

HISS Course Review – Sophia Yeshin Daramy-Williams

This summer I was privileged enough to be selected as a student helper for the HISS course. As a student helper I was constantly busy helping participants and our course director. However, I still was able to attend the baroque strings classes with two incredible, experienced teachers Amélie Addison and Anne Marie Christensen and a choral class led by Graham Coatman (our director) and Caius Lee (student helper). The teachers on the course were passionate about their instruments and early music. They taught and played at an excellent standard - within the course participants were invited to hear the teaching staff play at the teachers' concert.

As someone who has been learning the cello for under two years I was rather nervous about attending a summer school as I thought it may be difficult to keep up with the standard of playing. This was certainly not the case as tutors found music that gave participants a challenge but was still manageable. Participants and teachers created a friendly and relaxed learning environment which was perfect for new and returning participants. The course took a collaborative approach as teachers would often work with one another to bring musicians of varying experience and knowledge together.

The course was held at Bishop Burton College in Beverley in a beautiful rural area surrounded by nature. The staff at the college were very friendly and accommodating to participants' needs which added to the positive ambience.

The HISS course gave all involved a chance to be immersed in a rich early-music experience where there was a chance to try instruments and music that participants may otherwise have not approached. I really enjoyed my time on the HISS course and believe that there is a place for all who are interested in enjoying early music.