

Beauchamp Early Music Course Review

The venue for this course, run by Gloucester Academy of Music, is Malvern College in the heart of the Malvern Hills, beautiful surroundings for exploring in free time between rehearsals.

After checking into the College on Sunday afternoon there is no time for relaxing! A quick cup of tea, a short welcome meeting and it's straight into the first rehearsal with our specialist tutors:

David Hatcher, Course Director, David Allinson, Choral Director, Jeremy West and Stephanie Dyer, brass specialists, and Ann Allen woodwind expert.

All the music sessions take place in 'Big School' or smaller practice rooms in the Main Building, and the Chapel. The time-table from Monday to Friday followed the standard format i.e. two sessions in the morning, one after tea and tutti after dinner. In addition, every afternoon Jennie Cassidy ran an ad hoc singing session.

In recent years there has not been an overall theme, or focus on any one composer, the choice of music being dependent on each tutor's personal preference. To give you an idea of the variety of music played and sung, these are a few of the pieces that I enjoyed in some of the smaller sessions:

Melchior Franck - *Gloria Patri qui creavit nos*

Cypriano de Rore - *Mon Petit Cœur*

Heinrich Isaac - *Virgo Prudentissima*

Ingegneri - *Omnes Sitientes*

Christoph Strauss - *Haec Dies quam fecit Dominus*

Heinrich Schütz - *Aus der Tiefe*

Thomas Crecquillon - *Pater, peccavi in caelum*

This last piece had been reproduced accidentally without bar lines or reference numbers, but thanks to some extra homework by the two Davids we were provided with some rehearsal letters in the parts which enabled us to enjoy a truly beautiful piece that for me was the highlight of the week.

The final tutti of each day took place in the Chapel. David Hatcher directed *Missa super Dominus Regnavit* by Lambert de Sayve, David Allinson directed *Deus, qui beatum Marcum* by Giovanni Gabrieli and *Gloria in excelsis Deo* by Andrea Gabrieli, and

Stephanie Dyer led us through *Qui habitat in adjutorio Altissimi* by Josquin des Prez and *Magnificat* by Andrea Gabrieli. What a feast!

The smooth running of the week depended hugely on the efficiency and good humor of the team. Many thanks for giving us early music enthusiasts a chance to play and sing so much wonderful music that is not in the everyday repertoire.

- Dorothy, 2026 Participant