

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D07432 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING – STARTING OR FINISHING INSTRUMENTS VIOLINS, VIOLAS OR CELLOS

Tutor: GEOFF BOWERS

Dates: 5 DAYS TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER – SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is intended as supplementary to the nine-day Musical Instrument Making course. It will be led by Geoff Bowers, on behalf of the tutor who will teach this subject area on the 9-day course.

It aims to assist:

1. Those preparing to make a new instrument on the 9-day course.
2. Those continuing or at the finishing ('fitting up') stage of an instrument made on a previous 9-day course at West Dean.

Work can include the following aspects:

(1) Starting a violin, viola or cello

This preparatory course will enable you to make and prepare all the necessary moulds, jigs and templates for the instrument you are making on the 9-day course. Also, if time, you may prepare the timber for the instrument and look at the plans you will be working from.

The tutor can provide the materials for the course, if arranged in advance with him and the cost of these must be paid to him before you leave.

(2) Finishing your instrument

The course will focus around general discussion and demonstrations of varnishing instruments and final polishing. Fitting bridges, pegs and nuts; setting up the action of the strings; and setting the sound-post will also be covered.

Generally teaching is on a one-to-one basis on this course, catering for student's individual needs and dictated by ability, previous experience and knowledge. There will be group demonstrations where appropriate. As the course takes place in the main workshop, adjacent to the other courses in this series, you also gain knowledge by interaction with fellow students and other tutors. Health and safety is dealt with as an integral part of the course.

Please note: HUMIDITY LEVELS in the workshop are variable to dry, whilst the College has addressed this, as some factors are beyond our control, instruments are brought at your own risk.

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED

For those who have taken a related course or have some existing skills, and for more experienced practitioners who want to expand skills. The focus is on working towards independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Geoff Bowers is an experienced teacher who studied at the Newark School of Violin Making. He is now a maker and repairer of violins, violas and cellos.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Tuesday 7 November

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| From 4.00pm | Arrival for residential students |
| 6.45pm | Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner |
| 7.00pm | Dinner |
| 8.00pm – 9.00pm | First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. You should bring all tools/materials to the workshop. |

Other days: Wednesday 8 to Saturday 11 November

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 9.15am | Morning classes start |
| 10.30am | Coffee |
| 11.00am | Morning classes continue |
| 12.45pm | Lunch |
| 2.00pm | Afternoon classes |
| 3.30pm | Tea |
| 4.00pm | Afternoon classes continue |
| 5.00pm | Classes finish |
| From 6.30pm | Dinner |
| 8.00pm | Evening working – workshops are open each evening to 10pm and you may work on with your instrument with the tutor's agreement. Tasks which involve higher risk activities, or those which require constant tutor supervision, may not be possible outside core teaching hours (9.15am–12.30am and 2pm–5pm). |

Departure day: Sunday 12 November

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 9.15am | Morning classes start |
| 10.30am | Coffee |
| 11.00am | Morning classes continue |
| 12.45pm | Lunch |
| 2.00–3.30pm | Final session. Pack tools to vacate workshop space by 3.30pm |
| 3.30pm | Tea then departure |

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

As soon as you receive confirmation of your place, **please complete the reply slip overleaf** and return without delay to assist the tutor with course preparation.

We will pass this information to the tutor who will contact you to discuss this and materials required. Please email rosemary.marley@westdean.org.uk or return the form with this information.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Please refer to relevant list for (1) or (2)

(1) Materials/equipment for starting a violin, viola or cello

Available from the Shop:

- Needle files
- 1 set square
- Pair of dividers
- Tracing paper
- Pencils

These items will be available at the College for students' use:

Spoke-shave

File (large half round) and any other files and rasps that you have

Fret saw and blades

Scraper

G-clamp

Please bring any of the above, if you already have them.

(2) Materials/equipment for finishing your instrument

Available from the Shop:

Needle files – round tapering, half round and flat

1/2 round file

Scalpel knife and blades

Fine mm ruler

Pair of dividers

Jeweller's piercing saw

Artist's brushes – fine nylon flat 1" and 1/2"

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

The instrument you wish to complete

Any hand tools you may have or think you may need (marked with your name)

Appropriate workshop clothes and stout covered footwear (not sandals)

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. Students may work unsupervised on agreed projects once they have satisfied the tutor as to their competence. There may be restrictions on the equipment available to students in the tutor's absence. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

Any electrical equipment brought in must be PAT tested by one of the workshop technicians before it is used on the course.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM TO ASSIST THE TUTOR WITH PREPARATION BY 20 SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST.

BOW24D1

Continued ...

COURSE REPLY FORM

Title: MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING – STARTING OR FINISHING INSTRUMENTS
VIOLINS, VIOLAS OR CELLOS

Ref: S5D07432

Date: 7–12 November 2017

Tutor: GEOFF BOWERS

INSTRUMENT DETAILS

I wish to start ☐ finish ☐* *please indicate

violin ☐ viola ☐ 'cello ☐

OR

if another instrument please specify

Name Tel. No. (Day)

Address..... (Evening)
.....

Email:

If relevant, please give details of work outstanding
.....
.....

Any special materials/equipment needed
.....

EQUIPMENT TRAINING:

I wish to use the: Band saw ☐
Fret saw ☐
Lathe ☐

I am attending course(s) on 7–12 November 2017 and/or 27 March –5 April 2018 ☐

I am bringing electrical equipment ☐

Please email this information to rosemary.marley@westdean.org.uk or return by 20 September to:
Rosemary Marley, Senior Short Course Organiser, West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester
PO18 0QZ