

PRESS RELEASE

25 July 2017



KENT MUSIC CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF MUSIC MAKING AT BENENDEN

Kent Music Summer School celebrated 70 summers of music making on Saturday 22nd July with an afternoon tea party, concert and presentation at Benenden School, who have hosted the summer school for seven decades. Guests included Liz Moran, Director of Arts and Culture at University of Kent and a Kent Music trustee; KCC Councillors Mike Hill OBE (Tenterden), Sarah Hamilton (Tunbridge Wells), James McInroy (Tunbridge Wells) and Geoff Lymer (Dover); and former conductor with the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra and professional trombonist with The Beatles and Pink Floyd, Alan Hutt.

Guests were welcomed by Kent Music's Chair of the Board of Trustees, Geoff Miles (also Chair of Maidstone TV Studios) and were entertained with a performance of Alan Vincent's *Dreamworld* by over 200 young musicians and singers who were residing on Kent Music Summer School courses on Saturday.

Peter Bolton, Chief Executive of Kent Music, said: *"After 70 years, the breadth of musical activity that we see now across three weeks each summer is astonishing. We have an exceptional team of staff on site, including many highly talented tutors, and the resulting twelve concerts showcase the dedication and enjoyment of everyone involved."*

Benenden Headmistress Samantha Price said: *"We are immensely proud of our long-running association with Kent Music. Music is the lifeblood of Benenden and it is very important to us to be able to use our facilities during the holidays so as many children as possible can benefit – in fact, without their beautiful music, Benenden would be too quiet during the summer! We look forward to many more years of working in partnership with Kent Music."*

When residential music courses were launched by Kent Rural Music School in the summer of 1948, they were aimed at adults only. There are now ten courses running across three weeks in July, catering for over 350 young people aged eight to 19 years, with the ever-popular symphony orchestra, jazz, singing, string and wind band courses being joined by recent additions in songwriting, musical theatre and rock band.

As well as the summer school courses, Kent Music's county choirs and wind band meet at Benenden for their summer rehearsals, and the Benenden Experience Day saw 100 local school children coming together on Friday 14th July for rehearsals and a special performance to families, as well as a concert by the Royal Engineers Band. The 2017 summer school runs until 31st July.

Places on the summer school are subsidised and continue to be supported by funds from Kent County Council, as well as bursaries being available for those needing financial assistance. For more details, visit www.kent-music.com/summer-school.

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Peter Bolton, Chief Executive of Kent Music; Liz Moran, Director of Arts & Culture at the University of Kent and a Kent Music Trustee; Mike Hill OBE, Councillor for Tenterden and Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services



Over 200 students on Kent Music Summer School performing at Benenden School on Saturday 22 July as part of the 70th Anniversary celebrations



Kent Music Summer School students in 1955

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 70 years. Kent Music is a partner in music education with Kent County Council.

Press Enquiries

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