

After 27 years of popular and successful courses, the Oxford Chamber Course 2026 will again offer young string players the opportunity to sample the special delights and challenges of playing chamber music. The course has gained a reputation for its relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and once again its aim will be to combine intensive study under experienced coaches with the fun and enjoyment of making music together. Places are limited, so early application is advised.

### **Introductory Course** (Grades 3 to 6)

The six-day Introductory Course is designed to introduce the young player to a range of string chamber music, as well as to the particular techniques that need to be used when playing in a small group. Planned timings for the 2026 Introductory Course are as follows:

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 9.15am–2.45pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 10am–2.45pm

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 9.45am–2pm + concert at 6.30pm

(Exact timings will be confirmed ahead of the course.)



*Introductory Course quartet*

### **Advanced Course** (Grades 6+ to 8+)

The seven-day Advanced Course aims to improve the special skills required in chamber music, and to enable the more advanced player to apply them in depth to mainstream repertoire. Planned timings for the 2026 Advanced Course are as follows:

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 11.45am–5.30pm

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 12–5.30pm

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 1–6pm + concert at 7.45pm

(Exact timings will be confirmed ahead of the course.)

All members of both courses play in two different chamber groups, as well as a chamber orchestra made up of everyone on the course. The Introductory Course and Advanced Course also each have their own smaller orchestra. Chamber groups are put together by the course organisers, though pre-formed groups are also welcome. All music is provided during the course, and practice parts are sent out in advance.



*Janet*



*Miranda*



*Vanessa*



*Jacqueline*



*Judith*



*Spike*

The core Oxford Chamber Course coaching staff consists of six experienced professional chamber musicians. **Janet Froomes** (violin), **Miranda Walton** (violin), **Vanessa Murby** (viola), **Jacqueline Johnson** (cello), **Judith Dallosso** (cello) and **Spike Wilson** (cello and orchestral conductor) hold between them graduate and postgraduate qualifications from Oxford, Cambridge and York Universities, Birmingham Conservatoire, the GSMD, the RCM, the Tasmanian Conservatorium and the Victorian College of the Arts. All six are now successful freelance performers and teachers in the Oxford area and beyond.

The objective of the course is both to have fun and to prepare pieces for performance. Course members bring a packed lunch each day, and lunch-breaks include social activities for members of both courses, such as the annual Jenga Tournament. Other activities will again include our popular hands-on workshops for both courses, exploiting the specialist knowledge and experience of our coaches. Workshops on the 2026 course will include Conducting and Folk Music.

The course will once again feature a Wednesday masterclass, given this year by **David Curtis**, who for thirty years was a member of the internationally renowned **Coull String Quartet**. All Advanced Course chamber groups take part in the masterclass.



*Advanced Course masterclass*

There will be linked final concerts on the evening of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August, in which all the chamber groups from both courses and all the chamber orchestras will perform pieces they have prepared during the week.

Please see overleaf for full details of course fees. Information is also available on our website at [oxfordchambercourse.org.uk](http://oxfordchambercourse.org.uk). To apply for the course, please e-mail us a completed application form and pay the £200 deposit online (payment details are on the form). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

## TESTIMONIALS

“My daughter came home each day happy and wanting to share what she’d learned. She clearly built friendships with the other children in her quartets. It was a big thing for her to take part in the concert, and I think being in a quartet was a very helpful format for her.”

“As parents, we thought the course was extremely well organised and offered a great balance of challenge and fun. The concert at the end was extremely slick, the repertoire was very well chosen, and the playing of a great standard, and it was fantastic for the younger children to have a chance to be part of a sound like the combined orchestra.”



*Jenga Tournament 2025*

“Our son had a really great week and loved the repertoire. Many thanks for all the care and attention you take to organising the schedule.

It’s really refreshing to see how even quite a grumpy teenager can cheer up at the prospect of a day of music-making!”

“My daughter had an outstanding experience. The course has done wonders for her confidence on the violin: it’s a huge step forward for her, and I’m very grateful for the supportive environment that made this possible. She is genuinely excited about the prospect of returning next year.”

## FEES AND INFORMATION

Advanced Course violin or cello £590 (£580\*)  
Advanced Course joint violin + viola £550 (£540\*)  
Advanced Course viola £510 (£500\*)  
All Introductory Course £450 (£440\*)

\* Deposits received by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 will qualify for a £10 **Early Application Discount** on the balance due. You will also receive a £10 **Bring-A-Friend Discount** on the balance due for every new course applicant who names you as recommender on their application. This discount is applied automatically to siblings.

A deposit of £200 must be paid at the same time as your application: both must reach us by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026. Places are limited and subject to availability, and late applications may or may not be accepted. Online payment (to NatWest 54-21-23 48329193) is preferred; any cheques should be made out to ‘Oxford Chamber Course’. The balance will be payable by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

If you cancel for whatever reason, the following charges apply:  
① Up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026: a full refund will be made less an administration fee of £100. ② Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026: a full refund will be made less an administration fee of £200. ③ After 30<sup>th</sup> June or during the course: the fee is payable in full.

We reserve the right to reject an application or to cancel a course for whatever reason, in which case a full refund will be made. We also reserve the right to make changes to a course if necessary.

Spoff’s Scholarship Fund, the JDCMF, and the ETVF are charitable funds who have frequently helped our players with generous bursaries towards course fees. If you are in financial need and will have difficulty in affording the full fees, please let us know: we will be very happy to provide more information.

We have a minimum age requirement: applicants for either course must be aged 9 or older by the start of the course.

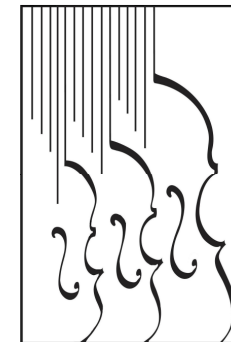
Please let us know if you are unhappy for your contact details to be shared with other members of this year’s course.

There will be a high proportion of staff to students, and the course staff includes a qualified first-aider. Parents will be required to sign a consent form to enable staff to act *in loco parentis*. However, no responsibility can be accepted by the Oxford Chamber Course or its staff for loss of or damage to personal property, including instruments, howsoever caused. We can provide details of musical instrument insurance cover on request.

For further information, please contact Judith or Tim Dalosso on (01865) 245910, or e-mail [oxfordchambercourse@gmail.com](mailto:oxfordchambercourse@gmail.com).

# THE OXFORD CHAMBER COURSE

## 2026



Summer music courses for  
young string players  
(aged 9–18)



*The 2025 Course*

Early Application, Bring-A-Friend  
and Viola Discounts available

**Wychwood School, Oxford**  
**1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026**