



**WILTSHIRE**  
*Live* **MUSIC**  
CENTRE

## Exploring English Folk Music



**Information Pack to support:**

**Secondary Schools Live-stream Concert  
at Wiltshire Music Centre**

**featuring Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron  
with National Youth Folk Ensemble alumni musicians:  
Cori Smith, Louis Campbell and Martin Parker**



Supported using public funding by



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ENGLAND**

## About this resource

This information pack accompanies a live-streamed interactive concert, which was filmed at Wiltshire Music Centre and presented to secondary schools on 5 May 2021.

The concert features folk musicians Sam Sweeney and Rob Harbron, with National Youth Folk Ensemble alumni musicians Cori Smith, Louis Campbell and Martin Parker. It is aimed at secondary schools (Key Stage 3 and above).

This pack gives more information about the concert and performers, opportunities for young musicians to get involved in folk music, and signposts to resources to support teaching and learning in folk.

This project is supported by Wiltshire Music Connect, the Music Education Hub for Wiltshire. The National Youth Folk Ensemble is an English Folk Dance and Song Society programme funded by Arts Council England.

### Credits

Film produced by Wiltshire Music Centre, 2021

Information Pack produced by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS), 2021

Repertoire:

1. *The World Before Me* (traditional, adapted by Rob Harbron) / *Piper's Rehash* (Benji Kirkpatrick)
2. *Old Abigail's Delight* (traditional) / *Granny's* (traditional)
3. *Saraband* (traditional)
4. *Dundas* (Rob Harbron)
5. *Hodgson Square* (traditional) / *William Stukeley's Hornpipe* (Andy Letcher)
6. *The Triumph* (traditional)

All pieces arranged by National Youth Folk Ensemble 2017-18, and rearranged for this concert by Cori Smith, Louis Campbell, Martin Parker, Rob Harbron and Sam Sweeney, with the exception of *Dundas*, arranged by Cori Smith, Louis Campbell, Martin Parker, Rob Harbron and Sam Sweeney.

Photos: Cassie Tait (p1), London Youth Folk Ensemble by Cassie Tait (p5), National Youth Folk Ensemble at Cecil Sharp House by Camilla Greenwell (p7), Youth Folk workshop at Music for Youth Festival by Alick Cotterill (p8).

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This information pack, with the accompanying video, is freely available from the EFDSS Resource Bank: [www.efdss.org/resourcebank](http://www.efdss.org/resourcebank)

# Concert Programme

Watch the performance by clicking on this link:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXAa4EZ6BVk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXAa4EZ6BVk)

The concert programme and learning points are:

## 00:07 Introduction

- Playing and learning by ear
- Structure of folk tunes

## 01:35 *The World Before Me* (traditional, adapted by Rob Harbron) / *Piper's Rehash* (Benji Kirkpatrick)

- Jigs - tunes in compound time (6/8 or 9/8)

## 06:35 Introduction to viola

## 07:02 *Old Abigail's Delight* (traditional) / *Granny's* (traditional)

- Making an arrangement
- Riffs, chords, inversions, bass

## 13:48 *Saraband* (traditional)

- Sourcing repertoire in manuscripts
- Interpreting folk tunes found in manuscripts – adding pulse, groove and stylistic elements
- Structure of folk tunes – question and answer
- Shape, dynamics and texture
- Links between classical and folk music

## 25:00 *Dundas* (Rob Harbron)

- Folk music telling a story, or linking to a person or place
- Music arranged in the moment

## 30:30 Introduction to piano accordion and English concertina

## 32:58 *Hodgson Square* (traditional) / *William Stukeley's Hornpipe* (Andy Letcher)

- 3/2 rhythms
- Key change
- Chord progressions

## 41:35 *The Triumph* (traditional)

- G Dorian mode
- Major and minor keys
- Using riffs to build up an arrangement

## Questions from Participating Students

Click on the time codes to hear the answers given by the performers:

47:33 *How much improvisation is there in folk music?*

49:18 *What makes folk music, folk music?*

52:30 *Is there one person leading the ensemble? How do you know when to move on to the next part, is it down to eye contact?*

## Meet the Performers

**Cori Smith** is a violist from West Yorkshire, studying composition at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Classically trained, she was first introduced to English folk music through the National Youth Folk Ensemble and loves how alive, spontaneous and groovy the tradition can be. *"It's amazing how 17th century tunes can feel so relevant and fresh when played and evolved by musicians today."*

**Louis Campbell** is a west-country raised guitarist and songwriter based in Manchester. He is studying at the Royal Northern College of Music and has been lucky enough to study with Martin Simpson, Stuart McCallum and Craig Ogden. He plays in the Sam Sweeney Band as well as the BBC Young Folk Award nominated duo Owen Spafford and Louis Campbell. He also releases solo singer-songwriter music under his own name.

**Martin Parker** learned the accordion at 15 when his music teacher gave him a spare instrument from a neighbour's garage. He graduated from the National Youth Folk Ensemble in 2018, and now plays in several bands alongside studying for a Maths degree. He is interested in various musical genres and the ways that they can interact with each other.

**Rob Harbron** is a sought-after multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer. He is a uniquely skilled player of the English concertina, renowned for his highly individual and harmonic style of playing. He is a member of Leveret, with whom he has toured extensively and released four landmark albums. Known for his work with a wide range of artists including Jon Boden and the Remnant Kings, Emma Reid, and The Full English, he has also worked extensively with the National Youth Folk Ensemble and the RSC. His debut solo album *Meanders* was released in 2019.

**Sam Sweeney** is Musician of the Year BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2015, a veteran of the mighty Bellowhead, former and inaugural Artistic Director of the National Youth Folk Ensemble, founder of the acclaimed instrumental trio Leveret, and a superb instrumentalist at the forefront of the revival in English traditional music. Sam has also recorded and performed with The Full English, Eliza Carthy, Jon Boden, Fay Hield, Emily Portman, Martin Carthy, as well as his own critically acclaimed show *Made In The Great War*. After embarking on a solo career, Sam released his debut solo album *The Unfinished Violin* on Island Records in 2019, and his second, *Unearth Repeat*, on Hudson Records in 2020.

## EFDSS Resource Bank

Visit the English Folk Dance and Song Society's award-winning resource bank with free, downloadable materials for using English traditional folk song, music, dance, drama and other arts in teaching and learning: [www.efdss.org/learning/resources](http://www.efdss.org/learning/resources).

Examples include:

**Folk Music Starting Points** – a series of films by the National Youth Folk Ensemble team, to introduce young musicians to folk music: [www.efdss.org/starting-points](http://www.efdss.org/starting-points)

**Folk and Traditional Music** – learning activities to accompany a live-streamed interactive performance by the National Youth Folk Ensemble and acclaimed folk band Leveret, in partnership with NYMAZ: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/folk-and-traditional-music-to-accompany-a-performance-by-the-national-youth-folk-ensemble-and-leveret](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/folk-and-traditional-music-to-accompany-a-performance-by-the-national-youth-folk-ensemble-and-leveret)

**Learning By Ear** – Music Leadership Training module created by Orchestras for All and London Youth Folk Ensemble to develop inclusive ensemble leadership skills: [www.efdss.org/learning-by-ear](http://www.efdss.org/learning-by-ear)



**Working By Ear: Ideas and resources for learning and teaching music by ear** – by Rob Harbron and Miranda Rutter, drawn from their ongoing work as folk musicians and workshop leaders, and ideas developed while working as part of the national The Full English schools programme: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/working-by-ear-by-rob-harbron-and-miranda-rutter](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/working-by-ear-by-rob-harbron-and-miranda-rutter)

**Six Folk Arrangements for Youth Ensembles** – Laurel Swift and David Delarre's arrangements of traditional English folk tunes that were created for use on EFDSS' youth programme: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/six-folk-arrangements-for-youth-ensembles](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/six-folk-arrangements-for-youth-ensembles)

**Introduction to playing folk music: working with intermediate and advanced players new to folk music** – written by Rob Harbron and Miranda Rutter following a project with string players at the Berkshire Maestros: [www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/introduction-to-playing-folk-music](http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/introduction-to-playing-folk-music)

## Wiltshire Music Centre

Wiltshire Music Centre is a professional concert hall in Bradford on Avon. Recognised nationally, the Centre attracts world-renowned performers from across the classical, world, contemporary, jazz and folk genres. The Centre runs a varied and vibrant Creative Learning programme for our community, which currently focuses on work with schools, young musicians, isolated older people and young adults with disabilities.

We are delighted to partner with the English Folk Dance and Song Society to provide more opportunities for young folk musicians in Wiltshire and hope to develop a regular offer at the Centre.

To find out more, please contact Cassie Tait, Head of Creative Learning, [cassie.tait@wiltshiremusic.org.uk](mailto:cassie.tait@wiltshiremusic.org.uk) or visit our website: [www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/learn-take-part](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/learn-take-part)

## English Folk Dance and Song Society

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is the national folk arts development organisation for England, existing to champion folk music, song, dance and related arts as part of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape. With roots going back over 100 years, it is based at Cecil Sharp House, its dedicated folk arts centre in Camden, North London, which is also home to EFDSS' Vaughan Williams Memorial Library.

EFDSS' Education department works to raise the profile and develop the practice of folk music, dance and other arts within education. It creates and delivers creative learning projects for children, young people and adults, in formal education and community settings, at Cecil Sharp House, across London, and around the country.

EFDSS' current work with youth folk music includes the National Youth Folk Ensemble, London Youth Folk Ensemble, *Get Your Folk On!* holiday courses, Folk Unlimited for disabled young musicians, and projects with schools and music education hubs.

[www.efdss.org](http://www.efdss.org)

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# National Youth Folk Ensemble

The National Youth Folk Ensemble is an English Folk Dance and Song Society programme funded by Arts Council England. It brings together talented young folk musicians from across England to create inspiring new arrangements of folk music.

Ensemble members experience intensive residential courses, receive expert tuition and guidance from leading folk musicians, and perform at arts venues and festivals.

The National Youth Folk Ensemble aims to bring folk music to new audiences; inspire the next generation of folk performers and educators; and enable young people to discover, play and love folk music.



**Listen to recordings** of the National Youth Folk Ensemble:

[www.soundcloud.com/efdss-1](http://www.soundcloud.com/efdss-1)

**Watch films:**

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOez3pG5DOLXLjoi5QAww7INXcGDR0IEF](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOez3pG5DOLXLjoi5QAww7INXcGDR0IEF)

## Get Involved

Interested and want to try out folk? Look out for National Youth Folk Ensemble Open Days in 2022. [www.efdss.org/youthfolk](http://www.efdss.org/youthfolk)

Sign up to our Education newsletter to find out more: [www.efdss.org/newsletter](http://www.efdss.org/newsletter)

## Engagement Programme

The National Youth Folk Ensemble's Engagement Programme aims to enable young people throughout England to discover, play and love folk music. We help foster the growth of local and regional opportunities to play folk music, particularly where there is currently little provision, and we support music educators to enable this to happen. We work in partnership with Music Education Hubs, schools and arts organisations across England to create and deliver projects for and with young people.

Through the Engagement Programme, we are able to provide paid work and training opportunities for National Youth Folk Ensemble alumni who wish to develop skills as folk music leaders and educators.

Find out more: [www.efdss.org/learning/young-people/national-youth-folk-ensemble/engagement-programme](http://www.efdss.org/learning/young-people/national-youth-folk-ensemble/engagement-programme)



## Folk Education Network

Join the Folk Education Network - a national networking group of folk arts educators from across England and beyond, run by the English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS).

Established in March 2011, it has become a rapidly growing network committed to promoting high quality folk arts education and supporting the practitioners who deliver it. It exists to provide peer information and support, and to encourage dialogue with the wider worlds of culture, learning and participation.

[www.efdss.org/learning/practitioners/folk-education-network](http://www.efdss.org/learning/practitioners/folk-education-network)