

... relax ... play ...

What is Variations?

Variations is an annual summer school for amateur chamber musicians taking place in the village of Ullapool, Wester Ross. It attracts about 60 players from the UK and beyond who spend the week making music in a supportive and inspiring setting.

The course starts on the Saturday evening with a concert by the Edinburgh Quartet followed by a reception for players and tutors. There are tutored sessions each morning for the pre-arranged groups – except for Wednesday when there is optional time for sightseeing – and the afternoon programme includes larger group works, masterclasses, informal concerts and *The Apprentice*, a unique experience which allows a participant to take the place of one of the tutors and play in a professional ensemble. The programme closes on Friday night with an informal participants' concert and dinner.

Who are the tutors?

The **Edinburgh Quartet** has tutored the Variations course since it started in 2005. The quartet is one of the UK's foremost



chamber ensembles who regularly perform at prestigious venues throughout the country and bring their own special combination of tutoring skills and enthusiasm to the week.

They are joined by **Philip Burrin** who played violin with the Edinburgh Quartet for 15 years until 2013 when he retired to devote more time to teaching and coaching.



... be inspired ... improve ...



The Wind specialists are **Maximiliano Martin**, Principal Clarinet and **Rosie Staniforth**, Sub Principal Oboe with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Both teach at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and are active soloists and chamber musicians.



Is Variations for me?

All instruments and playing levels are welcome, although experience of making music in groups and good sight reading skills are recommended, particularly if you are new to chamber music and attending as an individual.

Pre-formed groups such as string quartets, wind quintets, piano trios are encouraged to come to Variations but if you are on your own we will do our best to match you with players of a similar standard.

If you are unsure about whether you would enjoy the week then please contact the Variations Manager.



"Truly life transforming ..."

The setting

Ullapool is a perfect base from which to explore Wester Ross and its hills, mountains, lochs, sea shores and wildlife. There is time in the programme for you to take local excursions such as the boat trip to the magical Summer Isles.

Eating and drinking

Morning and afternoon refreshments and lunches are provided from Sunday through to Friday (but not on Wednesday) at the Macphail Centre. And in the evening Ullapool offers a variety of eating places, from chippies to fine dining, and many lively bars. Everything is within easy walking distance in the village and we can provide a list of recommendations.

Accommodation

The Ceilidh Place is a social hub and recommended place to stay. To book a room please phone 01854 612103 or email stay@theceilidhplace.com quoting 'Variations'.

Participants stay in hotels, B&B's or self cater so please visit www.ullapool.com for other accommodation options.

How much does Variations cost?

The *Variations* course fee is £460 but there is a special early booking rate of £415 for applications received by 31 March 2018.

A deposit of £100 is required when booking with the balance being due by Saturday 2 June 2018 which is the closing date for applications.

Please note that *Variations* reserves the right to cancel your booking unless full payment is made by 2 June 2018 and that all deposit and balance payments are non-refundable (except in the case of cancellation of the event by the organisers when full refunds will be made).

What does the course fee cover?

- Daily coaching from Sunday through to Friday,
- Tickets for the two public concerts by the Edinburgh Quartet and wind tutors,
- The opportunity to take part in The Apprentice session,
- Opportunities to perform at the closing concert and during informal sessions,
- Daytime refreshments from Sunday through to Friday (except on Wednesday) and dinner on the final evening,
- Assistance from the Variations Manager and Philip Burren who will be available help participants organise informal sessions.

Please note that accommodation is **not** included in the course fee.

Cancellation

We regret that *Variations* fees are strictly non-refundable and participants are therefore encouraged to take out appropriate insurance before the course.

Student bursaries

A limited number of bursaries are available to students and young professional chamber music groups. Please contact the Variations Manager if you wish to be considered but please first check for any available funding from your place of study.

Booking Form 2018

Please text, call or email the Variations Manager for a booking form or visit the website:

www.variationsscotland.co.uk

Bookings received by **31 March 2018** will be charged at £415. Thereafter the price increases to £460.

Getting to Ullapool



The village of Ullapool lies at the head of Loch Broom, about 60 miles North West of Inverness.

Variations takes place in the Macphail Centre, Mill Street, Ullapool, IV26 2UN

By car – follow the A835 from Inverness across the Kessock Bridge and through the stunning

West Highland scenery to Ullapool

By air, rail or coach to Inverness and then coach to Ullapool

Rail: National Rail Enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk Tel 03457 484950

Bus: Scottish Citylink www.citylink.co.uk Tel 0871 266 3333

Megabus www.megabus.com Tel 0900 1600 900

Further details and timetables on www.ullapool.com

For all enquiries please contact

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Find us on Facebook **Variations-Ullapool Summer School**



variations

making chamber music in Scotland

www.variationsscotland.co.uk

Variations is registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Charity registration number SC043152



variations

Play chamber music in
the Scottish Highlands

Ullapool

28 July – 3 August 2018

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