

English Folk Dance and Song Society

Trainee Music Leader (London Youth Folk Ensemble) - freelance

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) are looking to appoint a trainee tutor to work with London Youth Folk Ensemble (LYFE) 2022 – 23.

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 Folk Unlimited creative music sessions for disabled young people and young adults.

www.efdss.org/efdss-education

www.cecilsharphouse.org/csh-learning/youth

London Youth Folk Ensemble

London Youth Folk Ensemble (LYFE) was established by EFDSS in 2013 to provide a progression route for young folk musicians from across London and beyond. It is a group of 20 – 25 committed young musicians 11 to 19 years old (up to up to 24 year olds for D/deaf and disabled young people) with a passion for playing and performing folk music.

Members of the Ensemble explore and arrange traditional folk repertoire from Britain and beyond, develop their performance style and presentation, learn about the history and culture of folk music and perform at exciting events across London.

The Ensemble is open for improver to advanced level musicians of any instrument. Previous experience of folk music is useful but by no means essential. We put a lot of focus on individual suitability and enthusiasm for playing in an ensemble.

London Youth Folk Ensemble meets fortnightly across the school year on Sunday afternoons from 2 – 5pm at Cecil Sharp House. LYFE is led by two established folk artists and educators, Alexandra Patterson and Camilo Menjura. Previous tutors have included, Emily Askew, Ruairi Glasheen, Laurel Swift and David Delarre.

LYFE also performs regularly at Cecil Sharp House, around London and occasionally beyond and annually at Folk By The Oak Festival in Hatfield.

In the summers of 2020, 2021 and 2022 our performances were limited due to the Pandemic, but LYFE performed at Camden Music Service's Spring Festival at LSO St Luke's, The Takeover at Cecil Sharp House and Folk by The Oak in 2022, at Hampstead Heath Community Day and Folk by the Oak in 2021 and produced a music video for the virtual Folk by the Oak in 2020.

Before the Pandemic, in 2019, LYFE performed at: Cecil Sharp House; The Feast of St. George, Trafalgar Square; Lauderdale House, Highgate; Music for Youth National Festival, Birmingham; U.Dance 2019 pop-up performances, Southbank Centre, London; Make Music Day performance, The Scoop, London; and Folk By The Oak, Hatfield House.

More information can be found on our website, <https://www.efdss.org/learning/young-people/london-youth-folk-ensemble>

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Trainee Music Leader for EFDSS' London Youth Folk Ensemble

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

Responsible to: Education Manager (Charlotte Turner)

Working with: EFDSS Folk music tutors and Education staff

Summary of Job Purpose

EFDSS is offering a freelance traineeship, from September 2022 to July 2023, for a musician wishing to develop their skills in folk music education. Trainees will work with the LYFE tutors, as part of the London Youth Folk Ensemble tutor team.

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 London Youth Folk Ensemble, from planning meetings, to rehearsals, workshops, performances, and evaluation sessions, with supervision from the professional tutors.

The trainee will:

- Gain experience of how to teach folk music in a youth ensemble context
- Gain an understanding about how to work with young musicians of varied levels of experience
- Have the opportunity to plan and teach tunes and other elements of the rehearsals.
- Work with the tutor team and EFDSS staff to develop personal skills in planning, preparation, delivery and evaluation of folk music teaching.
- Attend all LYFE rehearsal sessions and a selection of performances (to be agreed with Education Manager)

Key Responsibilities

- Assist the tutors as required with teaching and assist young musicians who need additional support.
- Assist with communication between EFDSS and young people (e.g. giving notices, taking registers, assisting with evaluation process).
- Assist with pastoral care and inclusion of participants.
- Reflect on and contribute to evaluation of the ensemble's activities.

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 music from England and beyond.
- Has relevant experience (paid or voluntary) working with children and young people.
- Is committed to high quality learning and participatory experiences for young people.
- 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 a 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.

As part of their traineeship the trainee will,

- 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.
- be present for team planning meetings and will get their own set of tasks as part of this.
- join team de-brief meetings at the end of sessions or workshop days, with the tutors and EFDSS education team.

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

Remuneration

Fee: £52.50 per 4-hour half-day session, inclusive of travel and planning.
£11.55 per hour, for additional planning / evaluation meetings (as agreed with the Education manager).

Term: September 2022 – July 2023

Dates

Rehearsals take place on six Sundays each term at Cecil Sharp House from 2 – 5pm. You will be expected to attend from 1.30 – 5.30pm to help prepare and debrief each session with the tutors. Note that the sessions in June and July might be longer as LYFE may be taking part in other events at Cecil Sharp House (longer sessions will be paid extra). If needed, sessions will take place online using Zoom and Google Classroom.

The trainee will be expected to attend all rehearsal dates and a selection of performances – as agreed with the Education Manager.

Autumn Term 2022: Sept 18 | Oct 2, 16 | Nov 6, 20 | Dec 4

Spring Term 2023: Jan 15, 29 | Feb 5, 19 | March 12, 26

Summer Term 2023: April 23 | May 7, 21 | June 4, 11, 25 | July 1 (The Takeover)

Performances

26 March (TBC)	Camden Spring Festival
1 July	The Takeover at Cecil Sharp House
16 July (TBC)	Folk by the Oak Festival, Hatfield House

Note: there may be other performances agreed during the year – the above list is known performances to date.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

This 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 and why you feel you have the relevant knowledge, skills and experience and how it will contribute to you 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 LYFE' should be emailed to Jennie Higgins, 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 Gifford, educationmanager@efdss.org

Closing date for completed applications is Thursday 23 June, 9am

Interviews/auditions will be held at Cecil Sharp House, Monday 4 July.