

# NATIONAL STRINGS SUMMER COURSES 2024

*NATIONAL  
STRINGS*

MUSICALLY INSPIRING COURSES

NATIONALSTRINGS.ORG @NATIONALSTRINGSCOURSES



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**02**

**Calendar of Events**

**03**

**About National Strings**

**04**

**Senior Masterclass and  
Chamber Music Academy**

**05**

**Junior Course**

**06**

**Professors**

**10**

**Venue**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ATLANTIC COLLEGE,  
ST DONAT'S CASTLE, WALES

**AUG 7-10 SENIOR COURSE - PART 1**

**AUG 11-13 SENIOR COURSE - PART 2**

**AUG 11-13 JUNIOR COURSE**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT US AT  
[WWW.NATIONALSTRINGS.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALSTRINGS.ORG)



# About National Strings

National Strings was founded in 2009 to give young string players opportunities to study with some of the finest Professors. Courses combine solo performance opportunities, masterclasses with leading teachers and playing chamber music with other students. Each day includes a private lesson, rehearsal with an accompanist, chamber music coaching and the opportunity to perform in the evening concert. The course is tailored to the needs of each individual student. Our range of courses foster string players from some of their first chamber music rehearsals and performances to the most promising conservatoire students and young professionals.



FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.NATIONALSTRINGS.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALSTRINGS.ORG)



# Senior Masterclass and Chamber Music Academy

7-13th August 2024

## Who can apply?

The senior course is suitable for conservatoire students/recent graduates or younger students of an advanced standard who play violin, viola, cello, double bass or piano.

## Senior Course Program

Senior courses include a one-to-one lesson, a rehearsal session with an accompanist each day, as well as each student participating in 2-3 chamber music groups. The concerts that happen every evening act as opportunities to try out repertoire and gain performance practice. Other opportunities can be organised to suit the needs of each student such as excerpt classes and rehearsing solos with string orchestra accompaniment. Some students may be chosen to play to visiting masterclass professors.

## Fees

Part 1 - £446 (non-residential £399)

Part 2 - £337 (non-residential £299)

Full-course - £695 (non-residential £655)



## How to Apply

Email [Nationalstringscourse@gmail.com](mailto:Nationalstringscourse@gmail.com) with the applicants; Name, Age, Instrument, Biography or CV and links to two contrasting video recordings by 31st May.



# JUNIOR COURSE

11-13 August 2023

## Program

On the Junior Course each young string player plays in multiple chamber music groups. Each student will have a lesson and a rehearsal with piano each day and perform in concerts every evening.

## Fee

Residential £337  
Non Residential £299

## Who Can Apply

Any Violinists, Violist, Cellists or Bassists from grade 6 - Diploma Standard or above and pianists above grade 8 standard. Priority will be given to those who registered first.

## How to Apply

Email  
[Nationalstringscourse@gmail.com](mailto:Nationalstringscourse@gmail.com)  
with the applicants; Name, Age,  
Standard and musical education by  
31st May





# Meet Our Teachers

## Vanessa David – Course Director

### Violin and Viola - Seniors & Juniors

Principal 1st violin with Royal Ballet Sinfonia, which she has led at venues such as the Barbican and Symphony Hall and is mentoring scheme co-ordinator. In her freelance career she has guest led National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, London City Ballet, Welsh Chamber Orchestra and London Concertante; co-led the Ulster Orchestra, English chamber Orchestra and Bournemouth

Sinfonietta; worked with Academy of St. Martin's in the Fields and ROH. Broadcast as a soloist on Radio 3, Radio Wales, BBC Wales & HTV. She teaches at Junior Guildhall and coaches many youth orchestras and has given masterclasses for Birmingham Conservatoire and orchestral workshops at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Royal Academy of Music where she also runs the RBS Scheme.



## Visiting Violin Masterclass

### Lesley Hatfield - Senior Part 2

Lesley Hatfield leads a varied musical life, combining her role as Concertmaster of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales with chamber music, solo playing and teaching as a professor at RWCMD. Prior to leading BBC NOW she was co-Leader of the Northern Sinfonia and Leader of the Ulster Orchestra. She is a member of the highly acclaimed Gaudier Ensemble and is regularly invited to participate as a guest in a wide range of ensembles and chamber music festivals.



### **Simon Smith, Violin - Senior Part 1**

For two decades Simon taught in UK Conservatoires - the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the Royal Northern College of Music, and Trinity Laban in London. For many years he was also a violin teacher and chamber music coach in the Royal College of Music Junior Department. He is currently Head of Strings at Wells Cathedral School, one of the UK's specialist music schools. He has been active as a soloist, chamber musician and teacher worldwide for 30 years. He has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Philharmonia, and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic



### **Clare Thompson, Violin - Juniors & Seniors**

For over a decade, she was Sub-Leader at the Philharmonia Orchestra. A longstanding Professor at TrinityLaban Conservatoire, she is also a Professor at the Junior Royal Academy of Music. Passionate about training young people, she has been a regular tutor for the National Children's Orchestras of GB since 2004 and was recently made an Interim Trustee. She also appeared as guest leader with the Royal Opera House, London Mozart Players, and principal positions with the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra to name a few.



### **Alex Thorndike, Viola - Seniors Part 1 & 2**

Alex currently divides his time between performing as Assistant Principal Viola of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and teaching at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. As well as teaching at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Alex is a Specialist Viola teacher at Wells Cathedral school - one of four specialised Music schools in the UK. He previously played for the Halle Orchestra before moving to his present position.





### **Carys Barnes, Viola - Juniors**

Carys is a Leo Birnbaum Scholar at Guildhall School of Music and Drama studying her Artists Masters in Advanced Instrumental Studies. Previously, she graduated with a first-class degree and ARAM from the Royal Academy of Music where she won the Theodore Holland Viola Prize in her first year. Carys has trialled and worked with leading orchestras in the UK and abroad and has played Principal viola with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and was offered the position of Principal viola with the Slovak State Sinfonietta. She is currently an MMSF fellow with the Philharmonia Orchestra and has also taken part in orchestral schemes with London Sinfonietta and Royal Ballet Sinfonia.



### **Ben Davies, Cello - Senior Part 2 & Juniors**

Ben Davies is a cellist and teacher based in London. Alongside a wide variety of freelance work he has, since 2000, been Principal Cello at English Touring Opera as well as a member of the cello sections at Glyndebourne and Garsington Opera. Ben has 30 years experience as a teacher and currently holds teaching positions at Royal Academy of Music Junior Department, Purcell School, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and London University. He also coaches young musicians at the National Children's Orchestra, Encore Music Project summer school and National Chamber Music Course. A number of his students have been prize winners at competitions, secured scholarships and gone on to have successful careers in the music profession, including chart-topping Sheku Kanneh-Mason MBE.





### **William Bruce, Cello - Seniors Part 1 & Juniors**

William Bruce is Head of Strings at Junior Guildhall, a passionate music educator, William is much in demand in the UK for masterclasses, workshops, summer schools and insets and he ran a residential summer school for cellists each year. In addition to many years experience as an adjudicator, William is a Consultant Moderator for the ABRSM. He studied with Christopher Bunting and took part in classes with Jacqueline du Pré and William Pleeth. He also attended chamber music courses at the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies with the Amadeus Quartet. He has been a visiting professor at the University of South Carolina and was a member of the orchestra of English National Opera since 1982.



### **Ben Tarlton, Cello - Seniors Part 1**

Ben is Festival Director of the Llantwit Major Chamber Music Festival and was awarded the "2022 Master's Award" from the Livery Company of Wales, contributing to the Festival's educational work. He is a cello teacher at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Other concert highlights include Recitals at Wigmore Hall, St James's Church Piccadilly, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Concerto performances at Cadogan Hall, St John's Smith Square, West Road Concert Hall, BBC Hoddinott Hall and Dora Stoutzker Hall, as well as broadcasts on BBC Radio 3.



## **Rebeca Selley, Piano and Accompaniment - Seniors & Juniors**



Rebecca studied piano and piano accompaniment at the Royal College of Music where she won the John Ireland Prize for accompanists, and played for masterclasses given by, amongst others, William Pleeth, Dorothy Delay and Benjamin Luxon. More recently she has played in masterclasses for such eminent musicians as Maxim Vengerov, James Ehnes, Dong-Suk Kang, Roger Chase, Simon Rowland Jones, Alban Gerhardt, Thomas Carroll, Boris Garlitsky, Rachel Podger and Pamela Frank. She has given piano trio recitals with The Vale Piano Trio and is a regular pianist in the BBC NOW chamber series. She has made frequent appearances at the Wales Millennium Centre, including accompanying competitors of the Menuhin Competition. Rebecca also works as an accompanist for BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Welsh National Opera and Royal Welsh college of Music and Drama.

## **Louisa Lam, Piano and Accompaniment - Seniors Part 2 & Juniors**



Louisa has performed as soloist and accompanist in many venues across London including the Barbican Hall, Wigmore Hall, Southwark Cathedral, St James Piccadilly and St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, as well as further afield, including the Auditori Winterhur in Barcelona and Musica Eboræ in Portugal. She is currently a staff accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (both Senior and Junior departments), répétiteur for the St John of Jerusalem Festival Chorus in Hackney, and she teaches piano at Christ's Hospital School in West Sussex, as well as having a thriving private teaching practice in London.

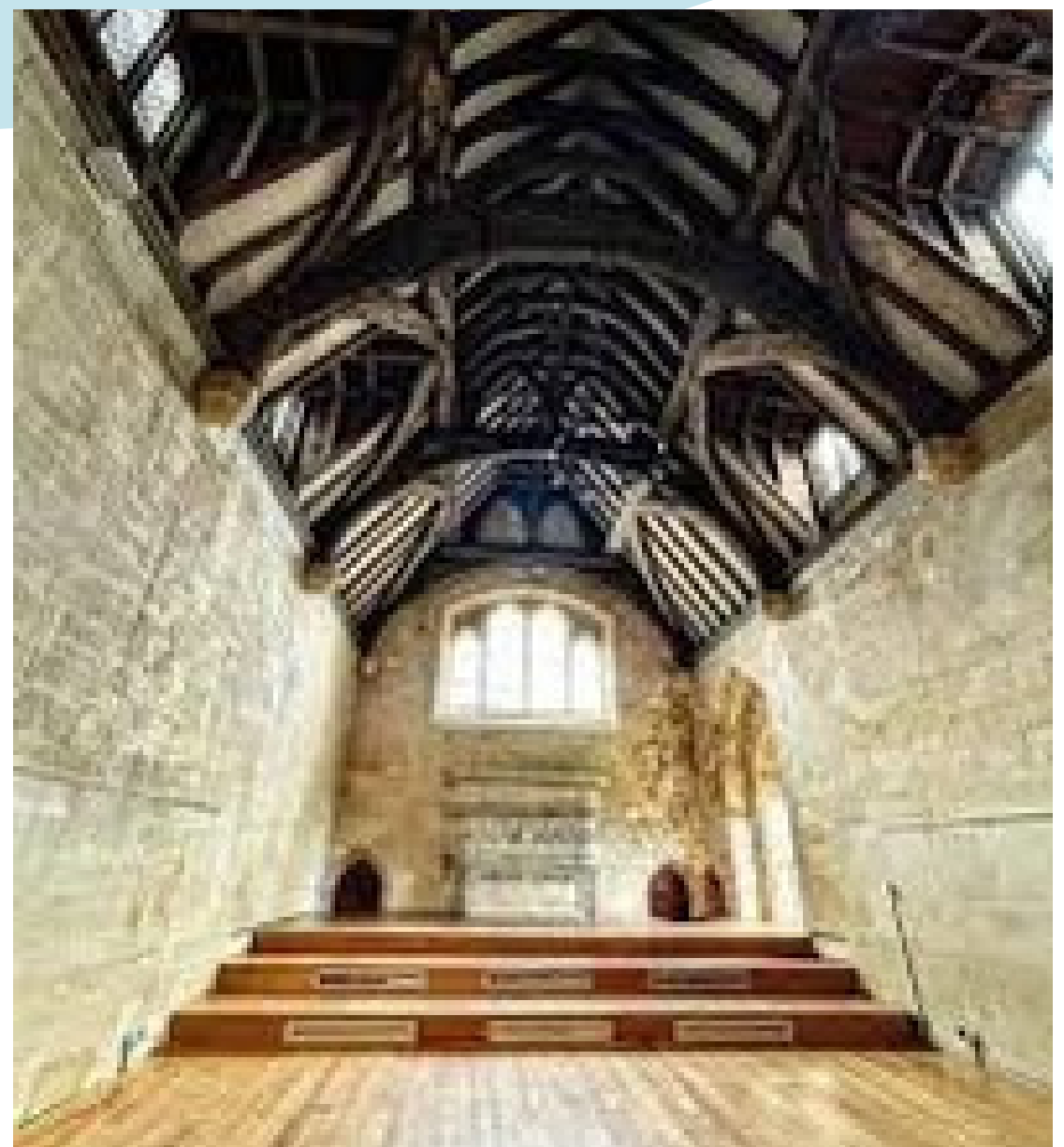


Venue

# St Dunat's Castel, Atlantic College



UWC Atlantic is located at St Donat's Castle, a 12th-century castle near the town of Llantwit Major on the South Wales coast, overlooking the Bristol Channel. The castle has been continuously inhabited since it was first built. The extensive grounds also include the 12th-century St Donat's Church and the historic terraced gardens, as well as preserved woodland, farmland and Heritage Coastline. St Donat's Castle is the main building of the college, housing the Tudor great hall, the gothic dining hall, Bradenstoke Hall which will be our performance venue. It is accesible by train from Bridgend or Cardiff.





Email us for more information

*NATIONAL  
STRINGS*

MUSICALLY INSPIRING COURSES