

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Coming this May:

Free expert folk workshop for young musicians in Kent – spaces limited!

The [English Folk Dance and Song Society](#), in partnership with [Kent Music](#), are proud to present one of only eight free Youth Folk Sampler Days throughout England this year, to take place online on May 30th 2021.

“I absolutely loved this experience...it was very empowering playing with others, playing traditional English tunes but making them our own.”

The Sampler Day is a day of creative online workshops designed to give young musicians a chance to play by ear, develop musical creativity and find out more about English folk music, and specifically the [National Youth Folk Ensemble](#). The ensemble celebrates excellence in youth folk music, bringing together talented young folk musicians from across England to create and perform inspiring new arrangements of folk music and work with leading folk artists. The workshops will be led by master musicians in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Despite having a rich history of folk traditions in the county, young people in Kent have limited opportunities to engage and experiment with the traditional music that is so much a part of the fabric of our land. Kent Music are so excited to be a part of opening the doors of opportunity for confident and curious young players, some for the very first time.

“Folk is relatively new to me, and this really boosted my confidence.”

All keen young musicians from across Kent aged 12 – 18 who are eager to explore new arrangements and styles of music are invited to take part in the creative and challenging day of workshops this May.

No previous experience with folk music is necessary and, unlike a classical orchestra, there are no restrictions on the type of instrument you play – just that you play it with confidence!*

Each Sampler Day of creative music-making features:

- engaging workshops on Zoom introducing young musicians to folk tunes, techniques and creative ideas
- information session with Ensemble staff
- an optional short audition, if you are aged 14-18 and want to apply for the [National Youth Folk Ensemble](#)

All playing and learning will be done by ear, offering young musicians the opportunity to develop an area of their musical portfolio by engaging with new forms and styles of music in the rich and complex English folk tradition.

“it was really enjoyable, and had the same fun, lively feel as a normal in-person sampler day!”

Kent Music, 24 Turkey Court, Turkey Mill, Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5PP

Chief Executive Peter Bolton • Patron Jools Holland OBE • Registered Charity No. 1110639 • Company No. 5464855

www.kent-music.com

Spaces are extremely limited, with only 20 available at each session. Booking is essential, so we would encourage participants to sign up for their free place as soon as possible via Eventbrite at tinyurl.com/youthfolkkent.

Date and Time:

Sun, 30th May 2021

11:00 – 16:00

*NB: National Youth Folk Ensemble's repertoire is currently instrumental only, so the Sampler Day is not suitable for singers.

Kent Music event: [Free Youth Folk Sampler Day | in partnership with EFDSS](#)

Eventbrite ticket link: [YOUTH FOLK SAMPLER DAY \(in partnership with Kent Music\)](#)

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Kent Music, founded in 1948, is a registered education charity and lead partner for the music education hub in Kent. They deliver instrumental and vocal teaching, ensemble classes and courses, music labs, county orchestras and choirs and the historic Kent Music Summer School for thousands of eager young musicians throughout the county, all year round! From supporting young orchestral musicians to fostering new bands and providing creative spaces for young musicians to experiment, they support music making in all its forms.

Kent Music is a partner in music education with Kent County Council and the hub is funded by the Department for Education through Arts Council England. **For more information, visit www.kent-music.com.**

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is the national folk arts development organisation for England. They champion the English traditional arts – music, song, dance, storytelling, customs and traditions – as part of the rich and diverse cultural landscape of the UK. They have around 3000 members nationwide. They are also a Registered Charity, with regular funding from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation. They run the **National Youth Folk Ensemble**, which celebrates excellence in youth folk music, bringing together talented young folk musicians aged 14 – 18 from across England to create and perform inspiring new arrangements of folk music and work with leading folk artists. **For more information, visit: <https://www.efdss.org/>**

Press Enquiries:

For more information, images and interviews, please contact:

Grace Irvine, Kent Music Communications Coordinator: girvine@kent-music.com, 01622 358408

Lucy Duff, Kent Music Area Manager; Swale and Ashford, lduff@kent-music.com, 07850 646 696

Promotional photographs and videos, a poster and logos can be found in [this folder](#). All photos must be credited to the [English Folk Dance & Song Society](#).