

Gresham House Studios



2017

Singing & Art Workshops in the Tamar Valley

Welcome

to the Gresham House Studios brochure for 2017. We have scheduled many of the regular workshops - jazz, music theatre (duets) and solo singing - as well as a new course in song-writing for those of you who like to sing and pen your own songs. We're delighted that the Kamerkoor (chamber choir) 'Collegium' are visiting the Tamar Valley in the spring. Their conductor Dody Soetanto will run a choral workshop with Helen, in April at Calstock Arts. Peter is running four workshop days only, so book early if you don't want to miss out.



Our brochure this year includes a 'bookshop' page. On the bookshelf is Helen's acclaimed book on singing, with practice CD, and Peter's recently published children's novel, 'The Fortune of the Seventh Stone'.

Our wonderful chickens (Adelaide, Rosalind and Cordelia) have provided three eggs a day ever since their arrival last May. Food is a very important aspect of the residential weekends here - we aim to provide you with as much fruit and veg (and eggs) from our garden as possible. On May 28th we will take part in Open Gardens, so if you find yourself on a spring holiday in the Tamar

Valley, please do drop by and see us then. Helen has planted three hundred bulbs in the autumn, so there should be a beautiful spring display.

We hope you enjoy browsing through our 2017 brochure, and to see you this year.

Helen & Peter

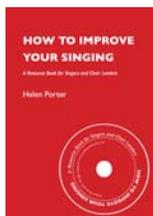
WORKSHOPS CALENDAR 2017

	Singing Workshops	Art Workshops
19 March	How to Improve Your Singing	
2 April		Lino Printing Day
29 April	Open Singing Workshop	
6 & 7 May	Madrigals Weekend	
23-25 June	Jazz A Capella Weekend	
12-14 July	Song Writing Course	
21-23 July	Duets into Performance	
29 July		Lino Printing in Colour
2-5 August	Jazz Singing into Performance	
11-13 August	Solo Singing Weekend	
17 & 18 August	Singing for under confident S	
3 September	How to Improve Your Singing	
30 September		Lino Printing Day
1 October		Book making in a Day

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SINGING with HELEN PORTER

Sunday 19 March
10am-4pm
Gresham House Studios
Max 8 participants
Cost: £60

This workshop will cover all the basic aspects of singing technique. It will be very helpful for choir singers who don't have regular voice training, particularly if you find your voice quickly fatigues. Mastering the basics and developing confidence is the key to developing your singing to its full potential. We will mostly work as a group, but there will also be the opportunity for individual singing as well, if desired. Please bring a (preferably well known) short song with you.



LINO PRINTING DAY

Sunday 2 April, 10.30am-4.30pm
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 on to the block, carve and then print. No previous experience required.



OPEN SINGING WORKSHOP WITH DODY SOETANTO AND HELEN PORTER

Saturday 29 April, 10am-1pm
The Old Chapel, Calstock Arts
Cost: £15

Dody Soetanto is the inspirational conductor of Kamerkoor (Chamber Choir) 'Collegium'. This long established chamber choir from Utrecht in The Netherlands will be performing in venues around Cornwall for a week in April. Dody and Helen will be jointly leading a singing workshop on the Saturday morning, together with Dody's twenty-six strong choir. If you find choral singing uplifting and love the sound of beautiful vocal harmony then this is an absolute must for you!



MADRIGALS WEEKEND WITH HELEN PORTER

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 May
10am - 4pm
The Old Chapel, Calstock Arts
Cost: £65

Springtime, and this popular madrigals weekend returns to Calstock. An intensive weekend of rehearsing is concluded with a public performance at the Old Chapel on Sunday afternoon. Please register your interest early to be sure of a place, and state whether you would like to sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass. You must be able to either read music fairly well, or be happy to work with practice recordings prior to the weekend in order to familiarise yourself with the music. All madrigals will be selected from the Oxford Book of English Madrigals.

JAZZ A CAPPELLA WEEKEND

WITH HELEN PORTER

June 23-25, 10am - 4pm,

starts Friday 4pm

Gresham House Studios

Max 8 participants

£275 residential

£215 non-residential

If you love songs such as Fly Me To The Moon, Georgia and Straighten Up and Fly Right, what could be more fun and relaxing than a summer weekend singing wonderful jazz standards in glorious four part harmony? Previous experience of singing in an a cappella group is essential. You must be a confident singer, and able to read music reasonably well. Parts can be sent out in advance of the weekend together with practice recordings, so you can come well prepared and ready to perform. There will also be the opportunity for some solo singing, for those who would like it.



SONG WRITING COURSE WITH HELEN PORTER

Wednesday 12 to Friday 14

July, 10am - 4.30pm daily

Gresham House Studios

Max 6 participants

Residential (two nights) £355

Non-residential 255

If you have thought about writing a song, but not had the confidence or the facilities to develop your ideas, then this is a good course for you. You may already write poems and songs,

or you might be a complete beginner - it doesn't matter. All you need is enthusiasm and a willingness to have a go and see what happens. During the course you will learn techniques to help you structure a song and develop lyrics. Whether you want to work on something you've already begun, or are looking for a fresh approach, or if you would like to explore something new and challenging, this is the retreat for you.



DUETS INTO PERFORMANCE with HELEN PORTER & ALEXANDER LING

21-23 July, starts Fri 12noon

Gresham House Studios

Performance - Old Chapel

Max 8 participants

Residential £345

Non-residential £285

Singing duets is great fun and very rewarding. This weekend is for singers who also love performing - or would love to give it a go! You will be paired up with another singer (or come as a pair) and will perform two duets, as well as ensemble numbers. Practice recordings can be provided for those who need them. The duets can be musical theatre, opera, classical or even jazz. State your preference when booking your place. Please sign up early for this course, as places are very limited.

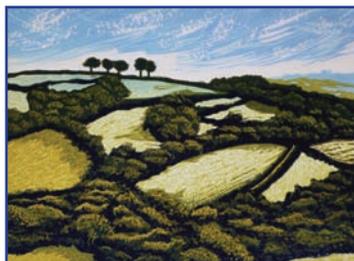
LINO PRINTING IN COLOUR

Saturday 29 July

9.30am - 6pm

Cost: £80 (materials and lunch included)

This extended workshop will help you explore the entire relief print process from sketching your subject material to transforming your studies and sketches into a design for a multi-coloured lino print. The subject matter is free and could be the landscape, a still life or something from your own sketchbook or imagination. This workshop is about having time to work out a well planned relief print design and get it cut and printed in more than one colour, using the multi-block method. The multi-colour process of course takes more time. To fit it all into one day we are starting early and finishing a bit later than usual. We have some residential places available for people who come from further away. (£50 per night, evening meal included)



JAZZ SINGING INTO PERFORMANCE

with **HELEN PORTER**,
JONATHAN TAYLOR (piano) &
JAMES BUDDEN (double bass)
Wednesday 2 - Saturday 5
August, starts Wedn. 10am
Gresham House Studios
Performance -The Old Chapel
Max 8 participants
Non-residential: £395
Residential: £485

This is a serious jazz course for singers wanting to gain experience in performing solo. With only eight singers on the course, and three professional coaches, there is plenty of opportunity for

individual 'master class' type work to stretch and challenge every singer. Singers will work individually with the instrumentalists, as well as with Helen. You will need to come with three jazz standards learned, memorised and (virtually) ready for performance.

SOLO SINGING WEEKEND WITH HELEN PORTER

Friday 11 - Sunday 13 August
10 - 4pm daily, starting
Friday evening
Gresham House Studios
Max 8 participants
Residential: £275
Non-residential: £215

If you would love to sing solo, but don't often get the opportunity, then this is a lovely weekend for you. Each participant will be invited to bring a maximum of three solo pieces, each song preferably no more than three minutes.

You can work in any genre - classical, musical theatre, jazz or folk - gaining tips on how to develop both your singing and your solo performance. Each singer will receive 'master class' style sessions from Helen throughout each day. As well as the solo work, there will also be some group singing, including warm-ups and vocal exercises. Be brave and don't hold back - it's easy to think you're not 'good' enough, but it's amazing how much you can learn and improve during the weekend, with lovely lunches to boost your energy levels and your confidence!



A SINGING WEEKEND FOR UNDER CONFIDENT SINGERS!

Thursday 17 & Friday 18 August
10am - 4pm daily
Max 8 participants
Residential: £195
Non-residential: £165

This weekend course is for singers who feel they would like to be more confident. During the weekend we will work on vocal exercises for strengthening and powering the voice, unlearning 'bad' habits and replacing them with good new ones. If you are unsure about breathing for singing, how to produce quality high notes or just need to brush up on some basics, this is a great weekend for you. You will be with like-minded people and will gain a huge amount from a short time.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SINGING

WITH HELEN PORTER
Sunday 3rd September
10am - 4pm
Gresham House Studios
Max 8 participants
£60

Based on her recent book of the same title, the workshop includes exercises and miniature songs from the book, all written to help singers tackle various aspects of vocal technique, including breathing, articulation, support, resonance and confidence. This workshop is also suitable for choir leaders looking for some new inspiration, and for singers at all levels. You may find it especially helpful if you sometimes suffer from vocal fatigue, or if you would like your voice to be stronger.



LINO PRINTING DAY

Saturday 30 September,
10.30am - 4.30pm 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.

BOOK MAKING IN A DAY

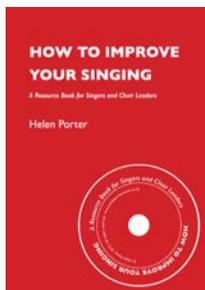
Sunday 1 October, 10.30am -
4.30pm Cost: £70 (materials
and lunch included)

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 lino printing day on the preceding Saturday. Residential options are available for people who wish to do both workshops.



THE GRESHAM HOUSE STUDIOS BOOK SHOP



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SINGING by Helen Porter

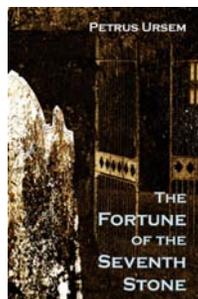
How to Improve Your Singing is a valuable resource book and CD for singers and choir leaders. Each chapter isolates a single aspect of vocal technique - eg. breathing, soft palate control, voice placing, articulation, and clearly explains what is required and how to practise. The accompanying CD demonstrates how to

perform the exercises. The technical exercises and miniature songs are instructive and enjoyable for both individuals as well as choirs.

“Your short pieces were not only effective for voice training or warm-up but also very enjoyable to sing, and I intend to use them regularly to help with technique.” Stephen Trehair, South West Chamber Choir.

“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 enjoy 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



THE FORTUNE OF THE SEVENTH STONE by Petrus Ursem

‘This wooden box has been in the care of this business for more than a century.’ The solicitor looks at Steven for a long time. Then he holds up the silver object and says: ‘I believe this is the key to open it.’ He pushes the key into a small circular opening at the front of the box and turns it. The lid pops open.

Thirteen year old Steven Honest is bullied by two boys from his class. They chase him into the churchyard and push him hard. He hits his head against a gravestone and passes out. Later he returns to the scene of his assault and finds that the words on the stone are telling him something ... He is challenged to follow the trail set out by a mysterious Mine Captain, more than a century ago. Along the way he discovers friendship and the power of the words that guard the promised fortune.

“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 again. This really kept me on the edge of my seat.”

(Hardback, 252 pages, £9.99 (plus p&p). ISBN: 978-0-9955717-0-9) The book can be ordered via the bookshop at www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk. Also available as e-book via Amazon.

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. For more information about Helen's work see also www.helenportermusic.co.uk or visit www.misbehavinjazz.com for the latest gigs and albums of 'Misbehavin'.



PETER URSEM - painter, printmaker, writer

Dutch artist 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 (linoprint, woodcut, wood engraving) 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. For more information see www.peterursem.co.uk



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 land. 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
Alboston, 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