



## **Mick Peat**

Hailing originally from the Ripley area in Derbyshire, Mick Peat is a long-standing singer, musician and recording artist; he calls traditional dances; he organises musical sessions to benefit the community; he has worked as a radio presenter for the BBC; he has brought folk music to numerous films and TV programmes; he has organised folk festivals and developed educational programmes encouraging young folk musicians; he is an actor and generally a facilitator of folk events for the participation of other people.

Originally, in the 1960s, he was a performer and founder member of the Ripley Wayfarers who went on to make radio and TV appearances and produced six albums over 27 years. After the Wayfarers, he played in the highly acclaimed band Rogues Gallery. This line-up also performed at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield as part of the Wakefield Mystery Plays. He now performs with the Derbyshire Volunteers.

For more than 25 years he was a presenter on BBC Radio in the East Midlands producing folk programmes to entertain audiences across the East Midlands. The Derby Tup, or Folkwaves as it became over time, aided by Ian Carter, Barry Coope, Lester Simpson over the years, he was at the helm of one of the longest-running folk programmes on local radio in the country. It was so popular that it went online in 2000 and was received across the globe to high acclaim.

Mick has been responsible for organising many festivals over the years. He initiated the Amber Folk Festival, the Festival of the Peak at Carsington Water and more latterly, Derby Folk Festival. Outside of Derbyshire, he has been the dance director at the Whitby Folk Week, helped out with dance programming at Fylde Folk Festival and has assisted Nottingham Riverside Festival in recent years, organising the

entire programme for the Folk Stage. He has supported the success of many well-known young players such as Sam Sweeney and Hannah James through the setting up of the In The Tradition Award.

Over the years he has organised musical events across the county in Belper, at the Chesterfield Library Theatre and several village halls around Derby. Every year between Christmas and New Year he brings the community together to sing local traditional carols and play local folk music in the Big Sing held near Ripley.

He celebrated his 80th birthday in June 2020. So with the help of the FOLK3D team at the Derby Folk Festival, the co-director Bob Rushton and lifetime friend and colleague Barry Coope, it is particularly appropriate, as part of this Derby Folk Festival 2020, to be able to show recognition for a lifetime of hard work and achievement in promoting and perpetuating quality traditional folk music and dance activities within the Derbyshire and East Midlands area, with the prestigious English Folk Dance and Song Society Gold Badge Award.

*Mick Peat received his Gold Badge as part of a special event at the virtual Derby Folk Festival in October, organised by the FOLK3D team, co-director Bob Rushton, and Mick's lifetime friend and colleague, Barry Coope. Fi Fraser, a member of the Board of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, presented Mick with his badge, while Sarah Matthews wrote his citation.*