



# Gresham House Studios

*Singing & Art Workshops  
with Helen Porter and Peter Ursem*

**2012**

# GRESHAM HOUSE STUDIOS

Welcome to our second Gresham House Studios workshop programme. We moved to the beautiful Tamar Valley early 2011, and have been thrilled with the enthusiasm of local people to our studios venture, and to have had so many return visitors on our summer workshops from Dorset and beyond. To those of you who haven't yet been on one of our workshops or courses, we are passionate about our teaching of singing and art, and equally we love to give people a comfortable stay with homely, freshly grown and cooked food.

We hope there's something for everyone in this new programme of workshops. Helen will be running workshops from madrigals to jazz, from close harmony to solos master class, for beginners as well as professionals. Helen's courses will take place the Tamar Valley as well as in North Dorset, not forgetting of course the annual retreat to Wooda Farm in North Cornwall. Peter offers workshops in painting, printmaking, drawing and sketchbook making, all suitable for both beginners and more experienced artists. We hope you enjoy browsing through the contents and look forward to seeing you soon.

*Helen Porter & Peter Ursem*



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**Helen Porter** trained in Music and Drama at Bristol University. Her teaching is founded on a passion for understanding vocal technique, embracing classical, jazz and music theatre styles, combined with confidence building and performance artistry. She coaches amateur and professional singers and actors, choirs and vocal ensembles and runs singing workshops for groups and organisations all over the country. As a singer she performs with the jazz cabaret quartet Misbehavin' at jazz festivals, arts centres and private functions throughout the South West, and teaches singing at Bath Spa University. She is also a composer, with a particular interest in theatre music, choral arrangement and solo song.

**Peter Ursem** studied Literature at the University of Utrecht and Painting and Printmaking at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in The Hague. Since his move to England in 1998 Peter has developed a distinctive style of printmaking, in particular in the relief printmaking techniques (lino cut, woodcut and woodengraving). In 2010 the Dorset County Museum exhibited 'Dorset Footprint', a retrospective of Peter's first decade in England. Now in the Tamar Valley, the East Cornwall landscape is rapidly finding a place in his work in different media. Peter's love for language and stories also find its way into his work and workshops.

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## Studios and Accommodation

Gresham House has a music studio and a printmaking workshop, and is set on a hill overlooking the valley (see cover photograph). There are 4 residential spaces, 2 single rooms and one double room with single beds, with use of a shared bathroom. Meals are cooked on the premises, using vegetables from our garden or fresh, local and seasonal produce.



Saturday and Sunday 10 & 11 March

## PERFORMANCE DUETS, TRIOS, QUARTETS

£150 - Max 12 participants  
Port Regis, nr Shaftesbury, Dorset (SP7 9QA)  
(NB SAT am: Motcombe Memorial Hall, SP7 9PE)

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The marvellous Chris Higgins is back to run this fabulous weekend with Helen, staging opera and musical theatre numbers. If you love singing opera and/or music theatre, this will be a thrill. Prior to the weekend you will receive music and recordings of duets or trios (or suggest your own) to learn. Ideally you come with the music committed to memory. An inspirational weekend for singers who love to perform, and who would benefit from professional theatre and vocal tuition.

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Saturday 24 March

## SING JAZZ! 10.30am - 3.30pm

£25, Old Chapel Arts, Calstock, Cornwall (PL18 9QX)

A group jazz vocal harmony workshop for every one who loves to sing, with the added joy of jazz pianist Pete Rosser as the accompanist! We will sing songs in easy 2, 3 and 4 part harmony, arranged by Pete and Helen, and learn about jazz vocal techniques along the way. For the really confident singers there's the opportunity to improvise over jazz harmony. No previous experience of jazz necessary.

Saturday 31 March & Sunday 1 April

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ... SINGING & PRINTMAKING!

Free vocal workshop (Saturday am),  
Master class (Sunday) £35 (max 6), £5 observers ticket  
Stourton Memorial Hall, Stourhead, Wiltshire

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On Saturday March 31st Helen will be running a free vocal workshop from 11am to 1pm for everyone who loves to sing. Anyone interested in participating must register with Helen beforehand. In the afternoon there is a chance to see Peter at work and view an exhibition of his recent prints. Helen's jazz cabaret quartet *Misbehavin'* will perform in the evening.

On Sunday April 1st Helen will run a singing master class from 10.30am to 1pm for a maximum of 6 singers. The public are invited to attend this master class for a £5 observers ticket. Observing a master class will be useful to anyone interested in the art of singing, including singers working towards grades or diploma, choir leaders and singing teachers, as well as the general public.

From 1.00pm - 3.30pm there is another opportunity to see Peter's exhibition and his work in progress, followed by tea and at 4pm a performance session of master class singers and students of Helen.

Saturday & Sunday 5 & 6 May

## MADRIGALS WEEKEND

£40 non residential. £85 residential Saturday night  
(£130 residential from Friday night)

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Old Chapel Arts, Calstock, East Cornwall (PL18 9QX)

Madrigals belong to a rich period of English composition around the 16th & 17th centuries. 400 years on we still love to sing them for their beauty, their complexity and for the intense satisfaction of producing wonderful music with unaccompanied mixed voices. The beautifully converted Old Chapel Arts Centre in Calstock, with its high ceiling and lovely acoustic is the perfect venue. During the weekend we will sing a selection of madrigals, as well as learning about vocal technique - how to 'support' the voice, breath control and good production of high and sustained notes. A late afternoon free concert will be held on Sunday afternoon at the arts centre, open to friends, family and locals. Recordings of individual parts available in advance for those who don't read music and/or who would like to come prepared.

Saturday 19 May

## JAZZ A CAPELLA WORKSHOP

11am - 3.30pm

£25 (£15 concessions & under 18)  
Old Chapel Arts, Calstock, East Cornwall (PL18 9QX)

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This workshop is for those who love jazz, and who would like to learn about jazz singing (no prior experience necessary). During the day we'll be working on jazz vocal techniques, including how to 'belt', and how to 'place' the voice and support it. We'll use simple exercises to explore jazz harmony and rhythm and learn some basic elements of vocal improvisation in a group. We will also sing well known standards in 2 & 3 part harmony. This will be a fun and uplifting vocal workshop for everyone. Helen will be performing at the Old Chapel Arts in the evening with her Dorset based band, Misbehavin'.

Saturday and Sunday 26 & 27 May

## OPERA TRIOS, QUARTETS & ENSEMBLES

£150 - Max 12 participants  
Port Regis, nr Shaftesbury, Dorset (SP7 9QA)

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A very popular weekend workshop with Judith Sheridan and Helen for singers who love a challenge, and a good vocal workout. You need to be a confident singer, with a desire to sing in Italian as well as English, and happy to perform from memory. Performance numbers will be selected and learned by participants prior to the workshop, and put together during the weekend with an informal performance at the end of the afternoon on Sunday. The better prepared you are, the more fun you will have!

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Saturday 10 June

## SOLOS DAY MASTER CLASS

£65 - Max 10 participants  
Port Regis, nr Shaftesbury, Dorset (SP7 9QA)

A master class with Judith Sheridan and Helen for serious singers who want to improve on technique and develop performance artistry. You need to prepare a song from memory in any style or language, accompanied or unaccompanied. Participants benefit from an individual tutorial as well as learn from observing the other sessions.

Saturday and Sunday 23 & 24 June

## THE ART OF ... CLOSE HARMONY SINGING

£190 residential (\*), £140 non residential  
Max 8 participants  
Gresham House, nr Gunnislake, Cornwall (PL18 9AB)

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During the weekend we will be learning songs in 2 and 3 part harmony in all different styles. Singing in harmony is a lovely experience in itself, and during this workshop we'll be using it to improve vocal technique. There will be some opportunity to sing small solos, but the emphasis of the weekend is on harmony singing and group work. It's vital that you can hold a melody line confidently, and that your pitching is secure, so if in any doubt please contact Helen.

Saturday and Sunday 21 & 22 July

## HOW TO IMPROVE ...

### YOUR SINGING

£190 residential (\*), £140 non residential

Max 8 participants

Gresham House, nr Gunnislake, Cornwall (PL18 9AB)

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If you enjoy singing, but feel a bit ‘stuck’ with your voice, it’s probably time to learn about technique. Even if you know words like ‘breath control’, ‘open throat’ and ‘support’, you might not be completely sure of what they mean, how to apply them and exactly how they affect the quality of your singing. If you don’t know these words, then learning about them and much more will help you to get the best out of your singing. A weekend devoted to improving vocal technique in good company, and building on confidence, is a sure way to fire up your enthusiasm for singing.

Thursday to Sunday 26 - 29 July

## WOODA FARM RETREAT

£430 residential, £340 non residential (meals included). Maximum 12 participants

Wooda Farm, Crackington Haven, North Cornwall (EX23 0LF)

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This four day retreat with the inspirational Helen Chadwick together with Helen Porter has become an annual, much loved event. Wooda Farm is a small organic working farm in North Cornwall. The beautifully converted barn has the perfect acoustic for singing. It’s not possible to be specific about the content of the retreat, as it all depends on who is there, and what people want to get out of it. There is the opportunity for song-writing, developing individual singing technique and group harmony work as well as swimming, eating divinely and relaxing. The accommodation is mostly double rooms, with some single rooms available for a £30 supplement.

Saturday and Sunday 11 & 12 August

## A WEEKEND OF JAZZ!

£190 residential (\*), £140 non residential

Max 8 participants

Gresham House, nr Gunnislake, Cornwall (PL18 9AB)

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A weekend for lovers of the jazz genre - whether you’re a crooner or a belter, or if you’ve not yet unleashed your inner diva demon but know it’s lurking there somewhere, this is for you! All participants will be given solo sessions on prepared jazz songs, and will have the opportunity to learn about microphone technique, jazz rhythm and backing vocals with a little bit of improvisation thrown in! A weekend of laughs, uplifting singing and, fingers crossed, sunshine!

Saturday 19 May

## BLACK MAGIC

Exploring relief printmaking

£45

Gresham House Studios, nr Gunnislake, East Cornwall  
(PL18 9AB)

This one day workshop offers a practical introduction to the process of making a linocut, woodcut or wood engraving, from your first inspiration to the actual print. Through useful exercises we explore the strengths and striking possibilities of printmaking in black and white, develop an initial sketch to a workable design, transfer it onto the block, carve and print. Materials, use of tools and lunch are included. If you would like to have a go at wood engraving, there will be a small surcharge for the wood block depending on the size of the block.

Saturday 22 September

## MORE BLACK MAGIC!

£45

Gresham House Studios, nr Gunnislake, East Cornwall  
(PL18 9AB)

A continuation from the Black Magic workshop in May. Is it too early, at the start of the autumn, to think about creating a Christmas Card print?

Saturday 30 June & Sunday 1 July

## DRAWING & PAINTING TREES

Residential £190(\*) or non-residential £140

Gresham House Studios, nr Gunnislake, East Cornwall  
(PL18 9AB)

The Tamar Valley may be named after its river, but it is also home to many wonderful trees, orchards and woodlands, as is nearby Dartmoor. There are various approaches to capturing their majestic and mysterious presence in a drawing or painting, although it is often harder than it looks.

In this workshop we will take a quick look at how trees have been represented in art throughout the centuries, but mostly we will observe trees in their natural context and take inspiration from their shapes and presence to start drawing and painting. Weather permitting, we will work outside. If this is not possible all the time, we can work in the painting studio, taking photographs of trees as a starting point.



Saturday and Sunday 7 & 8 July

## LINO PRINTING IN COLOUR

Residential £190 (\*) or non-residential £140

Gresham House Studios, nr Gunnislake, East Cornwall  
(PL18 9AB)

A two day workshop to learn all about the magic of lino printing. Lino printing is in itself a simple technique of creating a print by carving a relief into a block of linoleum, inking the surface and printing this with press or spoon onto paper. The stark contrast between black and white can be used to create striking images.



During day one of this workshop you will learn the entire process, from sketching and planning your design on paper, to cutting, inking and printing your block. On the second day we will focus on creating a second print, this time using two or three colours, and finding out how you can make sure that all printed colours will be properly 'registered' to land in the correct place of your print image.

Sunday 29 July

## SKETCH BOOK DRAWING

£45

Gresham House Studios, nr Gunnislake, East Cornwall  
(PL18 9AB)

To an artist, sketching is what regular practice is to a musician. Whether you are just doodling, or drawing from nature or from what you see around you, putting pencil to paper is a lovely way to explore new ideas, find artistic solutions, and practice your hand. Another great thing about sketch books is that they are in principle only for yourself - so no concerns about not getting things right - and over time they can become a book full of treasures, and a diary of your creative explorations. This workshop will be of interest to beginner or more confident artists, and is about discovering how best to use sketching and drawing to develop and design future masterpieces.



Saturday and Sunday 18 & 19 August

## TAMAR VALLEY STORY BOOK

Exploring word, image & bookmaking

Residential £190 (\*) or non-residential £140

Gresham House Studios, nr Gunnislake, East Cornwall  
(PL18 9AB)

Although much printmaking today is about creating a print as an autonomous artwork, the relief printmaking techniques (lino, woodcut, wood engraving) have never lost their connection to their original function of book illustration. Because text itself is made up of graphic symbols, combining words and images can produce bold and powerful statements, whether on a page in a book or as text and image on the wall. This workshop is about exploring how words and printed images can complement each other. We will work with a selection of short stories and poems to provide inspiration for new prints and/or lettering. Participants will produce their new print works in a small edition, to be exchanged among us. Add a simple book binding technique, so that at the end of this weekend we will all have a unique hand made and illustrated workshop book to take home. No print or book making experience required, but getting your work done during this weekend demands a certain amount of passion and commitment!

## WORKSHOPS CALENDAR 2012

	Singing Workshops	Art Workshops
10 & 11 March	Performance: duets, trios, quartets	
24 March	Sing Jazz!	
31 March 1 April	Celebrating Singing	Celebrating Printmaking
5 & 6 May	Madrigals Weekend	
19 May	Jazz A Capella Workshop	Black Magic
26 & 27 May	Opera: trios, quartets & ensembles	
10 June	Solos Day Masterclass	
23 & 24 June	The Art of Close Harmony Singing	
30 June 1 July		Drawing and Painting Trees
7 & 8 July		Lino Printing in Colour
21 & 22 July	How to Improve Your Singing	
26-29 July	Wooda Farm Singing Retreat	
29 July		Sketch Book Drawing
11 & 12 August	A Weekend of Jazz	
18 & 19 August		Tamar Valley Story Book
22 Sept		More Black Magic!

(\*) Weekend workshops at Gresham House Studios start on the first day at 10.30am and finish on day two at 4pm.  
£235 for residential participants arriving Friday afternoon.

## The Tamar Valley

The Tamar Valley offers an extensive array of wildlife habitats in its steep gorges, meandering rivers, and ancient woodlands and wetlands. It is known not only for its cultural and mining heritage, but also for its farmers' markets and food festivals where quality local produce proves ever popular with locals and tourists alike.

With Dartmoor to the east, and the sea and beaches to the south, the Tamar river flows on the border of Cornwall and Devon. In all its cultural and natural richness, the Tamar Valley is a truly inspiring landscape to live in, visit, and for making art and music.

## How to find us

Gresham House Studios are easily accessible by train. There is a main line train to Plymouth, then a train to Calstock or Gunnislake Station (both approx 1 mile from our studios). By prior arrangement we can meet you at the railway station.

By car, from Tavistock, turn left before Gunnislake station, into Well Park Road. Continue for 0.8 mile. At the top of the hill, turn left into an un-made lane. After 200 metres Gresham House Studios is on your right.

## BOOKING FOR A WORKSHOP

Email or phone Helen or Peter for further information and to reserve your place. We ask for a 50% deposit to book your place with the remainder payable 3 weeks before the workshop date.

## Private Vocal Tuition

Helen offers private singing tuition for beginners, at diploma level and for professional singers. For a one off session: £40 or for more regular bookings (minimum monthly) £35 per hour.



**Gresham House Studios  
Albaston, nr. Gunnislake  
Cornwall, PL18 9AB**

**WWW.COUNTERPARTS.ORG.UK  
01822 833668**

## BOOKINGS

### SINGING:

[helen@counterparts.org.uk](mailto:helen@counterparts.org.uk)

**01822 833668**

078 077 52 401

### ART:

[peter@counterparts.org.uk](mailto:peter@counterparts.org.uk)

**01822 833668**

077 86 55 86 24