

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Brass and woodwind repair courses planned for 2021

All courses are suitable for those wishing to embark on a career in musical instrument repair.

Our courses are 'hands on' and are highly recommended by NAMIR (National Association of Musical Instrument Repairers) and the trade in general. Enthusiastic amateurs, Instrumental music teachers and Musical instrument Retailers may also find the courses useful and rewarding.

There are no formal entry requirements to our foundation courses. However, you must have good hand/eye co-ordination and be a practical 'hands on' person.

Other courses in the program may have pre-requisites! Please see course descriptions outlined in the following pages.

Although not essential, some ability in playing an instrument in your chosen area will prove invaluable in 'trouble shooting' and checking an instrument before and after repair.

Instrument repair technicians require a great deal of patience, and a lot of skill, and the willingness to try and try again until perfection is achieved. Make these qualities your goal, and you will be well on your way to a successful career in musical instrument repair.

Woodwind Instrument Repair courses

Foundation Woodwind Repair course with Richard Hamer

No previous experience is required for this course!

General woodwind repair skills will be taught on the clarinet, flute and saxophone. These will include learning how to correctly strip down an instrument, cleaning techniques, pad replacement, pad seating, regulation and tenon re-corking. Some soldering and dent removal will also be included.

Techniques will be demonstrated, and then practised by the students.

In between formal group teaching sessions you will be able to work on any woodwind instrument(s) of your choice.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

You will receive one-to-one tuition from Richard as he visits each student in turn, guiding and advising on the repairs in progress. The group will be frequently drawn together whenever an interesting repair problem occurs!

Double reed instruments (Oboe and Bassoon) may also be touched upon, depending on the general interest within the group, but due to the complexity of these instruments, we advise attending our 4-day specialist double Reed course once you have completed a foundation course.

The general aims of the foundation course are that you will be able to carry out a full service to the clarinet, flute and saxophone by the end of the week.

You will then make the final adjustments necessary to ensure that the end result is a fine, in tune and beautifully playing instrument.

Advanced Specialist courses

Available in the following instrumental areas, you must have first attended a Foundation course:

- Saxophone and clarinet – Richard Hamer
- Flute and piccolo – Lynne Williams
- Double reeds (Oboe and Bassoon) – Iona Walker

This course can be repeated by students wishing to develop their skills to a higher level.

‘Saxophones Galore’ – Gary Mills and Richard Hamer

Repairing only saxophones, you will already have a good working knowledge of general woodwind repair techniques, gained from previously attending a woodwind repair foundation course here at the school.

Working alongside two of the countries leading saxophone repair specialists, you will further your knowledge and skills in this area of repair work. Dent removal, soldering, body straightening, tone hole levelling, repadding and much more.

This course can be repeated by students wishing to develop their skills to a higher level.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Introduction to repairing woodwinds – Lynne Williams

This course has been specially created for Instrumental music teachers and those involved in the importing and/or selling of musical instruments.

It will be of equal interest to musicians, and anybody who would like to learn a little more about making fine adjustments and carrying out minor repairs too.

‘Trouble shoot’ for problems, and learn to correct them. Whether it’s getting a student’s instrument working again during a lesson, making fine adjustments to your own instrument or making sure those new instruments that you hope to sell are in tip top playing order.

Also, if you are unsure about whether to attend a longer, more comprehensive course, such as our Foundation course, this course will act as a ‘taster’ enabling you to try out your abilities in a real woodwind repair workshop environment.

Toolmaking and general engineering skills - Trevor Head

Individually tailored to suit your needs, you will discuss with Trevor the tool making projects that are of greatest interest to you. These topics will then be the basis of your course, alongside any topics considered by Trevor to be of value and relevant to your professional development.

Lathe work, thread identification and cutting, hardening and tempering of metals, use of precision measuring equipment and advanced soldering skills will also be covered on the course.

Be prepared for professional criticism and the need to develop your personal skills to a higher level.

This course can be repeated.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Brass Instrument Repair courses

Foundation Brass Instrument Repair Courses with Trevor Head

No previous experience is required for this course!

This is the longest running of our foundation courses. Since 1973 Trevor has been training students, many of whom have subsequently held prominent positions in repair companies or have run their own successful repair businesses.

Techniques and procedures are taught through demonstration, followed by student practice. Actual repairs will be undertaken throughout the course.

Some tool making projects will also be undertaken during the course, and there will be an opportunity to purchase a limited selection of repairer's tools and materials.

Full course information is available on request.

Toolmaking and general engineering skills -Trevor Head

Individually tailored to suit your needs, you will discuss with Trevor, the tool making projects that are of greatest interest to you. These topics will then be the basis of your course, alongside any topics considered by Trevor to be of value and relevant to your professional development.

Lathe work, thread identification and cutting, hardening and tempering of metals, use of precision measuring equipment and advanced soldering skills will also be covered on the course.

Be prepared for professional criticism and the need to develop your personal skills to a higher level.

This course can be repeated.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Trombone slide repair and re-alignment – Trevor Head

Concentrating on the repair and re-alignment of trombone slides, eligible students must have first attended a brass instrument foundation course.

Fine dent removal techniques, checking for straightness using a ‘back lit’ engineers’ straight edge and complete re-building will be at the core of this course.

This course can be repeated, with more advanced tasks and some toolmaking projects being undertaken by higher level students.

Advanced brass, including trombone slides and French horns – Trevor Head

Many and varied advanced repair techniques, including problems specific to french horns, and the repair and re-alignment of trombone slides.

Eligible students must have first attended a brass instrument foundation course.

This course can be repeated, with more advanced tasks and some toolmaking projects may be undertaken by higher level students.

Lifelong learning and support

Ongoing learning enhances a sense of personal satisfaction and pride in your work and achievements, as well as furthering your career opportunities.

We would hope to develop a professional relationship with you, and to continue to engage with your individual requirements, and help you to develop your sense of personal achievement and increasing expertise to a highly professional level.

We are proud of our record in providing the invaluable help and support needed, once you have completed your course of training.

National Association of Musical Instrument Repairers (NAMIR)

Many past students are now professional members of NAMIR and are running their own successful repair businesses.

NAMIR student membership is an option for all students completing a foundation course. Professional membership is also available to suitably qualified candidates.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Certificates of attendance:

The school awards its own certificates of attendance.

Tools and materials

Your tutor may suggest a ‘starter’ tool kit for those students wishing to own their own tools. This is not compulsory, as all tools needed for your course are provided.

Because of the extremely high cost of repairer’s materials, some items used for general practice and repairs to your own instruments will be charged for at cost price. This will include such items as pads, springs, cork and any spare parts required for a specific repair.

Instruments to work on during the course

Please arrange to bring your own instruments with you to work on during the course. We are sometimes able to provide instruments for those travelling with limited luggage capacity. Please discuss this with your course tutor once you have completed your enrolment.

As a guide, you will need two or three instruments to work on when attending a course. We strongly advise bringing the very best quality that you can find. Your tutor will advise you once you have enrolled.

Important note, on which instruments to bring with you:

Avoid bringing poor quality instruments to work on. A well-engineered instrument, manufactured from good quality materials will assist, not hinder the learning process. Vintage instruments too, should be avoided if at all possible, as these generally present repair problems which are well beyond the scope of trainee instrument repairers and this course.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Accommodation during your course

Accommodation during the course is not included in the course fee.

Some self-catering and bed and breakfast accommodation is available close to the school. There will be a greater choice available to students who have their own transport. Further information will be sent to you once you have enrolled on a course, or if requested.

Lunches and refreshments

A two-course lunch is available in the school at a cost of £12.75 each day. This includes a freshly cooked hot meal and a sweet. If you pre-book and pay for your lunches in advance, this will be reduced to £11.50.

We pride ourselves on the high quality of the food cooked in the school kitchen by Kath, our very own Welsh culinary goddess, and the generous size of portions.

Tea, fresh coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are provided free of charge, and are available all day long for students to help themselves.

We regret that due to current restrictions and general food hygiene rules, there are no facilities available in the school for students to prepare their own lunches.

You can of course bring a packed lunch if you prefer!

Group sizes

The size of each course group is usually between four and six students.

How to apply and pay for your course

First of all, check that there is a place available on your preferred course.

Send your completed enrolment form and course payment by post or as an email attachment. Bank payment details and an enrolment form will be sent to you once we know that you are going to attend a course.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Successful enrolment on to a course

You will be considered to have secured your place on a course, **only** when we have received your **fully completed enrolment form**, together with the **full course payment**. Completed enrolment forms can be overwritten and returned as an email attachment, or by post.

Brass Instrument Repair courses - 2021

Brass repair (foundation) (5 days)	May 8 th to 12 th	£968.00
Advanced brass repair including trombone slides, French horn and general repairs (4 days)	July 6 th to 9 th	£784.00
Tool making and general engineering skills (3 days)	July 12 th to 14 th	£612.00
Brass repair (foundation) (5 days)	August 1 st to 5 th	£968.00
Brass repair (foundation) (5 days)	October 4 th to 8 th	£968.00
Trombone slide repair and re-alignment (2 days)	Oct 16 th to 17 th	£572.00
Tool making and general engineering skills (3 days)	Oct 19 th to 21 st	£612.00

All of the above courses are taught by Trevor Head.

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Woodwind Instrument Repair Courses – 2021

Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (RH)	March 29 th to Apr 3 rd	£1118.00
Saxophone and clarinet (Advanced Specialist) - 4 days (RH)	April 5 th to 8 th	£784.00
Double reed (Advanced specialist) Oboe and Bassoon - 4 days (IW)	April 10 th to 13 th	£784.00
Flute and Piccolo (Advanced specialist) - 4 days (LW)	April 15 th to 18 th	£784.00
Saxophones Galore! Three days of advanced and general repairs with Richard Hamer and Gary Mills. Not to be missed! Just like being in a commercial workshop!	May 1 st to 3 rd	£684.00
Introduction to repairing woodwinds. Specially created for instrumental music teachers and Musical instrument Retailers -3 days (LW)	May 31 st to June 2 nd	£612.00
Tool making and general engineering skills - 3 days (TH)	July 12 th to 14 th	£612.00
Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (RH)	Aug 16 th to 21 st	£1118.00
Saxophone and clarinet (Advanced Specialist) - 4 days (RH)	Aug 23 rd to 26 th	£784.00
Double reed (Advanced specialist) Oboe and Bassoon - 4 days (IW)	Aug 28 th to 31 st	£784.00
Flute and Piccolo (Advanced Specialist) - 4 days (LW)	Sept 2 nd to 5 th	£784.00
Tool making and general engineering skills - 3 days (TH)	Oct 19 th to 21 st	£612.00
Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (RH)	Oct 25 th to 30 th	£1118.00

Tutors: Richard Hamer (RH) Lynne Williams (LW) Caitriona (Iona) Walker (IW)

Guest tutor: Gary Mills

Toolmaking: Trevor Head (TH)

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2021

Final Check List and Terms

Please read carefully and be aware of the following:

- Check that a place is available on your preferred course.
- Submit a separate enrolment form for each course being applied for.
- The full course fee is due at the time of submitting your Enrolment form.
- Course fees are not normally refundable or transferrable, unless a course is cancelled or re-scheduled by the school, **OR** if students are prevented from travelling/attending due to any Government imposed restrictions.
- We reserve the right to cancel or re-schedule a course.
- Tutors teaching a course, may change at short notice if personal circumstances prevent them from attending.
- Course fees do not include the cost of accommodation, lunches and some materials used on a course. (Refer to 'Tools and Materials' on page 6).
- You will be charged, (at cost) for certain materials and accessories used on your course. You will pay your tutor directly for this.
- Any excess bank charges for overseas payments must be paid for on arrival at the school.
- The school, and all public areas surrounding it, including the playground/car park to the front of the building, are **No Smoking** areas.
- You are able to bring instruments with you to work on during the course.