



School for Creative Speech and the Art of Drama

End of Year One Presentation by Matthew Frear Saturday, 16th May 2026, at 3.30 pm Rudolf Steiner Centre Hastings

In the **Speech and Drama Training**, students are asked to prepare public presentations of their work from time to time, during their training years.

Our student, **Matthew Frear**, is completing his first year and will be presenting a selection of poems, as well as some exercises – perhaps the most sacred and fundamental aspect of this work, given by Rudolf Steiner, esp. to the teachers of the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart, in individual tuition. – This highlights the significance he gave to the work with the Living Word. He also created a most inspiring, age-appropriate curriculum for the children and their development... leading to a new development of human consciousness for this epoch.

Our first year of the training is mainly a schooling in the **Epic**, or narrative style: we are describing / characterising the outer world, recreating it in the sphere of imagination, of pictures... sculpting it, painting it, and trying to let the sounds speak the story.

The second year goes into **Drama** and acting, showing a new direction of where action should come from, for the stage of the future... having gone deeply into working with the sounds of language: the cosmic forces of the Zodiac and the Planets – which, on the one hand, bring the consonantal, the physical, descriptive – on the other, the vocalic, the soul/feeling element. This develops our speech organs and sharpens our ear for the being, the character of all the sounds....

In the third year, the **Lyrical** element in poetry is introduced, which is very akin to song... Speaking, however, is different from singing, as it encompasses not only the plastic/form, and musical aspect of the word... but also holds the cognitive, understanding aspect... We need a different approach to our breathing and movement of the sound, as well as a strong focus and I-presence, to guide the process ☺

Finally, in the fourth year, there is time to consolidate our skills and knowledge and prepare a **Graduation** Programme, as well as a written theme on a specific subject within this work. This is also to be presented as a public talk.

Here in HB, there has been the special opportunity to take part in regular **chorus** work for the festivals of the year, and familiarise ourselves with many very fine texts of world literature. In speaking together, we gain skills and get inspired by great poetry.

History of **Literature** itself is also an important subject of study; and slowly getting to know the techniques described in Steiner's Speech and Drama Course of 1924 – our professional guide book. All The **Arts** of Eurythmy, Sculpture and Painting, as well as the **Stage arts**, are included in the programme, and regular practice of the **Greek gymnastic** exercises (Greek Pentathlon).

**All welcome,
please bring a plate for sharing afterwards**