

Changing Times II: The Songs of Leonard Cohen

Start date 29th January 2017 **End date** 10:00 – 16:45 (Course Only) *Please see below for an additional evening package on **Saturday 28th January 2017**

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutors Professor Jem Poster **Course code** 1617NDX058
Stephen Ferron

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biographies

Jem Poster worked as an archaeologist, surveying and excavating a range of sites on behalf of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, before taking up an administrative post with Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education in 1987. From 1993 to 2003 he was University Lecturer in Literature with Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education and a fellow of Kellogg College. From 2003 to 2012 he was Professor of Creative Writing at Aberystwyth University, and is now Emeritus Professor. He is the author of two novels, *Courting Shadows* (2002) and *Rifling Paradise* (2006), as well as a collection of poetry, *Brought to Light* (2001), and has recently completed volume 3 of the six-volume Oxford University Press *Edward Thomas: Prose Writings*. He has won prizes in major poetry competitions including first prize in both the Cardiff International Poetry Competition in 1995 and the Peterloo Poets Open Poetry Competition in 2001.

He has been Chair of the editorial board of Wales's leading literary journal, *New Welsh Review*, and is currently Programme Advisor to the Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education's MSt in Creative Writing and Director of its International Summer Programme in Creative Writing; he is an Affiliated Lecturer of the Institute. He is Director of Academic Programmes for the Financial Times Oxford Literary Festival and in 2014 spent four months as Writer in Residence at Arizona State University.

Stephen Ferron, who grew up in Colorado, received his first guitar and two Peter, Paul & Mary albums for Christmas when he was ten years old. He tuned the six-string with the help of a warped seven-inch 45 rpm single delivered in the cardboard guitar case and, it is fair to say, has tuned at least one stringed instrument every day since. He became a full-time professional musician when he was 22 and in the following two decades, performed in 49 of America's 50 states, five Canadian provinces, several Asian countries and throughout Europe. In addition to some 5000 live performances, he has worked on hundreds of recording sessions as a producer, musician and arranger.

Stephen reduced his touring schedule in the 1990s to pursue a career in communications but has continued to work on musical projects that are close to his heart, including an album he is currently co-producing with the acoustic Americana group The Red Planet. His unlikely collection of academic qualifications includes an MA in World Music from the University of Sheffield. His even more unlikely collection of musical instruments includes a tenor guitar made in the year of his birth. The dealer described it as "a vintage American, in good condition, with certain signs of wear," words that resonate with its owner. Stephen lives in Switzerland.

Course programme

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Introduction; Poet and Singer
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: Songs of Leonard Cohen
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Songs from a Room
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Songs of Love and Hate

***Additional Evening Package on Saturday 28th January 2017**

On Saturday night you can choose to stay for a delicious two course meal (£25) followed by an informal musical celebration given by Stephen Ferron and fellow-guitarist Stephen Bennett.

Further details and booking available soon. To register your interest please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746237.

18:30	Dinner
20:00	Bonus Tracks: a musical entertainment

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. to explore the relationship between Cohen's work and its wider context;
2. to analyse the songs under review;
3. to gain a clearer sense of the songwriter's achievement.

Content:

If Leonard Cohen's lyrics seem to have been fashioned with an unusual degree of care for the sound and meaning of words, this is unsurprising: he had already found modest fame as a poet in his native Canada by the time his first album was released in 1967. In the latter part of the 1960s his thoughtful, literate songs found a global audience and became the soundtrack to a troubled generation's experiences of love and longing, uncertainty and disillusion. In this course we shall look closely at a selection of those songs, examining them in as much detail as is consistent with a fair representation of their considerable range. We shall be relating the songs to Cohen's life and thought, but our primary focus will be the lyrics, the music and the relationship between the two.

Presentation of the course:

The course will take the form of a series of seminars, in which group discussion will be actively encouraged; the majority of these discussions will focus on the songs themselves, which will be analysed in detail.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. place the songwriter in his wider context and understand more clearly the implications and meaning of his work;
2. gain greater confidence in their approach to the analysis of literary and musical works in general.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Cohen, Leonard	<i>Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs</i>	Cape, 1994
Simmons, Sylvie	<i>I'm Your Man</i>	Vintage, 2013

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to a 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 12 December 2016