

# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## **Kent Music returns for the autumn term with a brand-new [Online Music Centre](#). Distance is no object when it comes to playing music together!**

While the Kent Music team is working hard to ensure that face-to-face lessons and groups can run as soon as possible, we couldn't just stop teaching! Instead, we have developed a virtual way for students new and old to join in and play, sing and create together.

Mirroring Kent Music's established [Music Centres](#) which provide regular spaces around the county for musicians of all ages and levels of experience to learn music both in groups and individually, our Online Music Centre offers both a range of courses and high-quality instrumental and vocal tuition.

Running until half term, the courses will include orchestral groups, instrument-specific ensembles, an online Music Lab, and a wide variety of favourites from our in-person music centres.

Meanwhile, our online lessons are returning after a hugely successful summer term where our online teaching received 95% positive feedback. The lessons are open to existing and new students in the autumn term this year, and our talented teachers can provide tuition on a wide variety of instruments as well as vocal lessons.

We look forward to making music with you this autumn!

## **Arts education is more important now than ever**

As students return after extended periods of disrupted schooling due to COVID-19, arts subjects such as music are at risk of being downgraded in importance in the curriculum. While it's important that core subjects such as Maths and English are given the attention they deserve, giving young people the opportunity to engage with creative subjects such as music has the potential to help them cope with the challenges around returning to school at such an uncertain time.

Indeed, research has shown that engaging in creative activities such as making music can help young people to process difficult situations and have a range of therapeutic benefits – not least, fun! That's why at Kent Music we're trying to make our online courses and classes accessible and engaging for as many young people as possible across Kent, to ensure that they can keep being creative this autumn.

## **Online is for everyone!**

While learning online is certainly different to learning in-person, it certainly has its advantages! In some ways it is even more accessible for students, removing limitations of travel and having to carry instruments with you.

Kent Music are also offering [financial assistance](#) in various forms to allow more people to access music education this autumn. Online ensembles have a reduced-cost membership fee compared to our in-person music centres, while Financial Assistance is available to cover the cost of music lessons and instrument hire.

## Parents, carers, and students were overwhelmingly positive about Kent Music's online teaching offer in the summer term, saying:

"I've been really pleased with how the online lessons have panned out...I feel that [my child] has still been making good progress and that the lessons have been beneficial. Her teacher...has done an amazing job of adapting her teaching to manage the challenges of online delivery. Having weekly contact has helped my daughter stay focused and kept her motivated."

"Excellent teaching - my daughter is making wonderful progress"

"I have made surprising progress during lockdown and having tuition online has definitely encouraged me to practice and carry on. As I only started in January, if I hadn't had lessons, I would have lost any learning that I had gained at the start and would have effectively had to start again. Thank you to [my teacher] for his enthusiasm and commitment in wanting his students to learn and progress and providing this opportunity."

"She's enjoyed the online lessons and said it's as effective as sitting next to her teacher in class."

"Just as good as an in-person lesson, sometimes better"

## Find out more:

Graphics and other promotional assets for Kent Music's Online Music Centre can be found [in this folder](#) 'Arts Education; more important now than ever' article: <https://www.kent-music.com/news/arts-education-now-more-important-than-ever/>

Online Music Centre: <https://www.kent-music.com/music-centres/online-music-centre/>

Music Lessons: <https://www.kent-music.com/music-lessons/>

Financial Assistance: <https://www.kent-music.com/financial-assistance/>

Instrument Hire: <https://www.kent-music.com/musical-instrument-hire/>

\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\*

## Notes to Editors:

**Kent Music** is a registered education charity and lead partner for the music education hub in Kent. It employs talented teachers and staff to 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 electronic musicians to experiment, it supports music making in all its forms.

All Kent Music teaching and teachers are supported by a rigorous programme of CPD and quality assurance, as well as the most up-to-date safeguarding standards. 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.

## Press Enquiries:

**For more information, images, and interviews, please contact:**

Grace Irvine, Communications Coordinator: [girvine@kent-music.com](mailto:girvine@kent-music.com), 07738 568145