

# Friday Afternoons



PRESS RELEASE

22 November 2019

**Snape Maltings' *Friday Afternoons* relaunches with a mission for every young person to have access to high quality music through using their voice**

**New songs in 2020 by composer Russell Hepplewhite with texts by former Children's Laureate Michael Rosen**

Today, Friday 22 November – Benjamin Britten's birthday and St Cecilia's Day – Snape Maltings relaunches *Friday Afternoons*, six years after its inaugural events, with a mission for every young person to have access to high quality music through using their voice.

*Friday Afternoons* was originally conceived as the culmination of the worldwide 2013 Britten centenary celebrations, taking its name from the set of simple songs the composer wrote for his brother's school to sing every Friday. Since then a new collection of songs and additional resources has been made available annually, with *Friday Afternoons* projects being run in schools all around the UK and across the world.

The relaunch is a direct response to evaluation carried out in 2018 and includes new online resources featuring curriculum-based teaching materials, support videos aimed at skills development, and case studies of national projects to showcase the breadth of the project and encourage deeper engagement [www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk](http://www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk).

Phillipa Reive, Director, Creative Campus, Snape Maltings commented, 'We are intensely proud of Friday Afternoons and all that it has achieved in its short life. What started out with the simple aim of bringing together young people from Suffolk to sing on Britten's 100th birthday, has now delivered to hundreds of thousands of young people all over the world. We are thrilled to be able to continue commissioning new work year on year and to work with our many partners in delivering high quality singing opportunities for young people.'

Young people remain at the heart of the project and *Friday Afternoons* will continue to commission high quality new songs for young people around the world to sing, adding to the Friday Afternoons Song Bank. The new set of songs for 2020 will be composed by **Russell Hepplewhite** with texts by renowned children's author and former Children's Laureate **Michael Rosen** and will be premiered by **London Youth Choir**. Hepplewhite is becoming increasingly known for his operatic, musical theatre and choral music. His operas commissioned by English Touring Opera for young audiences have been widely performed and won much critical acclaim.

*Friday Afternoons* has expanded its scope as part of its relaunch to develop the skills of teachers to confidently lead singing in the classroom, and to encourage young people to connect with contemporary classical repertoire creating challenging and exciting music making experiences for all.

*Friday Afternoons* has appointed five Ambassadors – **Tom Appleton, Emily Barden, Charlotte Brosnan, Dominic Ellis-Peckham** and **Charles MacDougall** – who are all professional choral leaders to act as a creative advisory group. The Ambassadors will help to develop the online and in person resources with a focus on supporting classroom teachers and improving the skills and confidence of music specialists.

*Project One Dot* is a new free online resource and is an introduction to Friday Afternoons designed to support quality singing and creative music making in the classroom in a flexible and adaptable way. Each

module comprises four songs specifically chosen from the Friday Afternoons Song Bank all of which have been classified as 'one dot' (easy) in level. Each module contains musical exploration activities and extended creative work, which can be taken as stand-alone mini projects or as part of the complete module.

Over the next three years Friday Afternoons will be focusing on:

- Commissioning new repertoire and resources for teachers, music leaders and young people, connecting with artists that exist within the Snape Maltings network
- Providing a national skills-based training programme delivered online and in-person for teachers and music leaders to engage with the *Friday Afternoons* repertoire
- Increasing the connection users feel to Snape Maltings and to the Britten legacy, by supporting engagement with the composers that have been commissioned
- Building partnerships nationally and internationally to extend the reach of the programme
- Delivering annual large-scale events to connect the *Friday Afternoons* community

*Friday Afternoons* continues its work with national partners and is currently running long-term CPD programmes with West Sussex Music Hub, Wiltshire Music Hub, and a Big Sing project with Hull Music Hub, alongside a programme of 'light touch' CPD engaging hubs and partners in six regions around the UK.

The infographic at the link below provides a summary of the evaluation carried out in 2018

[www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk](http://www.fridayafternoonsmusic.co.uk)

**For further press information please contact:**

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

web: [www.rdmr.co.uk](http://www.rdmr.co.uk)

email: [rebecca@rdmr.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@rdmr.co.uk)

Tel: 020 3691 7034 / 07989 355446

**Notes to Editors**

***Friday Afternoons*** is a Snape Maltings led singing project connecting teachers and young people with contemporary composers, through creating high quality repertoire, resources and training to encourage challenging and exciting music making experiences for all. It was originally conceived as the culmination of the worldwide 2013 Britten centenary celebrations, taking its name from the set of simple songs the composer wrote for his brother's school to sing every Friday. Since then a new collection of songs and additional resources has been made available annually, with *Friday Afternoons* projects being run in schools all around the UK and across the world. Past composers have included Errollyn Wallen, Luke Styles, Jonathan Dove, Nico Muhly, Gwyneth Herbert, Jason Yarde, Elliott Kendall, John Woolrich, Jon Boden, Rachel Portman, Sally Beamish, Talvin Singh, The Unthanks, Zoe Dixon and Benjamin Britten's original songs for Friday Afternoons. Friday Afternoons is underpinned by Snape Maltings core values of innovation; connectivity; quality; trust; and equality.

**Snape Maltings** is a unique place of energy and inspiration and one of the world's leading centres of music, hosting outstanding concerts and festivals throughout the year, from the flagship Aldeburgh Festival – one of the world's most significant classical events – to the broad range of music including folk, world music and jazz of the Snape Proms. Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Suffolk coast, it is the realisation of its founder Benjamin Britten's vision for a creative campus where musicians of all ages, backgrounds and career stages are given the time, space and support to develop new work and ideas amid the breath-taking expanse of reeds, water and sky. In addition to the music programme, the site features distinctive independent shops, cafes, galleries and walks.

[snapemaltings.co.uk](http://snapemaltings.co.uk)