

Coulonges Courier

The newsletter from chambermusicinfrance.com

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Chamber Music in France.com – “My idea of heaven!”

After many months of planning, countless emails flying back and forth to the Lake District and Melbourne, we finally held our first chamber music course....and it was well worth the effort and the wait!

Under the expert guidance of Roger Coull, two string quartets, along with children and non-playing partners, had a wonderful few days of music making and enjoying the French experience to the full – the visit coincided with the Bastille Day celebrations.

It was tempting to think that the midnight fireworks had been laid on especially to mark the inaugural musical course at chambermusicinfrance.com!

During the long, warm summer evenings, various ad hoc ensembles were formed and we were

privileged to play through the Mendelssohn Octet with Roger playing the first violin part.

Other parts were doubled up and it was quite possibly the loudest, most boisterous performance of that wonderful, wonderful piece.....ever!



Roger leads an impromptu Brahms sextet

During the days, the playing and practising were taken more seriously and the players were truly delighted with Roger’s inspirational and hugely encouraging style of coaching.

The comments of the players are included in

full in our Visitors Book and here is a selection:

“An unforgettable four and a half days – luxurious comfort, such a friendly atmosphere.”

“A perfect place to play chamber music. We’ve had a lovely time thanks to Martine and Calum who made us so welcome. Also we had three days of inspired coaching from Roger Coull.”

“What a fantastic few days! The setting is gorgeous, the company and the music a great pleasure, thanks to the splendid coaching of Roger Coull.”



Tutti

“The luxurious surroundings, combined with playing music for five days was my idea of heaven. We were very spoilt to have such expert coaching from Roger Coull.”



International Dining Al Fresco

“Breathtaking house, lovely gardens, and an overall setting I thought I could only find in the movies.”

“What an inspiring setting! We have had such a wonderful music-making indulgence. With the guidance of Roger Coull, our playing improved – there is hope for us yet!”

“This has been the most wonderful week – exquisite in all senses – your warm and friendly hospitality, fantastic food, very beautiful home, garden and swimming pool. We look forward to returning to this special piece of paradise.”

“A very special week with our wonderful friends

from the UK – fantastic musical experiences in an exquisite setting.”



Christine and Emmy dans le jardin

The quartets worked on by the Australian *Doctet* were Dvorak’s American and the Debussy whilst the English quartet brought Haydn’s Op. 20 no. 3 and Mendelssohn’s Op. 44 no. 2

A wider selection of photographs from the week are now on our website and from the smiling faces it’s clear to see that everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable holiday here with us at chambermusicinfrance.com

The groups stayed on a bed and breakfast basis and had the free run of the downstairs kitchen, our summer kitchen in the garden and the barbecue area – this flexibility offers chacun a son goût although as it transpired, everyone joined in together for most meals.

Late July sees the arrival of our next group of

guests – from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, no less!

Well, kind of.

One of the members of staff at that prestigious establishment saw one of our posters and contacted us. The attractive posters are downloadable from our website.

Coaching for that week will be done by the *hostess with the mostess* – Martine.



Hubert and Barbara get to grips with their bowing

After such an auspicious and encouraging start to our musical courses, we are keen to keep up the momentum. So, if you are interested in a playing holiday, please contact us.



Salut !

Au revoir,

Calum and Martine.