

# DEAL MUSIC & ARTS Education

## Summer Music School 2018

The Deal Festival Summer Music School in Dover took place at The Astor College, Dover, from Monday 30<sup>st</sup> July to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. This week-long course was attended by over 100 students of all ages and abilities. Ages ranged from 8 years to well into retirement age. Also participating were ten students and two teachers from a Performing Arts Academy in Fumel, France, and one student from Cologne, Germany.

Eighteen different schools were represented on the course and 20% of the students were of school leaving age.

The instrumentation included: flutes, clarinets, oboe, bassoon, alto and tenor saxophones, trumpets, cornets, tenor horn, French horn, euphonium, trombones, tuba, violins, cellos, double bass and percussionists. Pianists and guitarists joined the percussion section and learnt lots of new skills.

Each day consisted of full group ensemble rehearsals, individual section rehearsals and small group ensembles.



very good performance level. The final performance programme also included a solo trumpet item which required the accompanying full ensemble to demonstrate particular sensitivity.

Fun in music making was had by all. New friends as well as new music were being made each day. The music provided offered many different styles and challenges. It took the full five days to master each piece to a



It was truly amazing what was achieved in just five days. When the music was introduced to the students on Monday morning, so many thought it would be beyond them to play, and were even considering not coming back on the Tuesday. However, with lots of encouragement and skilled tuition, everyone stayed the course. Progress was so good by Thursday that a CD was made of some of the full ensemble pieces and all of the smaller ensembles - probably the only Summer Music School in the UK that achieves this. A chance to demonstrate to parents and friends what had been achieved came on the Friday evening with the end-of-course concert. The audience was delighted and couldn't believe just what they were hearing from such a wide ability group. One of the many highlights was the ten students in the percussion group performing a very clever routine of drumming on plastic chairs, which brought the house down.



Some of the single word comments in the students' evaluation forms were: Amazing, Stimulating, Cool, Fantastic, Creative, Unforgettable, Brilliant, Inspiring, Enriching, Instructive, Rewarding, Uplifting, Unbelievable, Wow, Fun, Magical, Musical, Energising, Enlightening, Challenging and so on.



Example emails received from parents:

*'Thank you SOOOOO much again for organizing and running the Music School this year. Both Jasmine and Valerie had a fantastic time and enjoyed playing all the music. Both girls were exhausted at the end of the week!! Valerie would also like to come back again next year if that is possible – I can always supply double the amount of cakes if that helps !!'*

*and Jan for a wonderful summer school and brilliant concert. My son Henry Hudson (trombone) loved every minute and can't wait till next year. He also made some good friends and has been invited to join the Deal Brass band off the back of it which he is very excited about.*

*Thank you again and hope to see you next year.'*

*'I just wanted to send you a quick email today to say a huge thankyou and well done for such a fantastic summer school this year. My daughter, Amber Russell thoroughly enjoyed every day and it has really brought on her confidence playing with others as well as learning new skills. Everyone was so friendly and all the tutors were so enthusiastic and*



*inspiring. We look forward to your future events and Amber is also now quite keen to look into joining the young Revellers! Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved!*

*'This is a belated thank you for arranging the wonderful Summer Music School. I was hesitant about signing up for it as my violin playing has gone backwards recently due to pressure of work and having massive building works in our house in Goudhurst. In the event, it was a wonderful experience which I will never forget. My wife, Pamela, also enjoyed it enormously playing the clarinet. The CD brings a great feeling of pride when I put it on. I do not know how so much can be achieved in five days.'*

The course director, Graham Harvey, was thrilled with the response from all and wishes to thank all of the staff, of which there were specialist teachers for all instrumental sections, for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the week.

One of the particularly thrilling aspects was that a student from the first Summer Music School in 2004 who is now a professional musician successfully playing and working in London, returned to teach on the course - a wonderful example of the value of these courses.



Photos Tony Nandi – [tonynandi.photoshelter.com](http://tonynandi.photoshelter.com)