

# London Basses

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## Sunday 14th April 2019 Purcell School, Bushey

The latest London Basses workshop was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April and bassists of all ages and abilities came from across England. Directed by Eloise Riddell with guest tutor Matt Ridley, the action packed day featured a jazz and improvisation workshop directed by Matt, in which participants learnt a simple jazz melody and how to improvise around it. In addition to this 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 basses, ensemble and solo repertoire from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to present day featuring music by Tony Osborne, Michael Montgomery, Mozart, Spencer Williams and David Heyes.

### What they say...

*"It's really good to have a day when the bass gets to sing"*

*"Thank you for a wonderful day last week. It was amazing to see so many basses together" (parent)*

*"He loved the workshop and we thought the concert was great" (parent)*

### CONTACT DETAILS

#### Eloise Riddell

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### News

There are jazzy times ahead! Following on from the great success of April's jazz workshop, we will be continuing this theme into October with the fantastic Matt Ridley joining us again for more improvisation and jazzy fun in addition to the usual massed basses, smaller ensemble and technique work.

We are thrilled to continue to 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 further details.

## Next London Basses workshop

**Sunday 27th October 2019**

The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School,  
Elstree

**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, Opera North, 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 teacher at Junior Guildhall and teaching in leading independent schools such as Putney High School 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 **Matt Ridley**

Based in London, Matt has performed internationally and at many of the UK's most prestigious venues such as the Purcell Room, Cadogan Hall, Ronnie Scott's, King's Place, the Barbican, and the O2 Arena. Having graduated from Trinity College of Music with a Bmus honours degree in Jazz Studies, Matt was awarded the Trinity College of Music 'Friends in New York' award. Matt has released two albums with his quartet and the group have been hailed as 'One of Britain's very finest contemporary quartets' (Jazzviews) and continue to perform regularly around the UK.

Matt is actively involved in education and has led workshops and masterclasses at conservatoire level, taught on residential jazz courses, (including Glamorgan and Michael Garrick's Jazz Academy) and more recently on Sound and Music's 'Young Composers' Summer school.



Spartan Press provide London Basses 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](http://www.spartanpress.co.uk)

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### **Thwaites Q and A**

Bill from **Thwaites**, a longstanding sponsor of London Basses, joined us to demonstrate reworking basses which were virtually unplayable because of size, either too big with a cello shape which cannot be played or too small. A small bass has wood added to the front, back and ribs and the sound enhanced especially in the upper registers. Either option achieves a wholly playable instrument with an exciting and fantastic sound quality. By demonstrating the set-up of a bridge, soundpost, bow tips and nuts, participants also understood the construction of a Double Bass to maximise its sound quality and value.



London Basses workshops are kindly sponsored by **Thwaites Fine Stringed Instruments**,  
33 Chalk Hill, Watford WD19 4BL  
Tel: 01923-232412  
Website: [www.thwaites.com](http://www.thwaites.com)

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](mailto:vicechairman@stoneleighyouthorchestra.org.uk)) for details.