

## **Adam Jarman (viola)**

I attended the Cambridge Early Music Baroque Summer School in August in which the focus was on Spanish Baroque music, and over the 7 days we became immersed in the sound world of the period exploring the material by composers such as Valls and Negra. The Monday began with sectionals, being a violist I was in the upper strings sectional with Judy Tarling. In our first session we started with the very basics of string playing, including down holding the instrument and differences in techniques needed for transitioning from modern instruments and their bows to baroque styled ones. This was particularly insightful for someone like me who, despite playing regularly, had never played on a baroque instrument. Throughout the week these sectionals progressed in the difficulty of what we studied, as well as allowing for masterclass sessions if members of the course so desired.

In the next part of the day we would be split into a variety of groups for chamber music. During these we explored a wide variety of music, not all of which we did in the performance and so we could just enjoy exploring and trying out new repertoire so that all tastes were accounted for. During each day we were given a large amount of free time in which we were encouraged to meet and play with other members of the course, this was enjoyable and allowed those who wanted a more intense week to play for a large amount of each day and those who didn't to take a more relaxed afternoon before the evening rehearsals.

Each day finished with a full rehearsal in which all of the players and singers joined together to perform some bigger works, these rehearsals were very engaging and enjoyable. They were a fun yet tiring way to end each day.

Overall I enjoyed the course this summer very much, and felt it was perfect for someone, like me, coming into baroque playing after having experience playing in other styles on their instruments. It was a very sociable course and the rehearsals allowed for a lot a variety of music to be played.