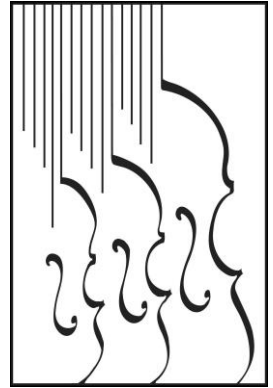


THE OXFORD CHAMBER COURSE 2025



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

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

Wychwood School, Oxford
2nd – 8th August 2025



The 2024 Course

After 26 years of popular and successful courses, the Oxford Chamber Course 2025 will again offer young string players the opportunity to sample the special delights and challenges of playing chamber music. The course will retain last year's three-tier format (Introductory, Intermediate and Advanced), with the three course tiers taking place alongside each other during the week of Saturday 2nd – Friday 8th August 2025. 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.

The six-day **Introductory Course** is for players from Grade 3 to Grade 5+. It 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.

The six-day **Intermediate Course** is for players who are at least Grade 6 standard. With its longer coaching sessions, its aim is to introduce players to mainstream repertoire, working in greater depth to improve the special skills required in chamber music playing.

The seven-day **Advanced Course** is for players who have taken at least Grade 7, up to Grade 8 and beyond. It aims to develop and polish chamber music skills and techniques by applying them in depth to more complex mainstream repertoire. As well as longer coaching sessions, the Advanced Course features a masterclass with a visiting coach from a world-class chamber ensemble: in 2025 the masterclass will be taken by **Ashok Klouda**, formerly cellist with the internationally-acclaimed **Artea Quartet** and **Barbirolli Quartet**.



Intermediate Course quartet

All members of all three course tiers will play in two different chamber groups, as well as a chamber orchestra made up of everyone in their course tier. There will also be a Lower Orchestra, consisting of all the players on the Introductory and Intermediate Courses, and an Upper Orchestra, which combines all the players on the Intermediate and Advanced Courses.



Jenga Tournament 2024

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.

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 all course members together, such as the annual Jenga Tournament. Other activities will again include our popular hands-on workshops for all course tiers, exploiting the specialist knowledge and experience of our coaches. Recent courses have included Alexander Technique, Instrument Maintenance and Folk Music Workshops.

There will be linked final concerts on the afternoon and evening of Friday 8th August, in which all the chamber groups from all three course tiers and all the chamber orchestras will perform pieces they have prepared during the week.

The planned timings for each tier of the course through the week are given below. These timings are provisional: exact timings will be confirmed ahead of the course.

	Introductory Course	Intermediate Course	Advanced Course
Saturday 2 nd August	n/a	n/a	11.40am – 5.40pm
Sunday 3 rd August	8.45am – 2.30pm	10.00am – 4.30pm	11.40am – 5.50pm
Monday 4 th August	9.45am – 2.30pm	10.35am – 4.30pm	11.40am – 5.50pm
Tuesday 5 th August	9.25am – 2.30pm	10.30am – 4.30pm	11.35am – 5.50pm
Wednesday 6 th August	9.45am – 2.30pm	10.35am – 4.55pm	11.00am – 5.50pm
Thursday 7 th August	9.45am – 2.40pm	10.35am – 4.30pm	11.40am – 5.50pm
Friday 8 th August (daytime rehearsals)	9.30am – 1.35pm	9.30am – 2.40pm	12.40pm – 4.20pm
+ Friday 8 th August (concerts)	4.15pm – around 6.35pm	5.30pm – around 8.30pm	7.30pm – around 10.00pm



Janet



Miranda



Vanessa



Jacqueline



Judith



Spike

The core Oxford Chamber Course coaching staff consists of six professional musicians with a wealth of chamber music experience. **Janet Froomes** (violin), **Miranda Walton** (violin), **Vanessa Murby** (viola), **Jacqueline Johnson** (cello), **Judith Dallosso** (cello) and **Spike Wilson** (cello) 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.

Please see overleaf for more information and for full details of course fees, including the **Early Application Discount** and **Bring-A-Friend Discount**. Information is also available on our website at oxfordchambercourse.org.uk. If you have any questions, please get in touch: e-mail oxfordchambercourse@gmail.com, or phone Judith or Tim Dallosso on (01865) 245910. To apply for the course, please check with us first that we still have spaces, then e-mail us a completed application form and pay the £200 deposit online (payment details are on the form). Demand for places is expected to be high, so we look forward to hearing from you soon!

FEES AND INFORMATION

- Advanced Course violin or cello £570 (£560*)
- Advanced Course joint violin + viola £530 (£520*)
- Advanced Course viola £490 (£480*)
- Intermediate Course violin or cello £510 (£500*)
- Intermediate Course joint violin + viola £485 (£475*)
- Intermediate Course viola £460 (£450*)
- All Introductory Course £430 (£420*)

* Deposits received by 31st March 2025 qualify for a £10 **Early Application Discount** on the balance due. You will also receive a £5 **Bring-A-Friend Discount** on the balance due for every new course applicant who names you as recommender on their application form. 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 25th May 2025.



Advanced Course masterclass

Places are limited and subject to availability, and late applications 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 30th June 2025.

If you cancel for whatever reason, the following charges will apply:

- ① Up to 25th May 2025: a full refund will be made less an administration fee of £100.
- ② Between 26th May and 30th June 2025: a full refund will be made less an administration fee of £200.
- ③ After 30th June 2025 or during the course: the course 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 and the JDCMF 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.

Applicants for the course must be aged 9 or older by the start of the course.

Let us know if you are not happy 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 are happy to provide details of musical instrument insurance cover.

TESTIMONIALS

“Thank you for a fantastic week! My son had so much fun and learned a lot.

I was very impressed by how well organised the course was, and by the amazing performance. My son would definitely like to join again.”

“Our daughter has spoken a lot about the course and clearly enjoyed the music-making and the challenge of it all – thank you!”

“I was unsure about going at first, but I made lots of new friends, so I was fine!

It was a great experience, and I can’t wait to go again!”

“My son woke up on Saturday morning and told me that he was sad the course had finished and that he could not carry on! He definitely wants to come again next year.

We and our children are very fortunate that there is a course like this in Oxford.”