

Gresham House Studios

Singing & Art Workshops in the Tamar Valley

2019



2019 GRESHAM HOUSE STUDIOS WORKSHOPS

2018 was a busy year full of new ventures for us both. There is no doubt that Gresham House and the Tamar Valley are an inspiration, and we love to share this glorious place with other art and music lovers. This year there are some new one-day workshops - eg. How To Memorise, Exploring Song Text and the Judith Sheridan Master Classes. The Creative Arts Holiday, a big hit last year, and Jazz Singing Into Performance are on the menu once again, as are workshops on drawing, painting, print and sketchbook making.



Our ever-expanding vegetable plot and fruit cage will be fully productive (weather permitting) and participants may expect good, homely meals. Whether you are an old friend or new to our workshops programme, you will be given a hearty welcome and are sure to be inspired and refreshed by the Gresham House experience. There are workshops for beginners and for those with less confidence, and workshops for seasoned performers. If you are unsure if something is suitable for you, please do email or phone us for a chat. We hope to see you in 2019!

Helen & Peter

WORKSHOPS CALENDAR 2019

	Singing Workshops	Art Workshops
27 April		Lino Printing Day
28 April	Brushing up Technique	
4 & 5 May	Madrigals Weekend	
18 & 19 May	Masterclass with Judith S (2x)	
8 June	Sing Jazz & Swing	
18-20 June	Song Writing	
27-30 June	Creative Arts Holiday	
6 July	How to Memorise	
7 July		Sketching & Painting
25-28 July	Jazz Singing into Performance	
3 & 4 August	Singing - Reluctant Songbirds	
28 September		Drawing Day
29 September		Book making in a Day

LINO PRINTING DAY

Saturday 27 April, 10.30am-5pm
Gresham House Studios
Cost: £60 (materials and lunch included)

This one day workshop offers a practical introduction to the process of making a linocut, from your first inspiration to the actual print. Through simple exercises we explore the striking possibilities of designing in black and white, developing an initial sketch to a workable design, transfer this onto the block, carve and then print. No previous experience required.



BRUSHING UP TECHNIQUE

Sunday 28 April, 10am-4pm
Gresham House Studios
£65 including lunch
Maximum 8 singers

A vocal workout day to exercise singing muscles and brush up the basics. Also good for singers in need of a confidence boost. This workshop will cover essential aspects of vocal technique - breathing and support, soft palate control, effort levels, articulation and intention. It is open to singers at every level. We will learn from watching and listening to one another, as well as participating in group exercises. An uplifting and informative day, singing in both unison and simple harmony, with the emphasis firmly on technique and confidence building.



MADRIGALS WEEKEND

Saturday & Sunday 4 & 5 May
Old Chapel, Calstock Arts
Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 10am-3.30pm,
Sunday 4pm Madrigals Showcase
£65 (not including lunch)
Maximum 30 participants

A glorious spring weekend of English madrigals - also a firm favourite in the workshops calendar. The weekend takes place in the glass fronted Old Chapel, run by Calstock Arts, overlooking the Tamar river. The madrigals will be selected well ahead of the weekend and recordings provided for singers who like to come prepared. There will be a short showcase performance open to the public at the end of Sunday afternoon.

SINGING MASTER CLASS WITH JUDITH SHERIDAN

Saturday 18 May, 10am-4.30pm
Gresham House Studios
Non residential: £75
Residential: £125 (one night) or £175 (two nights)
Maximum 8 singers

Judith Sheridan is simply one of the finest voice teachers in the land. Singers always benefit enormously from her musical expertise and insightful tuition. It's thrilling to hear a voice transform in an instant, overcoming a particular technical difficulty, with a simple instruction from Judith. This Master Class day is open to eight singing students (of any age) of classical singing. You will perform two songs, preferably from memory, as it is essential to be as well prepared as you can be. Please book early to be sure of securing your place.

SINGING MASTER CLASS WITH JUDITH SHERIDAN

Sunday 19 May, 10am-4pm
Gresham House Studios
£75
Maximum 8 singers

See previous



SING JAZZ AND SWING!

Saturday 8 June, 10am-4pm
Gresham House Studios
Residential (Frid. evening) £115
Non residential: £65
Max 8 participants

A one day singing workshop for singers who love the genre - think Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, Tony Bennett - all amazing singers with the ability to draw you in to their world. The art is to sing naturally and with feeling, but what does that mean and how do you do it? This workshop is all about expression, confidence and commitment to performance, and the art of natural delivery. Bring two contrasting songs, preferably jazz standards, to sing from memory. You don't need to have previous experience, just a love of the genre.

SONG-WRITING COURSE

Tuesday to Thursday 18-20 June
Daily, 10am - 5pm
Gresham House Studios
Residential: £355
Non residential: £255
Maximum 6 participants

Penning a song is a fascinating way of exploring a subject - political, environmental, emotional, historical etc - and shaping thoughts, ideas and feelings into a creative form. This three-day course provides plenty of individual facilitation time with Helen. Each day begins with a group session to prepare song-writers for a creative day writing and composing, and then time to work individually. Each room is equipped with a piano or keyboard. All of the songs created will be performed and recorded on the last day. The workshop is suitable for those new to song-writing, or to experienced writers needing time and space to finish those half-penned songs.

CREATIVE ARTS HOLIDAY

Thursday to Sunday 27-30 June
Gresham House Studios
£455 residential
£375 non-residential
Maximum 8 participants

Peter and Helen exchange their teaching hats for aprons alternately, and the emphasis is on creativity, relaxation, lovely food and good conversation, all in the comfort of Gresham House, it's surrounding countryside and well equipped studios. Walking and sketching along the river Tamar, group singing and song-writing, harmony singing and an evening soiree are all on the menu, as well as time to snooze in the sunshine if necessary! If you like the idea of a relaxing holiday, with creativity and inspiration at the heart of it, this is the place to be.

HOW TO MEMORISE

Saturday 6 July, 11am-3pm
Gresham House Studios
£45 (bring a packed lunch)
Max 8 participants

To sing and communicate effectively to an audience, it is always best to perform from memory. This can be a daunting prospect for many singers who fear their memory is unreliable. This workshop will explore and attempt to challenge that fear. We will look at memorising from various aspects, discovering artful ways to memorise and learning how to deal with a situation where words mysteriously disappear. If you sing in a choir or the occasional solo, and would like to explore how to exercise and preserve your memory, this workshop is just the thing for you.



SKETCHING AND PAINTING DAY

Sunday 7 July, 10am-5pm
Gresham House Studios
Cost: £60 (lunch included)

Enjoy the Tamar Valley summer with a sketching and painting day at Gresham House Studios. This workshop will start with preparatory research sketches to get to know your subject matter, find or build a composition and explore tone and colour. In the afternoon we will work on one piece, aiming to incorporate the best elements of your sketches from the morning session. Please bring your own sketching and painting materials (watercolours, acrylic or oils).

JAZZ SINGING INTO PERFORMANCE WITH HELEN PORTER, JONATHAN TAYLOR & JAMES BUDDEN

Thursday to Sunday 25-28 July
Gresham House Studios
Performance: Saturday evening,
Old Chapel, Calstock
£485 residential
£395 non-residential
Max 8 participants

Divas Night is a regular and much anticipated fixture in the Calstock Arts summer calendar. Eight singers perform

on stage after three intensive days of coaching from Helen, Jonathan and James. You must be a reasonably confident singer, with a desire to perform solo. The course, which will cover everything from jazz warm ups and scatting to how to count in the band, is perfect for singers who want more solo performance opportunity, and who would love to be accompanied by professional jazz musicians. This course books up the fastest of all the workshops and places are limited, so please contact Helen before booking your place.



SINGING FOR RELUCTANT SONGBIRDS

Saturday & Sunday 3 & 4 August
10am-4pm daily
Gresham House Studios
£195 residential
£165 non residential
Maximum 8 places

Do you love singing but wish you could feel just that bit more confident? Do you feel you sing too quietly, or that your voice doesn't do what you want it to do? Are you embarrassed that someone sitting next to you at choir might hear you, or worse, hear you make a mistake? Do you feel terrified at the thought of singing solo, but have a secret, unfulfilled desire to do so? If any of the above chimes with you, then this weekend course has been devised especially for you. Come and release your inner songbird with other reluctant songsters.

DRAWING DAY

Saturday 28 September
10.30am-5pm
Gresham House Studios
Cost: £60 (materials and lunch included)

If you think you can't draw, what you're expressing is most likely the disappointment that what your hand does is different to what your eyes see. Of course! That kind of drawing takes years of practice. But there are so many fascinating aspects to drawing - playing with lines, mark-making, tonal values, composition - and enjoying drawing is about much more than accuracy or representation. This workshop offers a day of experimenting with all kind of approaches to this core element of visual art. Once you've discovered the fun of drawing and sketching, you won't be able to stop.



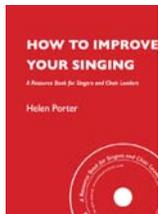
BOOK MAKING IN A DAY

Sunday 29 September
10.30am-5pm
Gresham House Studios
Cost: £70 (materials and lunch included)

As a printmaker and framer I always have stacks of paper, card and discarded prints lying around, which I love to make into unique and personal sketchbooks or notebooks. In this workshop you'll do just that. In the morning we'll be working on creating your own cover papers, in the

afternoon we'll put together two different bindings for small sketchbooks. Expect to go home with two hand finished gems. This workshop makes a great combination with the drawing day on Saturday 28th. Residential options are available for people who wish to do both workshops.

THE GRESHAM HOUSE STUDIOS BOOKSHOP



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SINGING

by Helen Porter

How to Improve Your Singing is a valuable resource book and CD for singers and choir leaders. Each chapter isolates a single aspect of vocal technique - eg. breathing, soft palate control, voice placing, articulation, and clearly explains what is required and how to practise. The accompanying CD demonstrates how to perform the exercises. The technical exercises and miniature songs are instructive and enjoyable for both individuals as well as choirs.

"We have been to two of your workshops and there's absolutely no doubting the difference you've made to each of us. And we really enjoyed the day too. It's amazing how much you cover." Workshop participants, Sounding it Out choir, Bradford on Avon

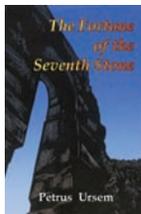
The book, priced £20 (plus p&p), can be ordered via the website shop at www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk



CONSTANT AS THE WORLD

CD with 13 songs from Helen's solo tour.
(lyrics included)

Order via our website. £10.99 (incl. p&p)



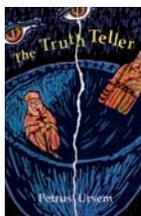
THE FORTUNE OF THE SEVENTH STONE

by Petrus Ursem

A fast-paced adventure, riddled with mysteries from the past... Thirteen year old Steven becomes heir to the fortune of an eccentric mine captain. Can he unlock the seven riddles that guard the treasure?

"Beautifully written. The treasure hunt links all the different places together and it keeps you wanting to read more. Every time they discover a clue, it's just another cryptic code and a further clue to find the next stone. This really kept me on the edge of my seat."

(Paperback, 252 pages, £8.99 (plus p&p). ISBN: 978-0-9955717-2-3)



THE TRUTH TELLER

by Petrus Ursem

Part 2 of the Steven Honest Trilogy. The treasure hunter becomes hunted: Steven is driven deeper into a mysterious and complicated world, where not everyone can be trusted to act in the best interest of mankind.....

"A masterful combination of past and present stories, shot through with philosophical daydreams and deliberation, heart beating imagery and good old fashioned suspense."

(Paperback, 348 pages, £8.99 (plus p&p). ISBN: 978-0-9955717-1-6)

Both books can be ordered via the bookshop at www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk. Also available as e-books via Amazon Kindle.

HELEN PORTER - singer, vocal coach, composer

Helen's career in music covers a range of disciplines including theatre composer, singer, vocal coach, music director and workshop facilitator. She has worked on many and varied collaborative projects, and composed for both theatre and concert platform. Her skill and knowledge as a singer and vocal coach make her much in demand with choirs and vocal ensembles across the country. In all aspects of her work she comfortably crosses the boundaries between classical, music theatre and jazz. Helen is currently touring her solo show Constant as the World. For more information about Helen's work see www.helenportermusic.co.uk.



PETER URSEM - painter, printmaker, writer

Peter Ursem graduated in Literature from the University of Utrecht and in Painting, Drawing and Printmaking from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in The Hague. Having landed in Dorset in 1998 Peter developed relief printmaking techniques alongside his painting. Since moving to Gresham House, the landscape of the Tamar Valley has become prominent in his painting, drawing and printmaking. He also incorporates words, poems and stories in his work. The third part of his 'Steven Honest trilogy' is expected in print at the end of 2019. More information on www.peterursem.co.uk (art) or www.petrus-ursem.co.uk (writing)



Gresham House: Studios and accommodation

Gresham House is set on a hill overlooking part of the Tamar Valley. We are on the Cornish side of the river Tamar, looking out over views towards Devon. From our dining room we look out towards Morwel Rocks above the river, with the hills of Dartmoor in the background.

Gresham House Studios has a music studio and a painting and printmaking workshop. There are 3 residential spaces, with use of a shared bathroom. There are several B&B's nearby, some at walking distance. Meals are cooked on the premises, using vegetables from our garden or fresh, local and seasonal produce. Our immediate surroundings are a wonderful area for short or longer walks, including the Tamar Trails through the mining heritage landscape.

How to find us

Gresham House Studios are easily accessible by train. There is a mainline train to Plymouth, then the Tamar Valley line to Calstock or Gunnislake station (both approx 1 mile from Gresham House). We'd be happy to meet you at the railway station. By car, from Tavistock, turn left before Gunnislake station into Well Park Road. Continue for 0.8 mile. At the top of the hill, turn left into an unmade lane, marked Wheal Arthur. After 200m Gresham House Studios is on your right.

Private Vocal Tuition

Helen offers private singing tuition for beginners, at diploma level and for professional singers. A one off voice assessment session is £50, more regular bookings (minimum monthly) are £40 per hour.



Gresham House Studios
Albaston, Cornwall, PL18 9AB

BOOKINGS

Please book via the booking form on our website
www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk

or by email: for singing to
helen@counterparts.org.uk
and for art to
peter@counterparts.org.uk
or phone **01822 833668**