

Gresham House Studios

Singing & Art Workshops in the Tamar Valley
with Helen Porter & Peter Ursem

www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk

2020

2020 GRESHAM HOUSE STUDIOS WORKSHOPS

This year will be the 10th for our courses and residentials in the Tamar Valley. So many people have travelled to Gresham House to explore, learn about and enjoy music and art skills. Many have returned more than once, sharing the creative and culinary adventures and witnessed Gresham House Studios developing.



So this new year is a crown year worth celebrating. We're offering a varied programme with some old favourites such as the Madrigals weekend, Jazz Singing into Performance and Lino Printing days, and have mixed in some new courses, for example the Postcards from Dartmoor workshop weekend or the Voice Training for Choir Leaders days.

The Creative Arts Holiday has proved to be a popular mix for people who enjoy music, art with also time to relax, and we've scheduled two Song Writing workshops, one in April, the second in July.

Hopefully 2020 will again be a productive year for our garden, as we like to treat our creative guests to healthy home-cooked meals with as many of our own fresh vegetables on the menu as the garden will provide.

Helen & Peter

WORKSHOPS CALENDAR 2020

	Singing Workshops	Art Workshops
3-5 April	Song Writing Weekend	
19 April		Lino Printing Day
2 & 3 May	Madrigals Weekend	
9 & 10 May		Lino Printing in Colour
6 & 7 June	Singing Masterclasses with JS	
12-14 June	Songbirds	
24-27 June	Creative Arts Holiday	
4 & 5 July		Postcards from Dartmoor
16 - 19 July	Song Writing Days	
20-24 July	Jazz Singing into Performance	
25 - 27 August	Voice Training - Choir Leaders	
26 September		Lino Printing Day
27 September		Book making in a Day
November (tbc)	Jazz Singing Anita Wardell	

RESIDENTIAL SONG-WRITING WEEKEND (1)

Friday to Sunday 3 - 5 April
(starting Friday 4pm)
Residential: £275
Non residential: £225

This weekend is for anyone who enjoys setting words to music. This can be as a singer/song-writer or composing and arranging for a cappella voices, choral music or for musical theatre. The residential weekend is about having the time and space to concentrate and progress with your song-writing, learning new ways of approach and picking up handy tips. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned song-writer, you will be facilitated one-to-one by Helen, and there will be group sessions to share the work and develop ideas.



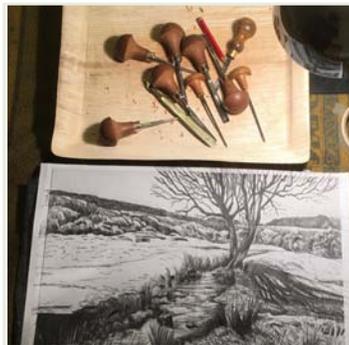
LINO PRINTING DAY

Sunday 19 April
Starting 10.30am; finishing 4.30pm
Cost: £75 (materials and lunch included)

Lino printing is a wonderful printing technique, in which you carve your design with small u-shaped and v-shaped cutters into a block of art linoleum. What you cut away will be white, the linoleum left on the surface will later on be rolled with ink and can be printed. In its basic form lino printing is a simple black and white printing method, and that's exactly what makes it so exciting and suitable for really bold and

striking images. And once you get going, there is so much more to discover: how to build strong pictorial compositions, work with foreground and background, create black and white 'drama', work with textures etc.

In this workshop artist Peter Ursem will guide you through the main steps of the lino printing process, starting from a first sketch and working this up to a design that is bold enough and will work in black and white, transferring your design onto the lino block, the best ways of cutting it, and finally printing it using



Peter's Victorian, cast iron printing press. At the end of the day you should have a good understanding of the whole process, a finished first lino print (and fast workers possibly a second design) and go home with the infectious excitement of the art of lino printing.

MADRIGALS WEEKEND

Saturday 2 May (Calstock Village Hall) 10am - 4pm
Sunday 3 May (Calstock Arts) 10am - 4.30pm
Madrigals Showcase at Calstock Arts, 4pm
£70 (lunch not included)

Calstock wouldn't be Calstock without madrigals in the springtime. Come and join this lovely, friendly, ever-growing group of madrigals enthusiasts for a weekend of uplifting harmony singing of beautiful English madrigals. There is a half-hour public showcase performance on Sunday afternoon.

LINO PRINTING IN COLOUR

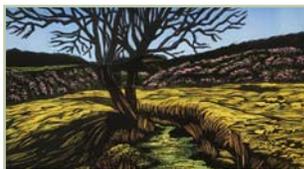
Saturday & Sunday 9 & 10 May
10.30am - 4.30pm
Cost: Non-Residential £145
(materials and lunch included),
Residential £195 (including B&B
and Saturday Supper)

A two day workshop to explore the magic of lino printing. Lino printing is itself a simple technique of creating a print by carving a relief into a block of linoleum and printing this with press or spoon onto paper. The stark contrast of black and whites create strong and striking images. In day one of this workshop you learn the entire process, from planning your design on paper, to cutting, inking and printing your work. On the second day we focus on creating a second print, this time using two or three colours, and finding out how you can make sure that all printed colours will end up in the correct place in your image.

CLASSICAL SINGING MASTERCLASSES WITH JUDITH SHERIDAN

Saturday 6 & Sunday
7 June, 10am - 5pm
Gresham House Studios
£85 per day

Judith Sheridan returns for two days of masterclasses at Gresham House Studios. Her expertise is simply the best, and any singer studying classical singing will benefit enormously from her tuition and guidance. For this workshop it's essential that you are a reasonably confident singer, looking to improve both your technical and performance skills.



SONGBIRDS

Friday (from 4pm) to Sunday
12-14 June
£275 residential
£195 non residential

This is a singing weekend of relaxation and enjoyment, making music with a like-minded group of singers. We'll be singing songs relating to our natural environment, dipping into a whole range of different styles along the way. We'll sing mostly in harmony but with some opportunity for solo singing for those who would like to. A peaceful and restorative weekend for those in need of some rest, lovely music and song, good food and all in the beautiful surroundings of the Tamar Valley.

CREATIVE ARTS HOLIDAY

Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 June
Cost residential £475 or non-residential £385



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, its wonderful surrounding countryside and well equipped studios. But don't be mistaken: the dose of inspiration, skills and artistic satisfaction to be gathered during these four creative days in considerable! Walking and sketching along the river Tamar, group singing and songwriting, harmony singing and 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 creative holiday, with inspiration, musical and artistic nurturing at the heart of it (alongside home cooked food from the Gresham House garden), this is the place to be.

POSTCARDS FROM DARTMOOR

Saturday & Sunday 4 & 5 July
Starting time each day: 10am;
finishing 5pm. (Weather
permitting: evening session on
Saturday)

Cost: Non-Residential £165
(materials and lunch included),
Residential £215 (including B&B
and Saturday Supper)

This special workshop weekend focuses on Dartmoor as a landscape of inspiration... Thirty years ago I came to the UK for the first time in my life and spent four days walking across Dartmoor, swimming and wild camping. It was a brilliant experience, during which the moor landscape etched itself onto my soul... Little did I know then that I would end up living so near, and exploring different parts of the moor regularly as inspiration for art and writing. During this weekend we'll make a 'reconnaissance' visit to check out some favourite spots, take in the atmosphere, sketch explore,



take photographs. The things I particularly like about this landscape are the meeting of land and sky, the stark contrast of stones and tors and the flow and texture of the land forms. Back in the studio we'll aim to capture Dartmoor's character, with free sketching eventually resulting in a series of postcard size images. This workshop is about expansion and distillation, about experimentation and catch. We'll use different materials and techniques: charcoal, watercolour, acrylics and possibly mono or lino print.

RESIDENTIAL SONG-WRITING WEEKEND (2)

Thursday to Sunday 16-19 July
Residential: £355
Non-residential: £255
Gresham House Studios
Maximum 8 participants

See April workshop for details.

NB: This second song-writing workshop is one day longer than the earlier one in April.

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

Monday to Friday 20-24 July
Gresham House Studios
Calstock Arts Divas night:
Thursday 23 July Old Chapel

£485 residential
£395 non-residential
Max 8 participants

If you're a fan of jazz singing and would love to perform

solo on stage with brilliant jazz musicians, this is a rare opportunity to be able to do so in Cornwall. After three days of intensive training and rehearsal, you will perform three jazz standards and two group numbers to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience at Calstock Arts. The course will cover warm ups, counting in, how to tackle improvisation, text interpretation and performance style and much more. Come well prepared, with songs from memory.



VOCAL TRAINING FOR CHOIR LEADERS

Tuesday to Thursday 25-27 August, 10am - 5pm daily
Residential: £275
Non-residential: £195

If you lead a choir, a cappella singing group or are thinking of beginning one and feel that a deeper technical understanding of singing may benefit your choir, this weekend is devised especially for you. As well as improving your own knowledge of vocal technique, you will pick up tips on how to help your choir with intonation, tackle tuning issues, get a more full and resonant sound and energize your singers. Being among other choir leaders, there will also be opportunities to explore ideas, share stories and build a support network.



LINO PRINTING DAY

Saturday 26 September (£75)

BOOK MAKING IN A DAY

Sunday 27 September

Cost: £85 (materials and lunch included)

Starting time each day:
10.30am; finishing 4.30pm

NB: These two workshops can be booked as separate days, or as a weekend. (Cost for both workshops: Non-Residential £155 (materials and lunch included), Residential £205 (including B&B and Saturday Supper))

The lino printing day on Saturday is a repeat from the

same workshop on April 19th. On Sunday we'll be creating unique and personal sketchbooks or notebooks, using the prints from the previous day for cover paper and end papers. (If you want to do only the Sunday bookmaking day, you can bring your own selection of decorative papers or materials - please email first to discuss size requirements). I will guide you step by step through the process of creating your book blocks and covers. Expect to go home with three exquisite hand finished gems that - hopefully - you'll be brave enough to use for a new year of drawing or writing.

JAZZ SINGING DAYS WITH ANITA WARDELL

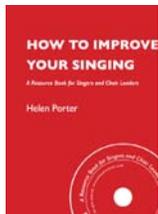
November - dates and cost to be announced on our website

Anita Wardell is an international jazz singing star. Awarded jazz vocalist of the year at the prestigious British Jazz Awards



(2013), she has recorded and toured extensively. Usually residing in Australia, this weekend workshop is a rare opportunity to learn from Anita's experience, expertise and exceptional teaching style. Starting and finishing with lunch, it will be a full on weekend of non-stop singing. Places are limited to give each participant the maximum amount of solo singing opportunity and one-to-one tuition. Have at least two songs you know well up your sleeve.

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.

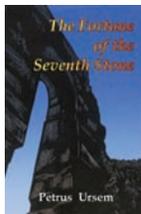
"We have been to two of your workshops and there's absolutely no doubting the difference you've made to each of us. And we really enjoyed the day too. It's amazing how much you cover." Workshop participants, *Sounding it Out* choir, Bradford on Avon

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)

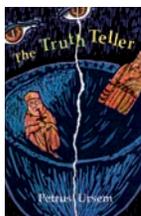


THE FORTUNE OF THE SEVENTH STONE by Petrus Ursem

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. Since 2019 Helen has been 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 summer 2020. 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 £45 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@peterursem.co.uk
or phone **01822 833668**