He has made over forty CD recordings and premiered several dozen new works by leading composers from the UK and abroad. As well as teaching privately throughout his professional career, he has given master classes in many parts of the world, has regularly given workshops and master classes at the Dartington International Summer School, coached chamber music at Birmingham Conservatoire for 15 years and regularly adjudicates at London colleges of music. [www.williamhoward.co.uk](http://www.williamhoward.co.uk)

**Sarah Gabriel** (soprano) made her US debut as Lucy Lockit in Benjamin Britten's *The Beggar's Opera*, conducted by Lorin Maazel, and her European debut playing Eliza in Robert Carsen’s triumphant production of *My Fair Lady* at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, opposite Alex Jennings as Higgins. Sarah is equally at home singing classical music and opera spanning 400 years as she is performing Berlin cabaret, the American Songbook and premiering newly-composed vocal music of all genres, including electro-folk. She has been a guest teacher at Royal Academy of Music, Drama Centre London, Aldeburgh Young Musicians, E15 Acting School, NYU Tisch, and Dartington Summer School.

**Matthew Denton** (violin) studied with Felix Andrievsky at the RCM for 4 years and was a Richard Carne Junior Fellow at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where he now continues to work as a Violin Professor. Matt can also be regularly heard on TV and film scores including Downton Abbey, Poldark, The Theory of Everything, Everest, Boxtrolls, Murder on the Orient Express, Shazam and Paddington, and performed on albums by Ed Sheeran, Ellie Goulding and Jethro Tull. Many of Matt’s past students have gone on to be successful performers and teachers and can be regularly heard in orchestras including the Halle, Liverpool Philharmonic, Aurora, BBC NOW and the English Symphony Orchestra. Matt plays on a historic Brother’s Amati violin from 1603 - ‘The Hurwitz ex Cooper’

**Emma Denton** (cello) studied at the Royal Academy of Music with David Strange, where she received many of the Academy’s top awards including the Louise Child Prize for the highest overall degree, the David Martin/Florence Hooten Concerto prize and the Max Pirani and Harry Isaacs chamber music prizes. She was the winner of the Muriel Taylor Scholarship and was selected to perform alongside Rostropovitch at the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Emma has performed concerti by Elgar, Dvorak, Bliss, Saint-Saens, Vivaldi and Brahms and is regularly heard on film and tv soundtracks. Emma plays on a Ruggeri cello from c.1690

Matthew and Emma have performed for more than 20 years as members of the Carducci Quartet – one of the UK’s most successful string quartets.