

Review of HISS 2022

Edie Heringman

I have been coming to HISS for eleven years now, but this year was a new experience as it marked my first time coming as a bursary student. I feel very lucky to have had this opportunity, as I found it to be extremely rewarding. Initially, I was quite apprehensive, however after meeting the other bursary students I immediately felt at ease. Despite being a few years younger than them, we all got along very well. The fact that it is possible to meet so many like-minded people is one of the things that I love about HISS; It is such a supportive environment where everyone is looking out for each other!

I attended John Dipper's folk fiddle progressive class, which gave me the opportunity to explore various English folk tunes, and to learn so many new techniques. I feel privileged to have been taught by such a phenomenal musician! The classes were taught clearly and John was hugely encouraging.

I also got the chance to perform in a fiddle quartet at the banquet with two of the other bursary students and John Dipper, which gave me a huge confidence boost, and allowed me to really challenge myself. Getting to play alongside such wonderful musicians definitely helped me to improve my playing, as well as my improvisation and arranging skills.

As my evening class, I attended the medieval band, which was run by Rebecca Austen Brown, Tim Bayley and Jacob Heringman. In this class, all instruments were welcome, and we created an arrangement of two medieval pieces ('*En La Maison Dedalus*' and '*O Virgo Splendens*'). The whole process of sharing ideas and creating an arrangement as a group was hugely satisfying and the end result was beautiful!

Aside from the numerous musical activities that I took part in, I got to learn many skills associated with administration (including how to use a photocopier!). The admin team is so lovely and will make sure that you are looked after and kept busy.

Coming to HISS as a bursary student is an experience that I would wholeheartedly recommend. It allows you to meet and make friends with like-minded people who are around the same age as you, and to try things that you might not have otherwise had the opportunity to do. The other participants are all very friendly and supportive, and the tutors are all exceptional musicians and huge experts in their fields. If you're considering applying for the bursary, I'd say go for it!