



Residential courses for  
musicians aged 8 – 19

10th - 28th July 2025  
Benenden School, Cranbrook



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# Welcome

As the manager of the Kent Music Summer School for over 30 years I have had the pleasure to welcome thousands of children (and adults at concerts!) to enjoy the benefits of making music and create fond memories to keep for a lifetime.

Since 1947, KMSS has been hosted at the stunning Benenden School, evolving over time while still offering some of our cherished, traditional courses.

Our continued success comes from embracing new opportunities and constantly refining what we offer. At Kent Music, we're dedicated to empowering children and young people to explore their musical passions. KMSS provides a unique chance to develop performance skills, make friends through music, and flourish in the inspiring surroundings of Benenden.

With access to fantastic facilities and guidance from experienced tutors and pastoral staff, every student is supported to shine on their chosen course.

I look forward to welcoming you to Kent Music Summer School in 2025. Keep Music Live!

**Phill Hyde**  
Manager, Kent Music Summer School



# 2025 Course Timetable

Thurs 10	Fri 11	Sat 12	Sun 13	Mon 14	Tues 15	Wed 16	Thurs 17	Fri 18	Sat 19
		Wind Band					Symphony Orchestra		
		Music Explorers					Musical Theatre		
									Piano
									Exp Day

Sun 20	Mon 21	Tues 22	Wed 23	Thurs 24	Fri 25	Sat 26	Sun 27	Mon 28
Symphony Orchestra			Summer Strings			Summer Singing		
Musical Theatre			Jazz					
Piano			Song Writing					

Junior

Mixed Level

Advanced



# Wind Band

The Wind Band course is designed for woodwind, brass and percussion players with some experience. Players will practice and perform with others in a large ensemble under the expert guidance of wind band professionals.

During sectional and full rehearsals, players are introduced to a broad range of music including arrangements of well-known pieces and more traditional wind band repertoire.

The course is perfect for young players looking to develop their technique and enhance their ensemble playing skills in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.

“My child had an absolutely amazing time on the wind band course & was buzzing for days!”

📅 Thursday 10th - Tuesday 15th July

📋 Grades 2+

👤 Ages 8 - 19

💰 £438

Free  
Performance!  
Tuesday  
15th July

**Click here to apply today!**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-windband](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-windband)



**Want to push your skills even further?**

You might enjoy the [Symphony Orchestra Experience Day \(page 12\)](#) alongside this course.





# Music Explorers

The Music Explorers course is ideal for all young instrumentalists at the start of their musical journey. It's perfect for players who may have experienced whole class instrumental lessons at school, or who have had instrumental lessons for just a few months but have had little or no ensemble experience.

The course encourages players to take the next step in their musical journey by playing in a multi-instrument ensemble. They will make music with others of a similar age, experience and ability in a fun, friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Please contact [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com) when you make your application if you would like us to provide an instrument.

📅 Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th July

📋 Beginner to Grade 2

👤 Ages 8 - 13

💷 £146

Free  
Performance!  
Sunday  
13th July

**Click here to apply today!**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-explorers](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-explorers)

“My children had an incredible weekend... they loved playing as part of an ensemble, really enjoyed the social side of things and it was clear to me what a confidence boost the concert was for them all as young musicians.”





# Symphony Orchestra

This course provides the opportunity for more advanced musicians to play in a full symphony orchestra.

Players benefit from expert tuition and guidance from professional orchestral players. The course emphasises development of technique and the musical interpretation of orchestral repertoire.

Repertoire will cover the classics of Symphony Orchestra pieces and may expand to include a variety of styles such as pieces from films and shows. The course ends with a performance in the impressive Centenary Hall.

**My child thoroughly enjoyed the music camp! We are so moved when we saw their performance - definitely amazing!**

📅 Thursday 17th - Tuesday 22nd July  
📖 Grades 5+  
👤 Ages 8 - 19  
💷 £438

**Free  
Performance!**  
Tuesday  
22nd July

**Click here to apply today!**  
Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-symphony](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-symphony)





# Symphony Orchestra Experience Day

This course is an ideal opportunity for orchestral instrument players to have a taste of what the next stage of their musical journey could be!

During the day, students will play alongside members of the KMSS Symphony Orchestra. They will receive guidance from the course conductor and tutors. The day will allow them to play in a full symphony orchestra in a fun, relaxing, and supportive environment.

The day is suited for the following instruments:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Orchestral Percussion

This is not a residential course. However attendees will enjoy all the benefits of Benenden - including the fantastic food! Places are limited, so we strongly recommend that you book your place early to avoid disappointment.

📅 Saturday 19th July

📋 Grades 4 - 6

👤 Ages 11 - 19

💰 £20

Lunch and refreshments provided

**[Click here to apply today!](#)**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-symph-exp](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-symph-exp)

“My child really enjoyed the sessions with the orchestra and was excited to do a full residential course next.”





# Musical Theatre

Sing, dance, act and have fun – the key elements of this very popular five-day course.

Repertoire is selected from rock opera, contemporary and concept musicals, jukebox and light opera.

Performers are encouraged to experiment with a wide variety of singing and performance styles. The course includes workshops on physical theatre, improvisation and audition techniques. A must for all Musical Theatre enthusiasts!

Share the experience at the end of course performance in the wonderfully equipped Benenden School Theatre.

“My child had an amazing time, and it was wonderful to see his confidence on stage during the performance.”

- 📅 Thursday 17th - Monday 21st July
- 📋 No experience required
- 👤 School years 7+
- 💰 £365

Free  
Performance!  
Monday  
21st July

**Click here to apply today!**  
Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-theatre](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-theatre)





# Piano

Improve your skills and share your playing in a group setting.

Whether you're looking to build confidence, refine your technique, or explore new ways to perform, this course offers something for everyone.

You'll take part in group workshops, individual practice time, and guided sessions that focus on technique, performance skills, and musical interpretation. There's also plenty of time to share your progress, learn from others, and get fresh ideas for your own playing.

Bring along a piece you're working on—especially one that's nearly ready to perform. All other materials will be provided. The course ends with an informal performance where you will showcase your skills and share what you've learned.

Spaces are limited so we encourage early booking.

📅 Saturday 19th - Sunday 20th July

📋 Grades 4 - 6

👤 School years 7+

💷 £146

**Free  
Performance!**  
Sunday  
20th July

**Click here to apply today!**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-piano](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-piano)

“To hear other students of a similar age playing and performing was so helpful for our daughter. She came away wanting to practice even more!”





# Summer Strings

This course is perfect for violin, viola, cello and double bass players looking to develop their ensemble playing skills in a fun and friendly atmosphere!

Players will benefit from sectional and full rehearsals with expert tutors in one of two ability-based orchestras. Course members will also come together to form a choir.

The course will support improving overall technique and enhancing musical development and understanding. The course ends with a performance in the impressive Centenary Hall.

**The teachers were first class keeping the kids so focussed and engaged and happy! And the results were amazing. More importantly, all kids seemed to have so much fun!**

📅 Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th July

📖 Grades 1 - 5

👤 Ages 8 - 19

💷 £219

**Free  
Performance!**  
Friday  
25th July

**Click here to apply today!**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-strings](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-strings)



**Want to push your skills even further?**

You might enjoy the [Symphony Orchestra Experience Day \(page 12\)](#) alongside this course.



# Jazz

This course gives players the opportunity to explore a range of jazz styles in both small and large groups.

Players are encouraged to contribute to the creative process and are given freedom to experiment and develop improvisation techniques supported all the way by professional jazz musicians.

The course culminates with a performance to family and friends, highlighting a selection of the styles and genres that participants have experienced whilst on course.

All instruments are welcome, as long as you're of the right standard. However, the course is tailored for brass, wind and rhythm section instruments specifically.

Please note some instrument places (such as rhythm section places) are limited on this course. Early booking is strongly encouraged to avoid disappointment.

📅 Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th July

📖 Grades 2+

👤 Ages 8 - 19

💷 £219

**Free  
Performance!**  
Friday  
25th July

**Click here to apply today!**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-jazz](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-jazz)

“My child loved his time on the Jazz course, meeting like-minded people and playing music all day, he had a blast.”





# Song Writing

This course welcomes participants to develop their songwriting skills, working individually and collaboratively under expert guidance.

It explores contemporary song structure, lyric writing, and arrangement techniques, offering support to demystify the creative process. Participants can experiment with musical textures and voicings, with live instruments incorporated—though playing an instrument isn't required. .

The course culminates in a concert where participants share their creations with family and friends.

**My child absolutely loved the course and has been writing songs and singing ever since!**

- 📅 Wednesday 23rd - Friday 25th July
- 📋 No experience required
- 👤 School Year 7+
- 💷 £219

**Free Performance!**  
Friday 25th July

**Click here to apply today!**  
Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-song-writing](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-song-writing)





# Summer Singing

Enthusiastic young singers can take their singing to the next level by singing with like-minded young people from across the county.

This course is a lot of fun and is led by experienced professionals who are skilled at working with this age group.

Students will sing accessible and engaging music in a variety of styles and will learn to sing in unison and in parts, including rounds.

**“My daughter gave the course 10/10. Fun, friendly teachers and a busy itinerary along with amazing food made this a very enjoyable experience all round.”**

- 📅 Saturday 26th - Monday 28th July
- 🗂️ No experience required
- 👤 Ages 8 - 13
- 💷 £219

**Free Performance!**  
Monday 28th July

**Click here to apply today!**

Or visit: [tinyurl.com/kmss25-singing](https://tinyurl.com/kmss25-singing)







# A day at KMSS

Course timetables will be issued when you arrive.

During free time, the students can choose to join organised activities, play music in smaller groups they have arranged themselves or simply relax on their own or with friends.

Students can relax in the grounds or in the boarding house common room where a TV and board games are also available to use.

## Example of a typical day:

<b>08:15</b>	Breakfast
<b>09:00</b>	Daily Messages (short meeting for students and staff)
<b>09:15</b>	First Music session
<b>11:00</b>	Refreshments
<b>11:30</b>	Second Music session
<b>13:00</b>	Lunch
<b>14:00</b>	Organised social and sports activities and free time
<b>15:00</b>	Third Music session
<b>16:00</b>	Refreshments
<b>16:30</b>	Fourth Music Session
<b>18:00</b>	Dinner
<b>18:45</b>	Fifth Music Session
<b>19:45</b>	Refreshments
<b>20:00</b>	Organised social and sports activities and free time
<b>21:00 - 22:00</b>	Bedtime (times vary by age)





# County Groups

The KMSS courses are not the only music courses Kent Music organises at Benenden during the summer.

We also run three County Groups who meet during July and August as one of their annual courses. **Kent Youth Wind Orchestra** and **Kent Youth Choir** summer courses run alongside KMSS which offers a great opportunity for students to see and hear the advanced groups in action, get some tips and be inspired. Meanwhile, **Kent County Youth Orchestra** runs it's Summer Course at the end of KMSS.

The County Groups showcase Kent's finest youth music ensembles, and work with experienced professional tutors and conductors to develop their skills and perform at concerts throughout the year.

Many County Group members go on to advance their music studies at college or university and join prestigious national ensembles such as the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and National Youth Orchestra.

Many of our group members started their journeys to be top young musicians in the county right here at Kent Music Summer School.

From Summer Strings to KCYO, Song Writing to KYC, or Music Explorers to KYWO, starting at Summer School can lead you to amazing places!



### **Kent Youth Wind Orchestra (KYWO)**

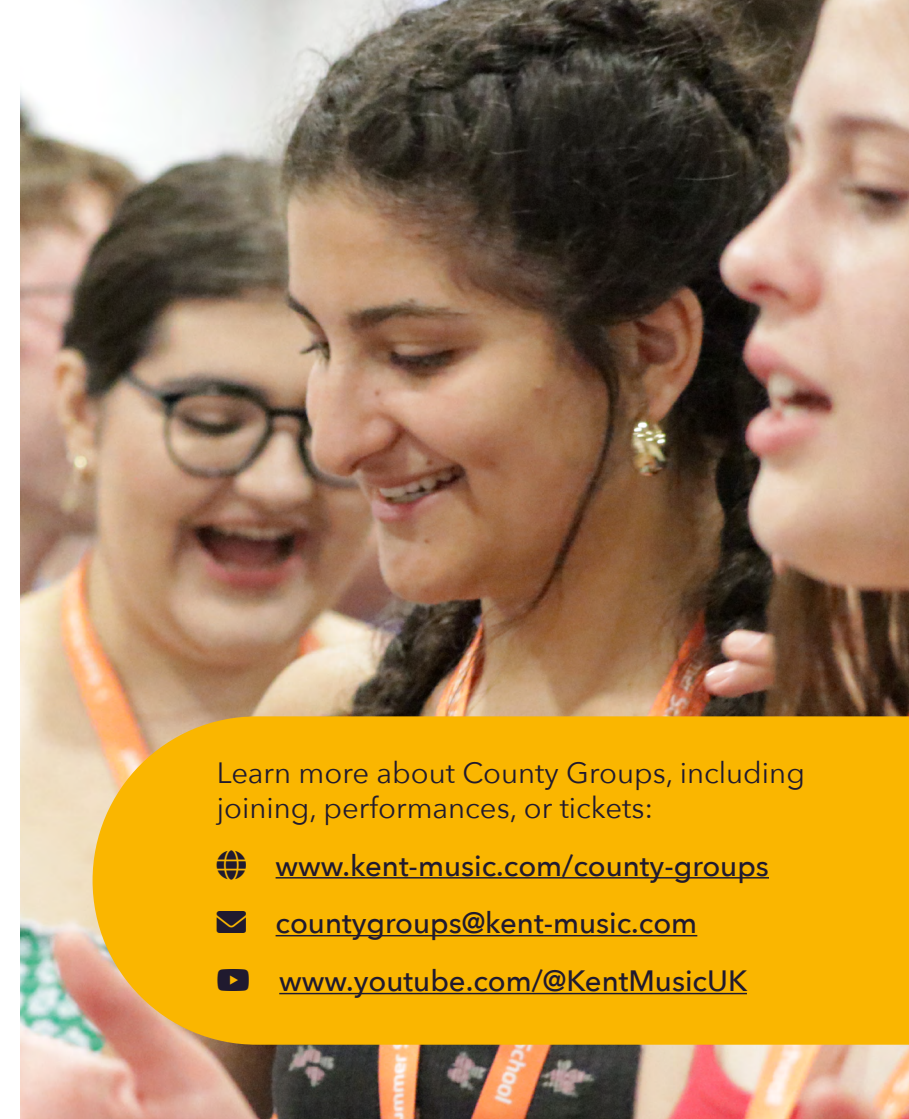
KYWO welcomes woodwind, brass, and percussion players in year 7 and above (maximum age 19) who have reached a minimum standard of grade 6 on their instrument. Their summer course runs parallel to KMSS Wind Band and Music Explorers.

### **Kent Youth Choir (KYC)**

KYC welcomes singers of all vocal ranges in year 9 and above (maximum age 21). Sight-singing isn't required but is developed by choir members over time with support. The KYC summer course runs alongside the KMSS Summer Singing course.

### **Kent County Youth Orchestra (KCYO)**

KCYO invites orchestral players in year 8 and above (maximum age 21) who play at grade 7 level or higher. This year, their summer course is held at Benenden School at the end of July.



Learn more about County Groups, including joining, performances, or tickets:

 [www.kent-music.com/county-groups](http://www.kent-music.com/county-groups)

 [countygrouops@kent-music.com](mailto:countygrouops@kent-music.com)

 [www.youtube.com/@KentMusicUK](http://www.youtube.com/@KentMusicUK)



# FAQs

## Are auditions required?

Auditions are not required. Placement in groups will be made after careful consideration of the standard and experience of the student as indicated on the booking form together with the need to ensure instrumental and vocal balance. Experience and grades for courses indicate the level of ability required. It is not necessary to have taken grade exams but students must be studying at the level given.

## My child has special educational needs or a disability - can they still attend?

We aim to make courses accessible for all to attend. Please contact Kent Music to discuss your child's requirements before completing the application.

## What is included in the fee?

Here is a list of some items covered by the fee: Tuition, music, music stands, accommodation, bedding, towels, food and drink (breakfast/lunch/dinner/three refreshment sessions per full day), pastoral team, nurse, student welfare officer, use of leisure facilities, sports team, free access to end of course performances. All courses are partially subsidised by Kent County Council and Arts Council England, helping make KMSS accessible to as many young musicians as possible.

## What time do courses start?

Registration on the first day is between 08:30am and 10am. We will let you know of your specific registration time in advance.

## What if school is still in session on the course dates?

Your child's head teacher may grant permission to attend Kent Music Summer School and generally head teachers are very keen to permit attendance. If your child is due to attend school when your course takes place, please ensure you inform your school in good time and follow their normal procedure for authorised absence (code B). School absence Code B covers approved educational activities and courses which take place away from the school site. We are always happy to talk with schools to answer any questions that they may have.

## Who are the staff?

The Music Team of conductors, tutors, accompanists, vocal and instrumental coaches are experts in their field. A qualified child safeguarding officer, nurse and a team of experienced pastoral staff are present throughout.

Our Pastoral Team are experienced in supporting young people during their stay ensuring their safety, comfort and well-being throughout. Pastoral team members stay in the same accommodation houses as the students so there is always someone on hand to help if needed.

We engage a Student Welfare Officer who remains on-site during all courses and is available should any student wish to talk with someone other than the music or pastoral team. All Kent Music Summer School and Benenden School staff members have Full Disclosure DBS certificates and are current with Child Safeguarding training. In addition to an on-site nurse, many of the team have first aid training.

## What if my child has another commitment during the course?

We understand sometimes there are existing commitments to school or for music exams where they may need to arrive late or be off-site for a time during the course. Please ask for an off-site/late arrival request form from [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com)

## Can my child be non-residential?

It is our belief young musicians gain maximum benefit from being residential where they can join both the musical and social aspects of the course. If you prefer them not to stay overnight this can be arranged, however please bear in mind that you will need to drop-off at 8.45am and collect at 8.15pm each day except for the first morning and post-concert collection.

There is no reduction in fee for being non-residential. Please email [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com) if you would like them to attend on a non-residential basis.

## Why can't a full refund be given for withdrawal?

We must employ staff and give expected course attendance numbers approx. 6 weeks before the start of KMSS. This means that by 1st June, Kent Music is committed to financial outlay on your behalf for the booked place on course. For this reason, it is essential you read and understand the cancellation and refund terms to know your entitlement.

In exceptional circumstances e.g., student illness or accident, where a doctor and/or hospital certificate is provided to support the withdrawal, we will only retain the £35 deposit.



### What do I need to bring with me?

You only need to bring your personal items for the length of your course. Bedding, food and towels will be provided. You will also need to bring your own instrument (if required for the course). If you already own instrument accessories, e.g. mute, please bring them with you. If you play a bowed string instrument, please bring spare strings. We do have access to a small allocation of instruments if you don't have your own.

Please contact [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com) when you make your application if you need us to provide an instrument. Instrument hire will incur a small additional cost which will be a maximum of £15.00 (depending on length of hire and instrument type).

Instrument hire will be free of charge to students in receipt of financial assistance.

### Is the food provided suitable for children with allergies or specific dietary requirements?

A wide selection of food is available at each of the daily meals – breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are a variety of milks available including almond, soya and hazelnut as well as skimmed and semi skimmed dairy milks. There is a separate toaster provided for gluten-free bread and there are gluten-free and vegetarian options available at all mealtimes. Food served at the counter is nut-free. All food is labelled with allergen symbols e.g., sesame, crustaceans, molluscs, and eggs.

If you require a different diet, e.g., vegan, this can be provided as long as we are given sufficient notice. When booking, you will have the opportunity to let us know your requirements.

### How do I access financial assistance?

We have a Financial Assistance scheme for those who need additional support to attend Kent Music activities, including lessons, groups, courses and Summer School. If you require financial assistance for Kent Music Summer School courses, please visit our Financial Assistance web page at [www.kent-music.com/financial-assistance/](http://www.kent-music.com/financial-assistance/). You will need to download a form specifically for County Groups and Summer School activities and return it to our team – full instructions for this are on the web page.

For further information or if you find you do not automatically qualify for KM financial assistance, please contact Leanne Hardy, County Programmes Lead, at [lhardy@kent-music.com](mailto:lhardy@kent-music.com). If you are unable to secure financial assistance for KMSS, a full refund of any associated fees paid will be given.

### What is the accommodation like?

Benenden School is in a beautiful 240-acre parkland site in the heart of the Kent countryside and the school facilities are exceptional. Accommodation is mainly individual rooms with shared bathroom facilities. Catering is of the standard you would expect from this prestigious school. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided each full day as well as refreshments at the morning, afternoon and evening break times.

Leisure facilities include tennis courts and a varied range of indoor and outdoor supervised games and sports activities such as rounders, cricket and frisbee. There will also be a tuck shop available on site.



If you would like any further information or to discuss any FAQs, please get in touch at [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com)



# How to apply

## Booking procedure

Each booking will be processed on receipt of an online application form. To apply please visit [www.kent-music.com/kmss](http://www.kent-music.com/kmss) or go directly to the application page of your chosen course through the links in this brochure.

Bookings will be acknowledged within 7 working days of receipt. Once your booking is confirmed you will be sent an invoice for the deposit payment. A non-refundable deposit of £35 is required within 5 working days of receiving your invoice to secure your place. **Please do not make a payment until you have received your confirmation email and invoice.** If you do not pay the deposit within 5 working days of receiving the invoice, your place will be released and you will need to reapply.

Early booking is strongly recommended to secure your place. If a course (or section of a course) is full, you will be advised that your booking is on a waiting list. You will be advised if a place becomes available. If Kent Music is unable to offer a place, all your related fees will be refunded.



## Payment procedure

You will receive an invoice for the non-refundable deposit with your booking confirmation, and we ask that this is paid on receipt to secure your place. The deposit makes up part of the total course fee.

An invoice for the remaining fee will be sent to you week beginning 28th April 2025. You will be able to pay this invoice in one lump sum or by instalments of your choice through your SpeedAdmin account. Course fees must be received in full no later than the 2nd July 2025.

If you would like to discuss an alternative payment plan, pay in instalments, or you are awaiting confirmation of financial assistance, please email [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com)

## Terms and Conditions

Please visit our website at [www.kent-music.com/terms-and-conditions](http://www.kent-music.com/terms-and-conditions) for full Terms and Conditions. Summer School Terms and Conditions should be read in conjunction with Kent Music's General Terms and Conditions.

## Financial Assistance

We can offer up to a 75% discount for those meeting specific financial criteria. For more information please visit [www.kent-music.com/financial-assistance](http://www.kent-music.com/financial-assistance) or refer to the [FAQs on page 32](#).

Please note that an application for Financial Assistance should be submitted at the same time as your Summer School course application.

## Joining Instructions

You will receive the course joining instructions no later than the end of June. These will give you final details on plans for the course, accessing the site, what to bring and more.

## Cancellation Procedure and Refunds

### Withdrawal by student

Notice to withdraw must be given in writing, either by letter or email to [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com). The cancellation will be confirmed by email within 15 working days of receipt; the refund amount will be verified.

If a student is unable to attend a course the following refund policy will apply:

Withdrawal notification received by [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com)

- On or before 31/05/25 = Full refund (minus non-refundable deposit)
- Between 01/06/25 & 17/06/25 = 50% of full course fee
- Between 18/06/25 & 30/06/25 = 25% of full course fee
- On or after 01/07/25 = No refund

**Please note:** The refund policy applies to all registered students regardless of their date of registration or when/if payments have been made.

### Withdrawal due to illness or accident

If a student is unable to attend due to illness or accident, we request you send us the doctor and/or hospital certificate to confirm. In this instance a refund, less £35.00 deposit will be processed. Please note, this applies to all medical conditions including COVID-19 related withdrawals.

### Cancellation by Kent Music

Should Kent Music cancel any Kent Music Summer School courses, a full refund including the deposit will be processed.





# Kent Music Summer School

“The course was absolutely wonderful...  
my child learnt so much. From being  
away on a residential for the first time  
and having that independence to the  
incredible tuition...the memories will  
last my child a lifetime”



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



- ✉ [kmss@kent-music.com](mailto:kmss@kent-music.com)
- ☎ 01622 691 212
- 🌐 [www.kent-music.com/kmss](http://www.kent-music.com/kmss)
- 📷 [@kentmusicuk](https://www.instagram.com/kentmusicuk)
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