

THE
TUNNELL
TRUST
FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Music Coll 2016



A Review

The **Music Coll 2016** chamber music study and performance week took place from 2nd to 10th July.

The Musicians

Four chamber groups were invited to attend **Music Coll** by the Trust:



Attard Zerafa Duo - saxophone & piano



Cavendish Winds - wind quintet



Louko Trio - piano trio



Manon Quartet - string quartet

For 10 days all four groups rehearsed and received tuition from our 5 tutors for at least 6 hours each day. At the end of the event we hosted 3 public recitals at An Cridhe on Coll which were extraordinarily well received. We also hosted a young persons' concert and workshop with over 30 youngsters enjoying a fantastic afternoon of music from the Cavendish Winds with Philip Attard and Christine Zerafa.

The Tutors

It is clear from the reports submitted to the Trust after Music Coll and published later in this review just how much the time spent with our tutors meant to our young musicians. A huge thank you must go to them for all their hard work.

Timothy Brown french horn, **Richard Deakin** violin, **Michael Dussek** piano, **Charles Tunnell** cello & **Jonathan Tunnell** cello.

Funding

We have succeeded over twenty three years to attract funding from many wonderful sources for this important event. This year was particularly successful with two new charities helping to make the event happen. In total eight charities supported the event in 2016: **The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, Hayward Sanderson Trust, PF Charitable Foundation, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, Mrs Rowena Goffin Trust, Moffat Charitable Trust, Albert & Eugenie Frost Music Trust, Fidelio Charitable Trust.**

We received very generous 'in-kind' sponsorship from the ferry company **Caledonian MacBrayne.**

We are extremely grateful to all our supporters.

Thank you!

The Venue



At An Cridhe and the Coll Bunkhouse we are extremely fortunate to have ideal facilities. The Island itself is also the perfect peaceful venue for study.

Once again we were looked after royally by our local hosts and by our local chefs who provide home cooking at its very best with much of the produce being sourced on Coll.

Huge thanks to Jane at An Cridhe and to Heather & Karen for all our lovely meals.



The Audience

We were delighted to welcome record numbers once again to the 3 concerts at An Cridhe once again. The Friday evening concert boasted 90 in the audience. Given the small population of Coll we are so grateful to this extraordinary community for supporting our young musicians so fantastically.

Young Persons' Concert

On the 6th July 27 youngsters and their parents enjoyed a workshop and fun concert with Cavendish Winds with Philip Attard & Christine Zerafa.



Reports from our Young Musicians on their Music Coll experiences

Cavendish Winds

“The Tunnell Trust’s Music Coll summer course is a truly unique opportunity for young chamber groups to spend a week rehearsing intensively with world-class coaching in an environment entirely removed from the responsibilities and distractions of everyday life. It can be particularly difficult, as a wind quintet, to find a course like this as they are usually reserved for piano and strings or segregated by ensemble type. However, on Music Coll we had the privilege to be coached not only by eminent wind players but also string players, giving us a broader scope of musicianship than we had ever encountered before. Not only that, we shared the course with two completely different ensembles whom we were able to learn from and collaborate with. Moreover, the beauty and peacefulness of the landscape added immensely to the success of the course for us, in addition to the hospitality and support of those living on the island. Cavendish Winds, both as individuals and as an ensemble, found Coll to be a career-changing space to push our music-making to the next level. Thank you so much!”

Katy, Henry, Mary, Alice and Charlie

Manon Quartet

“The Manon quartet is based in London, and all of us have increasingly hectic schedules. Having the time and space to really focus on our quartet away from any distractions was incredibly valuable, and gave us the opportunity to tackle challenging repertoire that we wouldn’t have otherwise felt able to take on. This was a hugely formative experience, both in terms of the depth we were able to go into, as well as in developing our approach to new repertoire.

We were guided through by a team of distinguished tutors, whose experience and wisdom pushed us to explore many different perspectives of our repertoire. It was particularly interesting receiving coaching from different instrumentalists, and thinking about the broader musicality of each of our works. The tutors also engaged socially with all individuals from the varied range of ensembles, creating a lovely relaxed atmosphere without any sense of pressure or competition.

Coll as a place was the perfect setting, with stunning views over the bay from our rehearsal room and a wonderfully welcoming community. We were extremely well fed and looked after, and the concert environment was friendly and relaxed. We performed Beethoven’s 1st Razumovsky, Bartok’s 2nd Quartet and Berg’s String Quartet at the end of the week, which was the first time we’d played any of these works in their entirety. We have recently been in the studio working on recordings for various upcoming competitions, and this process has been greatly enhanced by having previously performed the quartets.

As an aspiring quartet, we are eager for any opportunities to receive mentorship and performance experience. Other courses require us to raise significant funds, which creates a barrier and can take the focus away from our professional development. We are hence immensely grateful to Albert and Eugenie Frost Trust and to the Tunnell Trust for giving us this opportunity.”

Rian, Naomi, Morag & Deni

Louko Trio

“Firstly we all immediately fell in love with Isle of Coll as soon as we arrived there. Having just finished an academic year in the busy city of Manchester, a week of tranquility, full of nature, away from all the city noises was exactly what we were deprived of. There is no doubt the frequent walks around the Isle was one of the most inspirational moments of Music Coll. Our ‘home’, An Cridhe had excellent facility and it must be mentioned that the food provided by the chefs and Fergus, was beyond fantastic. Our pianist was particularly grateful to be able to play on the uniquely beautiful Bosendorfer piano during the course.

Being the only ensemble coming from a non-London conservatoire, we were a little concerned that we might be secluded from the other groups. However, we quickly realised this was all a silly thought. We all rapidly became very good friends and we still keep in touch with many of them. What we thought was particularly special about Music Coll, was the complete absence of competitiveness. This wasn’t just because all the ensembles were of different types but the ethos of supportiveness, friendliness and hard-work is encouraged and practiced by students and teachers throughout the course.

Most importantly, the lessons from our five tutors were certainly amongst the highest level of teaching we had received and experienced. We were quite moved by the generosity of the tutors who were always so willing to help and guide us more, and they have made significant influences to our playing both as an ensemble and individually. Our pianist in particular, continues to have frequent private lessons with Michael Dusek and will be applying to study with him at the Royal Academy of Music next year.

This was the first course we had done together since our formation and we had an unforgettable time. It was intensive and tiring with continuous lessons, rehearsals and concerts. However it was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of us that was also full of fun and inspirations. We would like to thank Jonathan for inviting us to Music Coll 2016, and for all his hard work to arrange this uniquely inspiring course.”

Errki, Wayne and Victor

Philip Attard & Christine Zerafa

“Music Coll 2016 was a very intense week where we could just focus and dedicate all our time to our duo. Although we rehearse regularly throughout the year, sometimes life gets too busy and it’s so wonderful to have such an inspiring week with daily coaching by amazing musicians and professors, daily rehearsals as well as a series of performance opportunities at the end of the week.

This week was particularly important for Philip because he got to work a lot on the soprano saxophone – and we also got a lot of coaching on repertoire transcribed for soprano sax and piano: Schumann’s Adagio and Allegro as well as the Three Romances, and Saint-Saens’s sonata for oboe and piano. Since the register of the soprano sax is quite high and very penetrating, Christine had to adapt quite a lot to balance the instrument and had to play in a different way than how she would when Philip played the alto saxophone. In all coaching sessions, Christine was encouraged to play with a much bigger sound to support the soprano saxophone and to connect the phrases well together between the duo.

Performing very often was a challenge especially after such long days with practice, rehearsals and intense coaching sessions in the morning and performances in the evening, and these were all experiences that helped us grow individually and as a duo. We performed Tableaux de Provence by Paule Maurice, Schumann’s Three Romances (originally for oboe and piano) and also the epic Sonata for saxophone and piano by Edison Denisov. We also got to play the sonata by Saint-Saens (originally written for oboe and piano) in the informal concert, which was a completely new piece for us this week. We were very happy with our performances and we also had a very good response from our audience, even when we performed more obscure repertoire, and it was very fulfilling for us to introduce the audience of Coll to a variety of saxophone and piano repertoire, which they might have not been familiar with.

In mid-week we also got the opportunity to participate in a workshop with kids, which was also a good experience for us. We shared the stage with the Cavendish Wind Quintet and our duo took the children on a journey through a variety of dances of different styles and rhythms.

The environment is simply stunning, and we found it extremely inspiring to be surrounded by nature, countryside and sea, during our music making. We could even take short walks in our break time, which is so refreshing especially after long hours of intense practice/rehearsals/coaching. We were very lucky to have so many amazing professors to give us their musical ideas and it was always inspiring to talk to them and hear their stories over lunch or tea.

It was a very special week indeed that helped our duo grow so much and we will certainly carry it with us through our professional lives.”

Philip & Christine

[The Music Coll Blog](#)

If you have not yet read our Blog from the event please click here to access it!



[Video Footage of Music Coll 2016](#)

In 2016 we were lucky to have a film crew from High Viz Media with us and the fruits of their labour are available for viewing on the YouTube link below.

The film gives a full insight into the work of the Trust. Click on the play button in the picture below to enjoy!



We look forward to a return to Coll in 2017 from 1st to 10th July and hope that the fantastic support from the Island, our funders and our super audience will all be in place once again in a year's time.



The tranquility of Coll



