

SUMMER COURSE
for
ADVANCED COMPOSERS
with
ANDREW TOOVEY MORGAN HAYES
STEPHEN PETTITT
13 - 19 August 2017
AZAT LE RIS, FRANCE



Advanced students of composition are invited a course at Le Genesteix, a sparsely populated hamlet near the friendly, small village of Azat le Ris in the beautiful French department of Haute Vienne, to discuss and develop their work and its context both one-to-one and in groups with composers **Andrew Toovey** and **Morgan Hayes** and writer and critic **Stephen Pettitt**.

Students will stay in shared rooms at **Domaine le Chiron**, an imposing mansion in a neighbouring hamlet. Breakfast and some suppers will be served at the Domaine, while a simple lunch will be offered at Le Genesteix.

We hope to arrange an excursion to one or more of the wonderful local historic sites, such as the amazing UNESCO World Heritage listed Abbey at St Savin with its restored Romanesque frescoes.

For more details (and some stunning photos) of Le Chiron see www.domainelechiron.com.

We ask students who play portable instruments to bring them if practical, along with their own laptops/tablets and any other composing equipment indispensable to them.

COST: €595 (includes all meals, wine and other beverages but **excluding** travel to and from the venue)

This is for a shared room with ensuite bathroom. Single occupancy rooms might be available for a supplement. Please ask for details.

ABOUT LE GENESTEIX



Le Genesteix is a tiny place (permanent population: 3) where Stephen Pettitt has his second home. The nearest shop is 6 miles away and there are no buses. Farm tracks provide plenty of opportunity for contemplative walks and the wildlife is amazing. If the weather is very warm and you are very lucky you might even stumble across the spectacular but harmless and rather shy Western Whip Snake. Please come prepared for possible battles with hungry mosquitos.

Our communal working room is a vast galleried living area, formerly a cow barn.

Facilities include **a beautifully restored 1899 Pleyel piano**, first owned by the publisher Pierre Lafitte and very possibly played by Reynaldo Hahn, **a huge library of CDs**, and **WiFi** (around 8 to 10 Mb/s). A single manual harpsichord may also be on site.

Please note that mobile phone reception is extremely unreliable.

ABOUT THE TUTORS



Andrew Toovey studied with Jonathan Harvey, Michael Finnissy and Morton Feldman. His work – over 100 compositions - embraces diverse influences, including the poetry of Artaud, Cummings and Rilke, and the art of Bacon, Beuys, Klee, Miro, Rauschenberg and Rothko. It has been widely performed, broadcast and recorded. He was composer-in-residence at Banff, Canada (writing two operas and other music theatre works), Opera Factory and the South Bank Summer School, and his other education work includes projects for Glyndebourne Opera, English National Opera, Huddersfield Festival, the South Bank Centre and the London Festival Orchestra. He now teaches composition at Birmingham Conservatoire, where he is working towards his PhD. He is currently composing an opera based on James Purdy's novel *Narrow Rooms* to a libretto by Michael Finnissy.

www.andrewtoovey.co.uk



Morgan Hayes's musical influences have included Babbitt, Gerald Barry, Xenakis, Berg, Aperghis, James Dillon, and his close friends Simon Holt and Andrew Toovey as well as his teachers Simon Bainbridge, Robert Saxton and Michael Finnissy. His orchestral piece *Strip* was commissioned for the 2005 BBC Promenade Concerts, its title referring both to its layer-like structure and to a certain paring down of his style. In the highly personal single movement of the *Violin Concerto* (2006) he explores in an entirely original way the notion of the traditional Romantic concerto. Most recently he has been working on a cycle which so far includes *The Unrest Cure* (2014), inspired by a visit to the Flak Towers in Vienna, the ongoing cycle of piano pieces *Elemental* (2015-), whose name was appropriated from a furniture shop in Shoreditch, London, and the concertante piece for clarinet and ensemble *Overture The Kiss* (2016). Morgan teaches composition at the Royal Academy of Music. www.morganhayes.com



Stephen Pettitt has been a music critic since 1980, writing for most of the UK's quality national and music press and also broadcasting. He has been Director of Music at Benslow Music, Hitchin, curated a concert series for NMC recordings, writes liner and programme notes, and gives talks. Most recently he has devised and written the libretto for a pasticcio baroque opera, *Casanova*, which has been performed in London and around the UK. He spends half of his time in France and hopes to be able to continue to do so.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email stephen@stephenpettitt.co.uk, including your full name, date of birth and contact details. Once your application is received it will be swiftly considered by the tutors.

If you are accepted you should make full payment in euros directly to Stephen's French account (details provided on acceptance). An e-receipt will be provided. We can also provide sterling rates but these will fluctuate from day to day given Brexit-related volatility of money markets. At this point travel directions and suggestions will be given. Be aware that the course happens at peak travel times, so advance booking is strongly advised.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 14 JUNE 2017

Minimum numbers: 6 students

Maximum numbers: 10 students

Refunds will be provided in full if we do not reach sufficient numbers by 31 May 2017.

Under no other circumstances can we provide a refund after that date **unless and until** we are able to find a suitable substitute for your place.

If you withdraw after having had your application accepted but on or before 31 May 2017 we will offer refunds according to this sliding scale

Withdrawal on or before 1 May 2017 – full refund

Withdrawal on or before 15 May 2017 – half refund

Insurance: Students should ensure that they have sufficient and appropriate insurance, as we cannot be held responsible for illnesses, accidents, or damage to or loss of possessions either on your way to and from the course or while at Le Genesteix. British citizens should be in possession of an EHC card to ensure health treatment at minimal cost.

By applying for the course you agree to these conditions.