



FESTIVAL
of the
ARTISAN
at home



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ENGLAND



For immediate release

Festival of the Artisan to bring the festival experience home this weekend

This Friday 26 March sees the launch of Festival of the Artisan as the very best of the UK's acoustic music scene come together to entertain and enthral festival goers in the comfort of their own homes.

The Festival, supported by Arts Council England, aims to celebrate the extraordinary stories of ordinary folk and features a stellar line-up including previous BBC Radio 2 Folk Award Winners Blair Dunlop and Bella Hardy and the pioneers behind the concept of 'Artisan Music', The Long Road. The three headliners will be joined by founder of the legendary R Cajun Chris Hall and the Lil' Roosters, and highly regarded English folk singer Elaine Davidson as well as four emerging acoustic talents as part of the Artisan Club session.

It all kicks off at 19:30 GMT on Friday with festival opener Steve Bonham performing his unique blend of stories and song. Festival goers are encouraged to go to the Festival of the Artisan home page www.festivaloftheartisan.co.uk where the live stream will be found.

The festival is free; however, viewers are asked to make a "pay-what-you-feel" contribution with a suggested donation of £5 and there is the option to transform the festival experience by purchasing one of the exclusive Backstage Passes at: www.festivaloftheartisan.co.uk/boxoffice

Funds raised by the Backstage Passes and donations go a long way to helping make sure the Festival of The Artisan and the associated activity becomes an exciting part of the UK music and arts scene.

The festival has also partnered up with a host of brilliant sponsors – including The Sausage Man! - who have created some ingenious festival food and drink packages to indulge in. These can be ordered from the Festival of the Artisan website at: www.festivaloftheartisan.co.uk/foodanddrink

Festival of the Artisan Director Steve Bonham said: "Festival of the Artisan grew out of my belief in the values of the artisan which has been reflected in all my work over the last few years – that life is better when people and things are authentic, inspired, crafted and made of good materials! It's rewarding to see it all coming together and we just hope as many people as possible are able to enjoy the full Festival of the Artisan experience."

- ENDS -

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- Notes to Editors -

Festival of the Artisan is a two-day virtual celebration of the most exciting artists on the acoustic scene, which will be streamed worldwide on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 March. It 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.

festivaloftheartisan.co.uk

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