

London Basses

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Sunday 28th October 2018 Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School, Elstree

The latest London Basses workshop was held on Sunday 28th October and bassists of all ages and abilities came from across England. Directed by Eloise Riddell with guest tutor Katy Furmanksi, the action packed day featured an orchestral workshop directed by Katy, in which participants learnt about the different bow strokes needed in orchestral playing. We had a wonderful talk from Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments as well as massed bass orchestra, smaller ensembles and open lessons. The final concert included massed bass, ensemble and solo repertoire from the 19th century to present day featuring music by Michael Montgomery, Michal Bylina, Peter Warlock, Tony Osborne and David Heyes.

What they say...

"These (photos) are a lovely reminder of the fun I had on the day"

"He really enjoyed the workshop!!" (parent)

"We really enjoyed the day and learnt lots of new tips that Alicia was really pleased about." (parent)

CONTACT DETAILS

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News

London Basses goes Jazzy! We are excited to welcome new Guest Tutor, Dave O'Brien to London Basses on our 14th April workshop. Dave will run a Jazz and Improvisation session and as well as the usual massed basses, smaller ensembles and technique sessions, all participants will also create a piece of music with Dave, to be performed in the informal concert.

We are thrilled to now offer bursary places for future workshops courtesy of one of our sponsors, Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra. If you would like to be considered for this, please contact Eloise Riddell for details.

Next London Bases workshop

Sunday 14th April 2019

Director **Eloise Riddell**

Eloise is a passionate and versatile musician, who studied at the Royal Academy of Music where she obtained an MA, BMus (Hons) and LRAM teaching diploma. She is currently a busy freelancer, most recently touring in 'Rhondda Rips it Up' with Welsh National Opera and playing with other notable orchestras such as BBC National Orchestra of Wales, London Contemporary Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra. As a pioneer of new music and chamber works, she has commissioned and premiered numerous solo and chamber music works for the double bass. She has recorded music for feature films, animation, popular music artists and contemporary organisations such as Nonclassical.

Eloise is currently Principal Double Bass of the Street Orchestra of London, who's motto is 'Music for All'. She is also passionate about outreach and teaching, currently the bass tutor on the Junior Guildhall's String Training Programme and teaching in leading independent schools such as City of London School for Girls and Kensington Prep as well as tutoring on London music courses and teaching a number of private pupils of all ages from beginners through to experienced players. She has also worked with the outreach departments of Academy of St Martin's in the Fields, Spitalfields Music, English National Opera and English Chamber Orchestra and has worked for Creative Futures as a workshop leader.

Our next Guest Tutor will be **Dave O'Brien**

Dave O'Brien studied classical music and jazz at Junior RCM, Oxford University and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and went on to be in highly in-demand bassist and pianist on the UK jazz scene. He has performed with the likes of The Man Overboard Quintet, Pete Horsfall, Brian Abrahams, Barak Schmool, and is a member of the BBC-Jazz-Award-winning F-IRE Collective. In 2007 he won the prestigious Peter Whittingham Award with his own original jazz fusion band Porpoise Corpus. He is a versatile musician and has also worked in many other genres such as rock, soul, gypsy, Brazilian, Sephardic and Iraqi and has composed for numerous large and small ensembles including the Aurora Orchestra.



Spartan Press provide London Bases with music for our workshops, including music from Yorke Edition, Recital Music, Mctier Music, Four Bass Music to name a few. At every workshop we have a small music shop where participants can buy Double Bass music at a reduced price.

Website: www.spartanpress.co.uk



Thwaites Q and A

For our latest workshop, Bill and Sam from **Thwaites** gave participants a fascinating talk about making a bass, showing us all the different parts of a Double Bass. Did you know that Spruce wood is softer but creates a big acoustic sound due to the straight trunk of an Evergreen tree? Or that the wood from a Maple or Sycamore tree is often used for the back, sides, neck and scroll of a Double Bass and needs to be heated so it becomes flexible and can be shaped to form the bending ribs on a Double Bass?



London Bases workshops are kindly sponsored by **Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments**,
33 Chalk Hill, Watford WD19 4BL
Tel: 01923-232412

Our newest sponsors Wimbledon based **Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra** provide us with bursary places for each workshop. The Training Orchestra caters for players who are Grade 4-6, while the Main Orchestra comprises players who are Grade 7+. It rehearses on Sunday afternoons during school term time and performs three concerts a year in some of London's leading venues. If you are interested in joining the orchestra, please contact Julian Hardwick (vicechairman@stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk for details).

