

Gregory Pritchard (countertenor)

Being a mature student, in my second year of reading music, I have learnt more during the week at the Spanish Renaissance course than in my two years of undergraduate, so far. Such "jam packed" days with a wonderful variety of repertoire which is what I had hoped my degree would resemble. The coaching was in depth and highly specific which really meant that small details weren't overlooked during the course.

The twelve hour days of, what I can only liken to heaven, meant that your brain and stamina are challenged which are all vital parts of learning to become a professional musician. Having taken part in many opera short courses and worked as a principal singer within an opera company, this course stands leagues ahead of any other course that I have done. The sheer amount of music we went through means that your learning time speeds up because you just have to keep up.

Being a countertenor I felt at home within the course and the music, often there are less parts for my voice type but I was very lucky to be given wonderful solos which again pushed my comfort boundaries. This was done by having to learn music much quicker and to just get up and sight read a solo line. This developed my skills and confidence immensely, which in reality is what, as a musician, one needs; confidence in one's instrument and ability to use it.

I can't thank the wonderful team enough for kindly awarding me the scholarship for the course and I hope to attend both courses next year, and many more years to come.