

variations

Play chamber music in
the Scottish Highlands

Ullapool

27 July – 2 August 2019

relax... play... be inspired... improve

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.

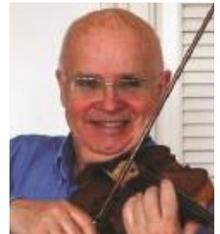
The course starts on the Saturday evening with a concert by the Edinburgh Quartet followed by a reception for players and tutors. There are tutored sessions each morning for the pre-arranged groups – except for Wednesday when there is optional time for sightseeing – and the afternoon programme includes 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 is one of the UK's foremost chamber ensembles and has tutored the Variations course since it started in 2005. The quartet perform regularly at prestigious venues throughout the country and bring their own special combination of tutoring skills and enthusiasm to the week.

The Edinburgh Quartet is joined by **Philip Burrin** who played violin with them for 15 years until 2013, when he retired to devote more time to teaching and coaching.



Rosie Staniforth, Sub Principal Oboe with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, is the specialist Wind tutor. Rosie teaches at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and is an active soloist and chamber musician. There will also be another Wind tutor if there are enough wind chamber groups attending the course.

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* and if you apply as an individual we will do our best to match you with players of a similar playing standard.

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



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 also 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 £480 but there is a special early booking rate of £430 for applications received by **31st March 2019**.

A deposit of £100 is required when booking with the balance being due by **Saturday 1st June 2019**.

The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 1st May 2019**.

Please note that Variations reserves the right to cancel your booking unless full payment is made by 1st June 2019 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).

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.

What does the course fee cover?

- Daily coaching from Sunday through to Friday (except Wednesday),
- Tickets and programmes for the two public concerts given by the Edinburgh Quartet and wind tutors,
- The opportunity to take part in The Apprentice sessions,
- 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 Burrin who will be available to help participants organise informal sessions.
- Participating chamber groups will be able to rehearse at the Macphail Centre during the afternoon of Saturday 27th July by prior arrangement – this is new for 2019

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

Booking Form 2019

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

www.variationsscotland.co.uk

Bookings received by **31st March 2019** will be charged at £430 and thereafter the price increases to £480.

The closing date for bookings is **1st May 2019**.

Privacy Policy; *Variations will only use your personal information to help us organise the chamber music course and we never pass your information to third parties - please see our website for our full Privacy Policy.*

Cancellation

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

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

Jonathan Smithers, Variations Manager

Tel 07908 776 105

Email info@variationsscotland.co.uk

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