



Folk Experience Days 2023

Call for Music Hub partners

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is looking for Music Hub partners to host Folk Experience Days for young instrumentalists in January-April 2023.

We are offering this opportunity for free to Music Hub partners.

We will be selecting partners based on where we feel a Folk Experience Day will make the most impact and contribute most positively to encouraging a wider range of young people to experience and access folk music.



Aims

The vision of the National Youth Folk Ensemble programme is young people throughout England discovering, playing and loving folk music.

Through these Folk Experience Days, we aim to:

- Introduce a wide range of young musicians to folk music
- Provide a positive and inspiring experience of folk music
- Develop connections with Music Hubs and support them to develop folk music provision
- Meet young musicians who may wish to apply for the National Youth Folk Ensemble in the future



What is a Folk Experience Day?

Each Folk Experience Day provides the chance for up to 30 young musicians (aged 12-18) to learn from highly skilled folk artist-educators in a positive and inspiring day of creative folk music workshops. Indicative timings are 10am-4pm.

Participants will:

- Have a positive introduction to folk music
- Gain skills in learning and playing music by ear
- Develop creative arrangement ideas
- Experience playing in a band for the day
- Learn from highly skilled professional folk musicians from the National Youth Folk Ensemble programme
- Experience techniques and repertoire used with the National Youth Folk Ensemble.

"It was an amazing experience that introduced me to the folk scene and has encouraged me to get more involved with folk music - the people leading the workshop were so friendly and inspiring" participant

Who are Folk Experience Days aimed at?

- Young musicians aged 12-18
- Competent instrumentalists (we do not specify Grade equivalents, however those playing melody instruments should be able to play basic scales. Everyone should have experience of playing or accompanying a melody)
- No folk experience necessary
- All instruments are welcome (not suitable for vocalists)

This is a great opportunity for young instrumentalists of all backgrounds – young people who are new to folk as well as a development opportunity for young folk musicians. We particularly wish to encourage musicians who show potential in playing by ear and creative music-making.



What are we looking for in a partner?

We are looking for Music Hubs who are committed to developing folk music activities.

Partners agree to:

- Active commitment to guarantee 20-30 young musicians attend
- Identify and encourage musicians to attend who have skills in playing by ear and interest in developing their creativity
- Provide a suitable venue – one large, clear room for 30 to sit in a circle, access to a flip chart/whiteboard, access to film/audio equipment
- Provide information about access needs to EFDSS in advance so that we can make reasonable adjustments and provide equitable access to young musicians
- Provide a suitable number of staff to register the young people and supervise and support them throughout the day
- Have duty of care for the young people's wellbeing and responsibility for safeguarding
- Contribute to evaluation of the programme, including providing monitoring statistics (age, gender, ethnicity, SEND)

As a partner, what will you get in return?

- Up to 30 young musicians can attend the Folk Experience Day free of charge
- We will work with you to schedule and plan the day
- We will send you film resources in advance to share with your students
- The opportunity for CPD – at least one local music educator should participate in the workshops and an agreed number of other educators are welcome to join in or observe
- The opportunity to develop folk music and cross-genre creative music provision in your Hub and region
- Possible further partnership opportunities with EFDSS

Further information

- Partners will sign a partnership agreement and agree to pay EFDSS £500 if they cancel the workshop or fail to bring 20+ young musicians.
- You are responsible for selecting and recruiting young musicians for the Folk Experience Day. EFDSS will not be marketing them, however we will supply copy and images for you to use.
- Further information about the National Youth Folk Ensemble: efdss.org/youthfolk
- Questions? Contact Sarah Jones, ensemble@efdss.org



How to apply

Fill in this form by 18 November, 5pm: <https://forms.gle/HorK4HJ7UcFPzBJo6>



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