

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW CHAIR OF KENT MUSIC, GEOFF MILES, CALLS FOR MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE

Kent Music has appointed Chairman of Maidstone Television Studios Geoff Miles as its new Chair of the Board of Trustees. The education charity has employed music teachers across the county for nearly 70 years in schools and music centres and, as the music education hub for Kent, has a mission to make music opportunities accessible to all.

Geoff Miles said: *“After being on the board of Kent Music for four years, I’m keen to use my time as Chair to support the team with projects that appeal to and reach a wider demographic of young people across the county...”*

Kent Music’s Chief Executive, Peter Bolton, commented: *“We’re proud to be announcing some exciting new projects for 2017, including launching an experimental group in Folkestone, the Folkestone Music Lab; new partnerships with KCC early help hubs in Dartford, Maidstone and Whitstable working with families in challenging circumstances; and activities with refugees in Canterbury and Shepway. We will also be introducing a new bursaries scheme to fund tuition and group membership for children and young people with financial challenges preventing them from accessing music.”*

Geoff Miles takes over from management consultant Richard Finn, who has Chaired Kent Music since 2008. In November 2016, the Department of Education confirmed it would continue funding for music education hubs (through Arts Council England) for a further three years until 2020, reinforcing the core roles of offering music lessons, singing opportunities and the chance to play in a group to all children aged five to 18.

Photo of Geoff needed with credit

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Notes to Editors

Geoff Miles is Chairman of Maidstone Television Studios. Since 2002, along with business partner Rowland Kinch, Geoff has overseen the day to day running of The Maidstone Studios, attracting major network programmes such as *Later... with Jools Holland* and *Take Me Out*. Renowned for promoting business in Kent, Geoff is Chair of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership, Vice Chair of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and Chair of the Kent Excellence in Business Awards. He is also a Director of Kent Music a Kent Ambassador and has recently been appointed a 'Deputy Lieutenant of Kent'. Geoff has worked as a Producer/ Director in the television Industry for almost 40 years. At one point he was dubbed "Mr. Saturday Night" when his shows *Bob's Full House* with Bob Monkhouse at 6.30pm, *The Paul Daniels Magic Show* at 8.30pm and Jasper Carrott's *Carrott Confidential* at 10.00pm, all aired on BBC1.

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 70 years. Kent Music is a partner in music education with Kent County Council. Visit our website for more information about [Kent Music](#) and the [music education hub](#) core roles.

Press Enquiries

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