

PRESS RELEASE

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FOLKESTONE MUSIC LAB LAUNCHED FOR 12-19 YEAR OLDS

A new creative music centre for young people is launching in April with the aim of bringing young people together to explore, create and produce new music. Folkestone Music Lab, a partnership between Kent Music, the Creative Foundation and Folkestone Academy, will run workshops every Saturday from 10.30am to 1pm from the Glassworks at Folkestone Academy, and will be led by community music professionals with industry experience. The Lab will give students with any level of ability the chance to play and learn as part of a band or group, in whatever musical styles they decide, with the opportunity to record their music using professional equipment, and guided by experienced tutors.

Karen Self, Head of Partnerships and Development at Kent Music, said of the launch: *'We have been piloting the Lab with a series of free workshops since January and have been really pleased with the level of interest. We have seen students from all the Folkestone Secondary Schools sharing and creating music from a variety of different styles. We're open to all ideas, with the young musicians leading the direction of the sessions, and supported by six expert tutors in guitar, keyboard, vocal skills, songwriting, drums and music production. The Creative Foundation have offered the Quarterhouse for future performances from the Lab and we hope to schedule some gigs soon.'*

The tutors involved in the Lab include Robin File, guitarist for Audioweb and Badly Drawn Boy, vocalist Sophie Radley, and singer-songwriter and rapper/MC Oliver Seager.

The Lab has been over a year in the making, with involvement from design consultants We Are Huddle contributing consultancy on community need and development, and using funding from Kent Music's Music Education Hub grant from the Arts Council.

Pilot sessions are running on Saturdays from 25th February to 25th March 10.30am-1pm and are free to attend. For the summer term there will be a small charge of £2-3 per session for each participant to cover running costs, with subsidies available. All queries should be addressed to Karen Self:

kself@kent-music.com

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Notes to Editors

Kent Music, founded in 1948, is a registered education charity and lead partner for the music education hub in Kent. It employs peripatetic teachers to deliver instrumental and vocal teaching across the county through individual lessons, small groups and through whole class teaching in schools. The charity runs county groups and local ensembles, and the Kent Music Summer School has been held at Benenden for nearly 70 years. Kent Music is a partner in music education with Kent County Council.

The Creative Foundation believes in the power of creativity to transform people, places and communities. Established in 2002 the Creative Foundation has a remarkable record of success having already transformed the old town of Folkestone into a Creative Quarter populated by artists and home to creative industries and a university.

The Folkestone Academy is an Independent Academy maintained by state funding. It is sponsored by Sir Roger De Haan, and by Kings School Canterbury, one of the country's leading independent schools. It is also strongly supported by Kent County Council whose strategy to transform education in the region has led to its active involvement in the Academies programme. Kent University and Canterbury Christ Church University are represented on the Board of Trustees.

Press Enquiries

For more information, images and interviews, please contact:

Suzi Williamson, Head of Communications: swilliamson@kent-music.com, 01622 358408

Amy Parr, Communications Assistant: aparr2@kent-music.com, 01622 358437