

EASTER CHAMBER MUSIC COURSE

at

LAVETHAN, CORNWALL

11-17 APRIL 2025

with

KRYSIA OSOSTOWICZ (violin) ROBIN IRELAND (viola)

CHRISTOPH RICHTER (cello) ROBIN GREEN (piano)

String players and pianists are invited for five days of music-making and study with a distinguished faculty of teachers at Lavethan, an ancient manor house in a secluded river valley in Cornwall. The deep quiet of this amazing place, surrounded by huge trees, encourages calm concentration and immersion in music. We offer chamber music coaching, individual lessons, concert opportunities and evening chamber-music reading, plus great food, great company and time to explore the beautiful surrounding countryside.



We can accommodate up to 20 students as pre-formed groups (including duos) or as individuals wishing to take part in a group. We have five pianos, and a concert hall in a beautiful converted barn overlooking the river valley. Accommodation is in comfortable and characterful shared rooms, and there are several large spaces for relaxation and rehearsal. Food is hearty, healthy and delicious. The extensive grounds include a water garden with Celtic stone crosses and a medieval well. There are great walks to take from the front door, down to the Camel river or up onto Bodmin Moor.

The fee of £495 covers tuition, accommodation and meals. However, we aim to make the course affordable for everyone regardless of their financial situation, so there are bursaries available in case of genuine need, covering up to 60% of the fee. Please enquire.



Repertoire and coaching

Each group has daily coaching on a major work of chamber music, prepared beforehand, and there are opportunities to play together with the tutors. Individual lessons are also available on request. Classes are open for all to listen to, and there will also be a series of workshops and discussions involving everyone together.



Travel and amenities

Lavethan lies next to Blisland village, which has a shop, café, post office and excellent pub. By car, Lavethan is just 7 minutes from the A30, fifty miles west of Exeter (c.5 hours from London). By train, the nearest station is Bodmin Parkway (5 miles from Blisland), taking c. 4 hours from London Paddington, Birmingham or Cardiff. We will meet students from the train at Bodmin Parkway on 11th April afternoon, by arrangement nearer the time.



Schedule

We meet at Lavethan on Friday 11th April afternoon, in time for tea, a meeting and some music before supper. Coaching sessions will be scheduled as described above. There will be two concerts, on 16th April evening and 17th at midday, giving everyone a chance to play if they wish. Departure is after lunch on Thursday 17th April.

Applications and payment

Please send your application form by 15th February to osostowicz@gmail.com

If you/your group are accepted, we will request a non-refundable deposit of £150 from each person by 1st March, and the remainder of the fee by 15th March. Each group member should send in an application, mentioning which group they belong to. Individual applicants will need to wait while we work to organize a group for them.

Please contact Krysia for further information osostowicz@gmail.com tel 07976 755082.



We look forward to hearing from you!
Krysia, Robin, Robin and Christoph



“Thank you so much for this utterly life-altering experience! Lavethan has the most beautiful energy and I feel so privileged to have spent the week making music in this gorgeous place.”

“This has been one of the most inspiring and “growth” weeks of my life....the inspirational coaching and lessons have renewed my love for our craft. Thank you for everything.”



“The attention given to each musician was beyond anything!”



“Thank you for everything you put into making this course the most wonderful experience. So much thought has gone into the planning, practicalities and realisation of this week, and I’m so grateful to have been.”

“I leave refreshed and hungry for even more music”



Tutor biographies

Krysia Osostowicz performs worldwide as leader of the renowned Brodsky Quartet, and is also much in demand as a teacher of violin and chamber music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Born in London, she studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School, at Cambridge University and in Salzburg with the Hungarian quartet leader, Sandor Vegh. She has been inspired by working with the great pianist Radu Lupu, the enigmatic genius Ferenc Rados and conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt. In her teaching, Krysia seeks to unite an understanding of harmony and musical structure with strong technical foundations and physical well-being as an instrumentalist.

Before joining the Brodsky Quartet in 2021, Krysia founded and led the Dante Quartet for 25 years, making many recordings and winning the Royal Philharmonic Award for chamber music. Back in the 1980's - alongside Robin Ireland - she travelled the world with Domus, a pioneering group with its own portable concert hall, a geodesic dome seating 150.

Krysia organizes regular courses and concerts at Lavethan, and is about to launch a new festival, Music on the Moor. She has recently travelled to New Zealand and China with the Brodsky Quartet, and this year will give concerts in London, Italy, Germany and Austria.

Robin Ireland was violist with the celebrated Lindsay String Quartet between 1985 and 2005, and with the Primrose Piano Quartet from 2007 till 2015. Prior to that, he was a founder member of Domus alongside Krysia Osostowicz. From 2014-2021 he was Head of Chamber Music at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Robin now lives in Brittany, newly married, and is exploring new avenues for making music locally, as well as returning to the UK frequently for concerts and teaching. He has also returned to composing, most recently a Duo for viola and double bass. He remains addicted to playing unaccompanied Bach, and has started recording the violin sonatas and partitas on the viola, in the village church in Brittany. He keeps body and soul reasonably well-functioning through yoga, Chi Kung and wild swimming.

Cellist **Christoph Richter** performs as soloist and chamber musician throughout the world, with invitations from musicians such as András Schiff, Miriam Fried and Isabelle Faust, festivals including the Salzburg Festival and Marlboro Festival in the US, and composers such as Heinz Holliger and György Kurtág. A student of fabled cellist Andre Navarra, his early collaboration with the Hungarian virtuoso violinist and conductor Sándor Végh inspired a lifelong passion for chamber music.

His strong interest in contemporary music has also led him to work with composers such as Penderecki, Kurtág, Henze, Holliger, and Widmann. In London, he has performed the complete cello works of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Webern, and his extensive discography includes Brahms' Sextet op.36 for Harmonia Mundi, which received the *Diapason D'Or* in 2014. As a teacher, Richter is Professor of cello at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, Germany and the Royal Academy of Music in London. He gives regular masterclasses at the European Chamber Music Academy, ChamberStudio in London and Ravinia Festival in the US, and is frequently invited to festivals in Europe, the US and further afield.

Pianist **Robin Green** enjoys a busy career as a performer and pedagogue. A regular at major festivals and concert halls, he performs a wide range of music from the Renaissance to ambitious contemporary repertoire. His discography includes works by Bach, Mozart, Schumann, Schubert, Kurtág, Huw Watkins and Helen Grime. He has performed Bach's 'Goldberg Variations' on the popular Netflix show 'The Crown'.

Robin teaches piano and chamber music at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. His main mentors were György Kurtág, Rainer Schmitt and Ferenc Rados. Robin has been an artistic director and guest curator of major festivals, include the Harrogate International festival and the Vale of Glamorgan festival. Away from the piano, Robin has collaborated with actors, comedians, dancers, has sung his own arrangements of Tom Waits songs and has learnt how to play the Hurdy Gurdy.