



FESTIVAL
of the
ARTISAN
at home

26 and 27 March

The UK's best acoustic music livestreamed to your home.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

For immediate release

Festival of the Artisan to celebrate the extraordinary stories of ordinary folk

A two-day virtual celebration of the most exciting artists on the acoustic scene will be streamed worldwide on Friday 26 and Sunday 27 March, as Festival of the Artisan bursts into life with an authentic array of musical talent capturing the extraordinary stories of ordinary folk.

The festival, supported by Arts Council England, will feature two evening Headline Concerts and an afternoon concert that will showcase some of the very best talent in UK acoustic music and represent the broad spectrum of what makes this music 'artisan' –notably inspiration, authenticity, skills and a deep love of the sources from which it is drawn. It will be streamed live from the beautiful Venture Theatre in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.

Leading the line-up is Steve Bonham and The Long Road, the band behind the 'Artisan Music' concept who have story-telling and the spirit of adventure at their heart. They will be accompanied by other exciting talents including: past BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winners Blair Dunlop and Bella Hardy, founder of the legendary R Cajun Chris Hall and the Lil' Roosters, and highly regarded English folk singer Elaine Davidson.

These artists will also be joined by three emerging "Artisan Club" acts who will perform live on the Saturday afternoon, as the festival aims to support new talent by offering a publicised global platform for their performance. Up-and-coming artists who are equally passionate about the 'artisan' ideals will be encouraged to submit videos via social media for potential selection.

There will also be two specially commissioned songs for the festival; a Festival Anthem will give everybody the opportunity at home to be part of the artisan music-making of the festival and an Extraordinary Stories song written by Steve Bonham, which aims to uncover one particular extraordinary story.

Aside from the live music element, there will also be an online one-hour symposium on the emerging 'eco-system' of music and how the independent music industry moves forward to better serve audiences and artists.

The festival will be livestreamed worldwide through the Festival of the Artisan website and social media channels. Viewers will be asked to make a “pay-what-you-feel” contribution, with a suggested donation of £5.

Festival Director Steve Bonham said: “Festival of the Artisan is a true celebration of the extraordinary stories of ordinary folk. Music has an enchanting capacity to encapsulate the very best of life’s adventures and ‘Artisan Music’ draws on this in every way. It is authentic, gritty, real, down to earth, captures the spirit of adventure, and is both timeless and contemporary and we are passionate and dedicated about sharing this. A huge thanks to Arts Council England, as this is only made possible thanks to public funding from the National Lottery.”

- ENDS -

Contact details:

Ellen Farrell, communications and press officer

ellen@festivaloftheartisan.co.uk

07760 884218 (Thursday and Fridays)

Steve Bonham, festival director

steve@artisan-creative.com

07711 788248 (anytime)

- Notes to Editors -

Festival of the Artisan is hosted by Artisan Creative, which was created to provide a platform for developing distinctive recordings, books and performances from the raw materials of experience and the extraordinary lives of ordinary people.

www.artisan-creative.com

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let’s Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government’s unprecedented £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19