

A Letter from Louise

Dear Patrons and Friends,

As you know, I have recently been on a trip to Germany to spend a week studying with the amazing cellist David Geringas. I am so incredibly grateful for your support and the scholarship which enabled me to make such a trip - thank you!

My cello and I arrived in Berlin early on the Monday morning, and headed straight from the airport to Blackmore's Musikzimmer, where I spent most of my time that week with 12 other students and Professor Geringas. During the week I worked with Geringas on the first 2 movements of Elgar's Cello Concerto, applying a microscope to the score and the technical application of how to bring that score to life on a cello. It was mesmerising to hear him demonstrate various phrases. I also had the chance to work with him on the Chopin Cello Sonata, which I didn't realise is actually one of his very favourite pieces to perform - he knows it VERY well!

Throughout the week, I listened intently to the other participants perform a huge variety of repertoire, and Geringas' take on those pieces and performances. The other students were all extremely fine players, including some real virtuosos. Hearing them play was fabulous, but Geringas showed time and time again why he is considered such a "master"!

At the end of the week, 5 of us were selected to perform in the final concert. I was honoured to be asked to close the concert with the 2 movements of the Elgar that I had played on the first day. Following my performance, Geringas offered some lovely words, and fondly recalled having performed as a soloist with WASO in 2002.

The following week I made contact with the cello professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Giovanni Gnocchi, and was delighted to have the opportunity to watch his cello class perform for him, and listen to the way he teaches.

The whole trip was a thoroughly inspiring experience. I came away from each day's lessons feeling excited about practicing for another few hours, and generally optimistic about implementing the many music-related ideas that were bubbling around in my head.

Thank you so much for supporting me in this adventure, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn so much, but also to represent WASO in this way overseas.

Warmest regards,

Louise McKay