

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

S5D08287 MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING – STARTING OR FINISHING INSTRUMENTS VIOLINS, VIOLAS OR CELLOS

Tutor: GEOFF BOWERS

Dates: 5 DAYS FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER – WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course is supplementary to the nine-day Musical Instrument Making course, it will be led by Geoff Bowers. Cornelia Schrijver will teach this area on the nine-day course in April.

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: Friday 26 October

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
5.30pm	Workshops available for dropping off equipment and materials
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: Saturday 27 October – Tuesday 30 October

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: Wednesday 31 October

(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 bookingsoffice@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.

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Continued ...

COURSE REPLY FORM

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

Ref: S5D08287

Date: 26–31 October 2018

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)

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Email: Mobile

If relevant, please give details of work outstanding

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Any special materials/equipment needed

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EQUIPMENT TRAINING:

I wish to use the: Band saw
Fret saw
Lathe

I am attending course(s) on 26–31 October 2018 and/or 12–21 April 2019

I am bringing electrical equipment

Please email this information by 20 September to bookingsoffice@westdean.org.uk or return by post to:
Bookings Office, West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0QZ

This information will be passed to the tutor.