

# Gresham House Studios

Singing & Art Workshops in the Tamar Valley

2018

## 2018 GRESHAM HOUSE STUDIOS WORKSHOPS

2018 is the 8th year of our workshops programme at Gresham House Studios and we are again very much looking forward to a new summer full of singing, art, creativity, good homely cooking and quality conversation! Some of our popular workshops are once again on offer, but this year we're also very excited to offer a completely new idea: a combination of singing and art on our Creative Arts Holiday! We've been asked many times if we would consider this idea, and so here it is, for those brave

enough to cross boundaries! The Tamar Valley is as inspiring as ever. The Gresham House plot is in preparation for another season of fruit and vegetable growing. There are few things as satisfying as cooking and eating your own home-grown produce, especially if you can share it with an appreciative and hungry crowd. We hope you will enjoy browsing through what we have on offer and if so, we look forward to seeing you in the summer.

Helen & Peter

## WORKSHOPS CALENDAR 2017

	Singing Workshops	Art Workshops
18 Feb	Choir Singing Technique	
5 & 6 May	Madrigals Weekend	
19 May		Lino Printing Day
14 - 17 June	Creative Arts Holiday	
29 June - 1 July	Singing Theatre	
7 & 8 July		Colour & Mono Print
10-12 July	Song Writing	
25-28 July	Jazz Singing into Performance	
23 & 24 August	Singing for under confident S	
15 September		Drawing Experiments
16 September		Book making in a Day



## SINGING TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP FOR CHOIR SINGERS

Sunday 18th February  
2pm - 4pm  
Old Chapel, Calstock  
£15

You don't have to sing in a choir to attend this workshop, but if you do, or are thinking of joining a choir, this will give you a sound training in the basics of vocal technique, and help you to develop your singing on a sound footing. During the workshop, as well as practicing exercises and techniques, you will also learn some simple 'miniature songs' in order to practice correct articulation, intonation, resonance and breath control.



## MADRIGALS WEEKEND

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 May  
10am - 4pm  
Old Chapel, Calstock  
£65

Springtime Madrigals in Calstock. An intensive weekend of rehearsing is concluded with a public performance of wonderful English madrigals at the Old Chapel on Sunday afternoon. Please register your interest early to be sure of a place on this very popular weekend, 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, and recordings will be available in advance of the weekend.



## LINO PRINTING DAY

Saturday 19 May  
10.30am-5pm  
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, transferring this on to the block, carving and then printing. No previous experience required.

## **IN TUNE: CREATIVE ARTS HOLIDAY**

Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 June

Gresham House Studios  
£455 residential; £375 non-residential  
Max 8 participants

In our last seven years of courses at Gresham House Studios participants regularly asked if we would consider doing a combined course. We think we may have cracked the concept with this creative arts holiday, of which each course day

will consist of a half day for music and singing, and the other half for creative arts. (You'll hardly notice it but your chef and tutor will change hats quite a bit!) The workshop will include ingredients from our other courses, for example discovering your voice, singing in harmony, drawing and printing techniques, but the main focus is experimenting with the creative process, and of course soaking up the inspiration guaranteed from a Gresham House retreat.

## **SINGING THEATRE WITH HELEN PORTER AND ALEXANDER LING**

Friday 29 June to Sunday 1 July

Friday 11am start at GHS  
Fri/Sat: GHS; Sunday Performance at the Old Chapel, Calstock Arts  
£345 residential; £285 non-residential  
Max 8 participants

This is a fun weekend for singers who like the idea of combining singing with stage work. As well as plenty of

singing, the weekend will include stage technique exercises, to help you look and sound confident on stage. Each participant will be able to sing two numbers, which will be staged, and duets can be included if you sign up for the weekend together with a duet partner. There will also be two staged chorus numbers which you will receive in advance of the weekend.



## **LINO PRINT IN COLOUR & MONO PRINT**

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 July  
10.30am-5pm

Cost: £175 residential  
(one night); £125 non-  
residential

This weekend will help you explore the entire relief print process from sketching your subject to transforming your studies and sketches into a design for a multi-coloured lino print. The subject matter could be a landscape, a still life or something from your imagination. This workshop is about having time to plan and create a relief print in more than one colour, but we will also make some side steps into the 'free expression' of the monoprint, as for all printing it is important to include experimentation in

the process. No previous experience required.



## **SONG WRITING COURSE**

Tuesday 10 July - Thursday  
12 July

10am - 4pm daily  
Gresham House Studios  
£355 residential (two  
nights); £255 non-  
residential  
Max 6 participants

Last year Helen ran this course for the first time and it proved to be a very creative experience for all participants. By the end of the three days all had produced at least one finished song which was then performed and recorded by the group. You may already write poems and songs, or you might be a total beginner - it doesn't matter. During the course you will learn techniques to help you structure a song and develop lyrics. You can either work from scratch, or bring an idea you would like to develop into a song.

## **JAZZ SINGING INTO PERFORMANCE WITH HELEN PORTER, JONATHAN TAYLOR & JAMES BUDDEN**

Wednesday 25 July to  
Saturday 28 July  
Performance: Friday  
evening, Old Chapel,  
Calstock  
£485 residential; £395  
non-residential  
Max 8 participants

This is an intensive jazz course for singers wanting to improve their solo performance. With only eight singers on the course and three tutors there is plenty of opportunity for individual singing. You should be a reasonably confident singer already, and come with three jazz standards already memorised. At the end of the course you will perform at the Old Chapel, Calstock accompanied by jazz pros Jonathan Taylor on piano and James Budden on double bass.

## SINGING WEEKEND FOR UNDER CONFIDENT SINGERS

Thursday 23 & Friday 24 August

Gresham House Studios  
£195 residential; £165 non-residential

Max participants: 8

Many people love singing in choirs, but are terrified of singing solo. However, it's only when you learn more

about your own voice that you can develop confidence. This course offers a safe environment to explore your singing. With a group of eight like-minded singers you will learn miniature songs and exercises. Everyone will learn from listening to each other as well as from the individual tuition. This weekend will be a revelation, and is guaranteed to help you take your singing to another level altogether.



## DRAWING EXPERIMENTS

Saturday 15 September  
10.30am-5pm  
Gresham House Studios  
£60 (lunch included)

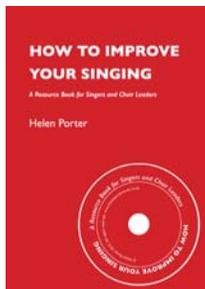
If you think you can't draw, what you're expressing is most likely the disappointment that what your hand does is different to what your eyes see. Of course! That kind of drawing takes years of practice! But there are so many fascinating aspects to drawing - playing with lines, mark-making, tonal values, composition - and enjoying drawing is about much more than accuracy or representation. This workshop offers a day of experimenting with all kind of approaches to this core element of visual art. Once you've discovered the fun of drawing and sketching, you won't be able to stop.

## BOOK MAKING IN A DAY

Sunday 16 September  
10.30am - 5pm  
£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 drawing day on Saturday 15th. 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&tp), can be ordered via the website shop at [www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk](http://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&tp). ISBN: 978-0-9955717-0-9) The book can be ordered via the bookshop at [www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk](http://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](http://www.helenportermusic.co.uk) or visit [www.misbehavinjazz.com](http://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](http://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 lane. 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  
Albaston, Cornwall, PL18 9AB

## BOOKINGS

Please book via the booking form on our website  
[www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk](http://www.greshamhousestudios.co.uk)

or by email: for singing to  
[helen@counterparts.org.uk](mailto:helen@counterparts.org.uk)  
and for art to  
[peter@counterparts.org.uk](mailto:peter@counterparts.org.uk)  
or phone 01822 833668