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**Prospectus for Opera Mint
Summer School**
Adcote School, Little Ness, nr Shrewsbury
20-29th July 2007



The Opera Mint Summer School will again this year take place in the calm surroundings of Adcote House, where we have come to enjoy working with Ursula Prudence, the bursar of Adcote School, and her team.

The plan for the week:

There will be ongoing singing lessons and repertoire coaching for the whole week, acting as background to other activities. Anthony Roden, tenor of three decades experience and sometime teacher at RNCM, as well as being voice teacher at the London College of Music, will teach for the whole week, and also Rob Challinor (pianist and répétiteur) will be coaching individuals and groups.

A typical day will consist of a movement and voice class, followed by sightreading for beginners and more advanced readers. This will be followed by workshops and masterclasses with resident and visiting teachers.

On Monday and Tuesday 23rd and 24th there will be workshops including residents and carers from autism west midlands and a performance with them and with local string players, of most of Vivaldi's Gloria. The opportunity exists during these three days for working musicians attending as students to accompany and teach in a mentored situation a large cross-section of students on the course, with a letter of recognition of the work done being given at the end of the course. This will, of course, be subject to the consent of those to be taught, and will be in addition to their normal allowance of professional hours. It will, however, give an opportunity in a supported and protected environment to work with a broader client base. Often, professionals working in quite challenging environments can be left very alone without opportunities to discuss the issues which arise, and this is an attempt to address this. It is inspiring and exciting work, and opportunities to engage with it are rare.

On Wednesday 25th, there will be a jazz workshop in the afternoon with Vic Evans (vocals) and Tim Amann (piano). This will be an opportunity to explore the jazz style and interact with a jazz style of piano playing. Vic and Tim perform jazz standards, and we suggest that you pass by them your choice of repertoire before coming on the course. In the evening, they will give a public concert which members of the course may attend without charge.

Also Wednesday (tbc), there will be a careers advice session with Sarah Playfair. This will be rarely available up to date information about how to position yourself in the market as a singer and what the opportunities are.

On Thursday 24th – Sunday 29th, in addition to the normal classes, we are running a professional development course for working singers, with one-to-one business advice with (?), audition advice with (?) and drama coaching towards the final product of performable or competition-ready audition arias. An "in-house" audition process will be held on Sunday afternoon 29th, and feedback given by a panel of teachers with the aim of refining and clarifying audition technique and identifying possible employment opportunities.

Also teaching on Saturday and Sunday 28th and 29th will be Chris Squires, sometime répétiteur at RNCM and presently a senior member of the Music staff at Hamburg Opera.

The price is £495 for the week (including accommodation, bring your own duvet) and £60 a day for tuition plus £25 a day for accommodation. We try to accommodate people in single rooms where preferred as much as possible. This is, of course, a bargain by present standards, and is very much down to the commitment and good will of our teachers.

You can register by sending your fee to John Challenor, 278 Gillott Rd Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 0RU. For further information contact Sara (details above) by phone or email.

Opera Mint always welcomes newcomers, but please contact Sara Before registering to discuss your particular needs

Excerpts from Bach 2 the Future

For the Paul Ramshawe concerts

J.S.Bach
John-Paul Gandy

Allemande from Suite no.2 in D minor
Bachspin

For the classical concert

J.S.Bach
Milton Mermikides
J.S.Bach

Courante from Suite no.3 in C major
I'll be Bach
Sarabande from Suite no.4 in E flat major

Other info

Bach 2 the Future

This project was conceived about 18 months ago and received its first performance at the London College of Music in April 2006. I decided that I would create an overview of the 6 Bach solo cello suites by playing a movement from each suite in order. Thus, the whole performance has the 1st movement of the 1st suite, the 2nd movement of the 2nd suite and so on. Interspersed with the Bach are 5 compositions by different composers written for solo cello and electronics taking the Bach movements as inspiration. In the original remit to the 5 composers, I stipulated that the Bach was the inspiration but after that anything goes, so long as it used all or part of the electronic effects that I had. All five composers come from very different backgrounds and produced 5 extremely different pieces using a mixture of digital delay, digital reverb, octave pedal, distortion pedal, a loop sampler and pre-recorded tracks.

The project is currently being recorded, before moving into its next phase to involve dance and video media.

John-Paul Gandy

As a pianist, JP has worked with such diverse artists and companies as the Rambert Dance Company, Mark E. Smith (The Fall), the acclaimed music theatre group The Clod Ensemble, improvisers: Alec Dankworth, Steve Noble, Ben Castle, Viv Corringham and Brian Abrahams, Almeida Theatre, accordion virtuoso Luke Daniels (Broderick) and 8 years collaboration with the extraordinary singer/performer Bettina Jonic. As that implies, JP is interested in rummaging and getting his hands dirty within all 'genres' both in terms of performing and composing.

Milton Mermikides

Milton Mermikides is Head of Music Technology and Director & Designer of the Creative Technology Lab Research Centre at the Royal Academy of Music. He is also Professor of Jazz Guitar at the Royal College of Music.

His areas of interest span hugely diverse musical styles including Jazz, Classical, Electronic, Avant-Garde, Rock, Blues, Funk, Metal & World Music. He has performed and worked with such artists as John Williams, Chris Garrick, Angela Lear, Sam Brown & Steve Winwood. His compositions, arrangements & sound design work may be heard at the Purcell Room, Guitar Techniques Magazine, BBC Radio 3 & Channel 4. His website - miltcentral.com, documenting his life with leukaemia, has had in its first year over 170,000 visitors and has raised over £30k for cancer support & research charities.