



Recorders for all

ERC

Easter Recorder Course

1st -8th April 2026

at

**Moulton College
Moulton
Northampton
NN3 7RR**

www.recordersforall.org.uk

The Venue

Moulton College is just outside Northampton, set in acres of beautiful grounds. Originally an agricultural college, it now offers a variety of courses. During the war the British Land Army were based there. The college caters mainly for students aged 16-18 years so the accommodation reflects this. All the bedrooms we will be using are single occupancy with ensuite. There is a kitchen on each floor of the accommodation blocks where you will be able to make tea and coffee and a small, adjacent sitting area.

We will be using three playing rooms in Thomas Harrison, the original stone building; the shops will be located in one of the rooms here and there will be a further room for refreshments. In the social centre we will be using 'The Barn' - a very large room for orchestra and massed playing. Sadly the college no longer have a license to sell alcohol so you will need to bring your own drinks. However we have hired some sofas and armchairs to go in the bar area. You will also be able to relax here at other times.

On the floor above is the dining room. The lift to the dining room is operated by key and the college only has a limited number of keys that will be given to people who cannot manage stairs. We will not be using the second floor of the Social Centre so it is just the one flight of stairs to the dining room. Not all the accommodation blocks have a lift. Please answer the question on the application form about stairs so that I can allocate keys and accommodation to those who can't manage stairs. There is a large car park and all the areas we will be using are close together with disabled access. Currently there is no electric charging point for cars on site that we can use. Northampton is just one hour by train from Birmingham or London and there are buses from the station to the college. The college are looking forward to having us back.

For ERC 2026 we will have the following shops with us (located in Thomas Harrison):

Anthony Barrett Recorder Repairs www.barrettrecorders.co.uk

Early Music Shop www.earlymusicshop.com

Julie Dean www.recordershoplondon.co.uk

N.B. The college has 24hr security so it is not possible for us to make arrangements for outside customers to visit the shops.

The Course

Recorders for All is a not-for-profit organisation with Pam Smith as musical director and Jan Epps as secretary and administrator.

The course will begin with registration from 4:30 pm on Wednesday 1st April and finish with lunch at 12:30 pm on Wednesday 8th April 2026. For non-residents the course will start on Thursday 2nd April at 9:15 am. Course participants must be at least grade 3 standard on both C and F instruments, one of which must be tenor or bass; ideally, we would like all course members to play bass. If you need advice please contact Jan: ian.epps57@gmail.com or **01752 417093**.

Orchestral playing has always been an important element at ERC and we will be running a main orchestra and both an advanced and intermediate chamber orchestra for the whole week.

The **main orchestra** this year will again be an eight-foot orchestra consisting of tenors, basses, great basses and contrabasses. A few big basses will be available to borrow as well as Yamaha f basses and comfort tenors. It will be conducted by Pam Smith and she will allocate parts based on the instruments you are bringing to the course, as listed on your application form. Please indicate if you would like to borrow an instrument. One of our set pieces will be Maute's A Sea in the Pond scored for TTBBBBGbGbCbCb so as many big basses as possible please. There will also be some gorgeous early repertoire.

If you are bringing a big bass with you but feel you could do with some help on how to get the best of your instrument, every day at 1:45 in the Barn there will be a session specifically on greats and contras, looking at all aspects of playing them. If you have something specific which you would like help with relating to your great or contra, please feel free to come along.

For those not involved in main orchestra, Mary will be leading a consort session and Annemarie will be working on the wide intervals found in baroque solo repertoire such as Telemann fantasias. If you would like to participate in Annemarie's class, please tick the box on the booking form and the music will be sent to you a month in advance.

The **advanced chamber orchestra** at ERC 26 will be conducted by Mary Tyers and will again be limited to just twelve players. If you wish to be considered for chamber, please give at least three choices of

instrument from: sopranino/descant, treble, tenor, bass, great bass, contrabass/sub.

This year there will also be an **intermediate chamber orchestra** conducted by Annemarie Klein. This will still be one-to-a-part but with slightly more accessible repertoire than in advanced. If you wish to apply, you should be a confident player, good at sight-reading, with experience of playing in one-to-a-part groups. Again, if you wish to be considered, please give at least three choices of instrument from sopranino/descant, treble, tenor, bass, great bass, contrabass.

Each day will start with a range of classes on a particular aspect of music or recorder technique. At the beginning of our first tutti evening, the tutors will give you a few more details to make it easier to decide!

In addition to these 'set' groups, each day there will be a varied selection of ensembles with a wide range of musical periods and styles. Gemshorns with Janice has always been an important feature and it is often possible to borrow an instrument for the week if you would like to try for the first time. Be warned - this often leads to you bringing your own, newly-purchased gemshorn the following year!

Last year, Julie Dean led a well-attended session on the problems of continuing to play with the issue of hearing loss. This was of interest to many people and clearly needed a little more time so there is the opportunity for this on Friday afternoon. Julie's popular zoom session on the History of Notation has also been timetabled this year.

Josef Manser will be celebrating the wealth of music written by female composers in his ensemble sessions and there will be a mixture of moderate and advanced ensembles depending on how much you would like to be challenged! Annemarie will be charting the musical journey leading to Easter Sunday and beyond with her favourite seasonal selection.

If you would like the chance to play one-to-a-part with friends, music will be provided in M14.

There will be a tutti session each evening, conducted by one of the course tutors. On the last evening there will be an informal concert, showcasing the three orchestras.

In addition to a separate application form we have also included a rough draft timetable to give you an idea of the sessions. A music list and further details will be sent out shortly before the course.

Unfortunately, due to the tight security at Moulton, it is not possible for

outsiders to visit the shops during the course. The shops are solely there for the course participants.

The Tutors

Our full-time tutors for 2026 are: Pam Smith, Annemarie Klein and Mary Tyers. The part-time tutors are: Janice Ormerod, Josef Manser, Julie Dean and Brian Blood.

Pam Smith studied piano, viola and clarinet at Chetham's School of Music, graduated in Music and French (2:1) from Oxford Polytechnic and later completed a music PGCE at Bath College. She studied conducting with George Hurst and has worked closely with many of the composers writing for recorder orchestras today and has conducted numerous first performances of their works. She has worked with many recorder orchestras and ensembles and now tutors exclusively on residential courses and regular pop-up days in Gloucestershire which are also organised by Jan. Pam conducts the Cotswold Recorder Consort, plays from and teaches renaissance facsimile, runs recorder chamber orchestra days and from 2026 has taken over the musical direction of the Windrush Recorder Orchestra.

Annemarie Klein Originally from Luxembourg, Annemarie is a recorder player, teacher and translator based in Edinburgh. She completed her BMus at the University of Edinburgh and her MA in Recorder Performance at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven (Belgium) with Bart Spanhove and Bart Coen. Annemarie performs with ensembles [Spinacino Consort](#), also featuring voice, lute and viol, Musica Mundana (with Eric Thomas, theorbo), [Belesama](#) (Héloïse Bernard, voice, Angela Stevenson, viol, and Jan Waterfield, harpsichord) and with keyboard players John Kitchen, David Gerrard and Dorien Schouten. Annemarie teaches privately, at the universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews and at Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools. She tutors on a number of recorder courses both in the UK and Germany where she co-leads courses with Dietrich Schnabel.

Mary Tyers – Playing and performing music has been a major part of

her life, she attended Coventry School of Music to study flute, recorder, singing and piano. When studying for her BA(hons) she was tutored by Alan Bullard and Peter Holman. In addition to her teaching and performing qualifications Mary gained an MMus in 2007. For many years Mary combined a career in the primary school classroom as head of music with her professional musical activities. She has now retired from the classroom to pursue her freelance career. Much of her regular teaching is in Cumbria and Yorkshire. Mary also tutors on a number of residential courses and leads workshops. Her latest performance collaborations are with Sounds Historical and Hardy Tyers. Sounds Historical are a group of musicians specialising in early music. Their repertoire spans the medieval to the 18th century - performing on an exciting array of period instruments including Viols, Recorders, Theorbo, Baroque Flute and more!

Josef Manser - after a few years as a primary school teacher, began to study recorder in Switzerland in the 1980s. He now plays a range of instruments: recorders, bagpipes (including historic versions), gemshorns, crumhorns, shawms, as well as harpsichord and piano. He teaches recorder and bagpipes to children and adults in Switzerland. He performs both as a soloist and with a variety of groups and is co-conductor of Lake Zurich Recorder Orchestra. Josef has tutored on a number of courses in the UK.

Janice Ormerod is a tutor at the Stockport Recorder College and chairman and conductor of Manchester SRP. Janice has a wide experience of teaching all ages from 7 to 77+ years. She plays great bass in the Manchester Recorder Orchestra and in the North West based recorder chamber orchestra 'The Eleven'. As well as recorders, Janice is interested in renaissance reed instruments and gemshorns. Janice has tutored on many recorder courses and has inspired many players to learn the bass recorder.

Brian Blood is a recorder player, teacher and designer. He has played as a member of the Dolmetsch Consort since the late 1960s and continues to play as a member of the London Recorder Orchestra. His website www.dolmetsch.com includes an award-winning music theory course, and scores of consorts arranged for recorders which can be downloaded free-of-charge.

Julie Dean gained her BMus degree in 1998 at Goldsmith College,

London. In 2006, after a successful management career in retail and the licensed trade, she returned to music, attending Trinity College of Music. She spent four years as a postgraduate studying the recorder with Rebecca Miles and Philip Thorby as well as viola da gamba with Alison Crum. Julie has also had recorder tuition, courses and masterclasses with Piers Adams, Pamela Thorby, Tom Beets, Matthias Maute and Bart Spanhove. As a recorder player her performances have included five years at the Greenwich International Early Music Festival, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Handel House, Southbank Centre, The Exmoor Singers of London and historical dance group The Renaissance Footnotes. She won the Trinity College of Music early music competition in 2011 with *Ensemble Tramontana*. She performs regularly with the comedy and jazz influenced BRLO 'British Recorder Light Orchestra', Belsize Baroque Orchestra as well as many solo and ensemble performances.

How to enrol on the Course

If you would like to enrol for ERC 2026, please complete all sections on the separate application form.

Payment can be by cheque to '**RECORDERS FOR ALL**' or by BACS with your name as the reference.

BACS details Bank: **HSBC** Account name: **Recorders for All**
Sort code: **40-17-10** Account number: **02369214**

The residential package will be £886

Non-resident including all meals except breakfast £579

Cancellation Policy

Recorders for all is not liable for any losses incurred if you have to cancel your booking for any reason. You are advised to take out insurance in case you are unable to attend. The £100 deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel after the full amount has been paid you will only get a refund less £100, if Jan is able to fill your place. Full payment and final list of attendees is sent to Moulton College 6 weeks before the course starts (by 18 February 2026).

Application form and payment should be sent to:

Jan Epps 35 Furzehatt Rd, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 8QX

Email: **jan.epps57@gmail.com** Tel: **01752 417093**

Shortly before the course you will be sent a detailed timetable, music list, travel directions and general information.

CLOSING DATE for applications is 20 January 2026

Please note: the information in this brochure is correct at the time of printing but may be subject to alteration if circumstances change.

NB. The application form has been sent separately