

English Folk Dance and Song Society

Trainee Music Leader (Inclusive Folk) 2022 – freelance

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is looking to appoint a trainee music leader to work with our Inclusive Folk project for disabled young people and young adults.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) is the national folk arts development organisation for England, with a remit to champion the folk arts at the heart of England's rich and diverse cultural landscape.

EFDSS is multi-faceted: a membership society; England's folk arts centre (Cecil Sharp House); an education, training and artists' development organisation; an advocate and lobbyist on behalf of the folk arts; and the custodian of the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (VWML) - England's folk arts archive - awarded designated status by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) in 2011.

EFDSS became a Regularly Funded Organisation (now National Portfolio Organisation) of Arts Council England (ACE) in 2009, increasing its funding in 2015 specifically to develop a National Youth Folk Ensemble and associated programme.

EFDSS Education

The EFDSS Education department runs classes, courses, projects and events at Cecil Sharp House (CSH) for young people, families and adults, and delivers creative learning projects with schools, community groups and cultural organisations across London and other parts of England and runs the National Youth Folk Ensemble, London Youth Folk Ensemble and a range of other youth activities. EFDSS also delivers professional development opportunities and courses for educators from folk, education and wider cultural sector, and runs the national Folk Educators Group.

The overall aims for the EFDSS Education programme are:

- To raise the profile of folk arts in education and learning
- To improve the practice of folk arts education
- To increase participation and diversity within folk arts

The youth programme at Cecil Sharp House is well-established and growing. It includes London Youth Folk Ensemble, youth ceilidhs, Youth Forum, The Young Folk Club and our new Folk Unlimited creative music sessions for disabled young people and young adults.

www.efdss.org/efdss-education

www.cecilsharphouse.org/folkunlimited
www.cecilsharphouse.org/csh-learning/youth
<https://www.cecilsharphouse.org/csh-visit-us/access>

Inclusive Folk

Inclusive Folk is EFDSS' project, which started in January 2020, which aims to enable more disabled young people and young adults to participate in and experience folk music. The 3-year project includes 18 fortnightly Folk Unlimited (FUN) sessions at Cecil Sharp House a year, 18 half day music making sessions a year with our partnership organisations, and 3 inclusive folk festivals at Cecil Sharp House. In addition, EFDSS will run training days for tutors and teachers and create an online inclusive folk learning resource.

Folk Unlimited (FUN) sessions are creative, multi-sensory folk music and dance workshops for disabled young people aged 12-30, and their parents and carers. Participants have a range of learning disabilities from mild to profound, many of whom will have related sensory or physical impairments, autism or complex needs. FUN sessions run six sessions a term on Sunday afternoons 2-4pm at Cecil Sharp House, Camden. They run concurrently with London Youth Folk Ensemble to allow for collaborations and potentially joint performances.

Experienced folk artists and SEN/D tutors Emmie Ward (lead tutor) and Nick Goode will be leading the FUN music making sessions with support from the Education team at EFDSS.

The trainee music leader will take part in all aspects of the Inclusive Folk project, in particular working with the core tutor team in the FUN sessions and festivals at Cecil Sharp House and at sessions with our partner organisations.

EFDSS's Inclusive Folk project (including Folk Unlimited sessions) is funded by John Lyon's Charity from 2020-2022. It is an important step in EFDSS' commitment to develop more inclusive music practices and participation.

More information can be found on our website,

<https://www.efdss.org/learning/young-people/inclusive-folk>

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Trainee Music Leader – Inclusive Folk

Based at: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London, NW1 7AY

Responsible to: Education Manager (Esbjörn Wettermark)

Working with: EFDSS Folk music tutors and Education staff

Summary of Job Purpose

EFDSS is offering a freelance traineeship, from January to December 2022, for a musician wishing to develop their skills in folk music education and working with disabled young people. The trainee will work with leader Emmie Ward and tutor Nick Goode, as part of the Inclusive Folk tutor team. As we will be working with several education settings in North and West London, we expect the trainee to be based in or in close proximity to the Greater London Area.

This traineeship is part of EFDSS' on-going commitment to developing good practice and skills in folk arts education. Trainee folk music educators will support the delivery of our courses whilst being provided with an opportunity to strengthen their teaching / leading skills. They will receive on-going support throughout the project from the EFDSS Education team.

Overall purpose of the role

To take part in every aspect of Inclusive Folk, from planning meetings, to rehearsals, workshops, performances and evaluation sessions, with supervision from the professional tutors.

As part of the traineeship the trainee will:

- Gain experience of how to teach folk music and dance with disabled young people.
- Gain an understanding about how to work with young musicians of varied levels of experience and with different disabilities.
- Gain experience of working in a variety of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) settings, including schools, colleges and arts organisations.
- Agree a Learning Plan with the Education Manager, outlining their aims and objectives for their traineeship.
- Be supported by regular feedback and discussions about their progress in relation to their Learning Plan.
- Work with the tutor team and EFDSS staff to develop personal skills in planning, preparation, delivery and evaluation of folk music and dance teaching.
- Be present for team planning meetings and will receive their own set of tasks as part of this.
- Have the opportunity to plan and teach tunes and other elements of the Folk Unlimited sessions.
- Be helped to identify and attend suitable training courses to support their training goals (for example, attending a course in Makaton signing) – there will be a training budget to cover the cost of courses.
- Join team de-brief meetings at the end of sessions or workshop days, and in addition will have dedicated time for feedback and to ask questions.

At the end of the project, trainees will be signposted to further suitable advice, guidance, training, development and employment opportunities.

Key Responsibilities

- Attend all FUN rehearsal sessions, Inclusive Folk festival days and workshops in external settings where possible (to be agreed with the Education Manager)
- Assist the tutors as required with teaching, including assisting participants who need additional support on a one-to-one basis.
- Assist with communication between EFDSS and young people and parents / carers (e.g. giving notices, taking registers, assisting with evaluation process).
- Assist with pastoral care and inclusion of participants.
- Reflect on and contribute to evaluation and development of the programme.

Person Specification

We are seeking to contract a trainee who:

Essential:

- Is a competent and skilled musician.
- Has experience of learning and playing music by ear.
- Is interested and enthusiastic about traditional folk music.
- Has experience (paid or voluntary) working with disabled young people.
- Is committed to high quality learning and participatory experiences for everyone.
- Is committed to working in a way that is inclusive and to EFDSS' values and ethos
- Is committed to collaborating and developing a good working relationship with EFDSS Education staff
- Is committed to equal opportunities, health and safety, and safeguarding
- Is committed to reflective practice and their own professional development (via EFDSS' Folk Education Network and other relevant networks).

Desirable:

- Has experience and skills in playing any genre of folk or traditional music

Qualities:

- Warm, friendly and approachable personality.
- Flexibility and a positive attitude.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Resilience – ability to cope well with change and challenge.
- Ability to relate to, and communicate well with young people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

Remuneration

Fee: £50 per 4-hour half-day session, inclusive of travel.
£11 per hour, for additional planning / evaluation meetings.

Term: Jan – December 2022

Dates

Folk Unlimited sessions take place on Sundays at Cecil Sharp House from 2 – 4pm. The trainee will be expected to attend from 1.00 – 5.00pm to help prepare and debrief each session with the tutors.

Workshops for other education settings or in other venues may be at any day of the week.

If needed, sessions will take place online using Zoom and Google Classroom.

Folk Unlimited workshops 2022

Spring Term: Jan 16, 30 | Feb 13, 27 | Mar 13, 27

Summer Term: Apr 24 | May 8, 22 | June 5, 12, 26

Autumn Term: Sept 18 | Oct 2, 16 | Nov 6, 20 | Dec 4

Other key Inclusive Folk dates 2022

Inclusive Folk Festival Days at Cecil Sharp House: 23 Mar | 21 June | 23 Nov

Youth Takeover Day at Cecil Sharp House: 2 July

Further dates for workshops with other SEND settings will be confirmed as soon as possible. We are expecting to deliver 18 workshops with our education partners over the year. Note that the exact number of workshops may be impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

This trainee position will involve regular contact with young people and adults at risk. In line with EFDSS' Safeguarding Policy, appointments will be made subject to satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate (DBS), references, the signing of a declaration stating that there is no reason why you would be considered unsuitable to work with young people and adults at risk and declaring all relevant previous criminal convictions (as per The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974). For further information visit www.gov.uk/dbs. We can also provide guidance and advice on this if you need it. Read the EFDSS Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (which includes our Policy on the Recruitment of Ex-Offenders) on our website www.efdss.org/efdss-about-us/policies.

Positive Action for a Diverse Workforce

At the English Folk Dance and Song Society we strive to be an Equal Opportunities employer and to ensure that no person is unfairly discriminated against in our recruitment and selection policies and procedures. We are committed to diversifying our workforce to better represent society and we follow guidance on positive action in recruitment from the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Equality Act 2010.

- We particularly welcome applicants for this role from ethnic minority backgrounds, and those who are disabled, as these are under-represented in our organisation and the wider folk music leader workforce.
- All disabled applicants who fulfil the Person Specification and Qualities criteria for this role, will be called for an interview. Please make clear in the cover letter if you

consider yourself disabled. (You may find it helpful to refer to this definition www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010.)

How to apply

Applicants should visit the EFDSS Vacancies page for up-to-date information about this position and to access the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form <http://www.cecilsharphouse.org/csh-about-us/work-here/vacancies>

- Write a **cover letter** explaining why you are interested in this Trainee role, why you feel you have the relevant knowledge, skills and experience and how it will contribute to your career as an educator.
- Please confirm your **right to work in the UK** in your cover letter
- Attach an **up-to-date CV** containing your full contact details and outlining your relevant work experience – in either a paid or voluntary capacity. See our CV-guidance on the website
- Complete **the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form** via the link in the online advert. This form will not be seen by the selection panel.

Completed applications with the subject line 'Trainee Music Leader FUN' should be emailed to Zoe Lakota, Acting Education Administrator, education@efdss.org

We encourage applicants to read our guidance on writing a CV available on our vacancy page.

For informal discussion about the role please contact our Acting Education Manager, Beth Beamer, beth@efdss.org

Closing date for completed applications is Tuesday 30 November 2021, 9am

Interviews/auditions will be held at Cecil Sharp House, Tuesday 7 December 2021.

Successful applicants are expected to attend an induction with the Education Manager on Friday 14 January 2022 and a planning meeting and Folk Unlimited workshop with the tutor team at Cecil Sharp House on Sunday 16 January 2022.