



Once, there was a time ...

For amateur pianists looking for a summer course to brush up past skills there is, tucked away deep in the heart of Italy, something rather special. While masterclasses for amateur pianists are two a penny these days, the 'coaching weeks' at Music Holiday Italy offer a very different experience.

Director Gil Jetley explains: 'Our initial intention was to offer a series of group masterclasses in an Italian setting, running from Easter until October. But although the masterclass format can be enormously helpful to students at Grade 8 level and upwards, it doesn't work quite so well for the keen amateur having to juggle regular practice with a demanding career and family life. So although we do still run masterclasses, for the hard-pressed amateur we created our unique One-on-One coaching weeks.

'Part course, part holiday, on these weeks we take our "students" far away, in every sense, from daily life. Removed from distractions, this is a very effective way to revive old skills and learn a lot in a short time. It's a format that appeals especially to pianists not comfortable playing to a group or in the company of others more advanced than them. In fact this year we coach our first complete beginner!'

What to expect? Chauffeur service from the airport, ensuite room with balcony, breathtaking views of sunflower fields and the Sibilini mountains, *al fresco* breakfasts and lunches, gourmet dining in hand-picked restaurants... and then there's the music! Four hours personal coaching every day, unlimited practise, and a piano maintained by Angelo Fabbrini's firm (well, if he's good enough for Pollini...).

As student Claire blogged, 'What can be better than doing the thing you love for a whole week? Impeccable hospitality, flawless organisation, breathtaking surroundings and first-rate tuition.'

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