



EUROPEAN FOLK NETWORK

# 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

19 & 20 October 2023

Manchester, England

In partnership with





## **EFN's VISION**

People express and celebrate the rich diversity of cultural identities in Europe through folk and traditional music and associated performing arts.

*In order to do that they need to know it, know about it and have access to it. Therefore:*

## **EFN's PURPOSE**

The network exists to support the knowledge and practice of and access to the arts of tradition currently practised in Europe in their diverse forms and origins.

## **EFN's MISSION**

To be the authoritative and representative voice for folk and traditional arts of music, dance and storytelling in the European context.

## **HOW WILL EFN WORK TO ACHIEVE THAT MISSION?**

Recruiting members and building a critical mass of individuals and organisations working in the field of folk and traditional arts in Europe.

Developing and sustaining EFN as a network organisation.

Raising funds and participating in joint projects.

## **WHAT DOES EFN AIM TO DO?**

To facilitate communication and interaction between the sector and EFN members, for them to find common objectives, interests and collaborations

To give visibility and contribute, through dialogue, to the concerns and interests of the traditional arts community.

To increase recognition, support and resources for the traditional arts sector in Europe

To improve the awareness and understanding of folk and traditional arts throughout Europe, in which diversity, identity and recognition of each other's culture are essential pillars.



**The European Folk Day, 23 September 2023, was the first-ever pan-European celebration of the folk/traditional arts of music, dance and storytelling.**

Participation was registered across 32 European countries.

The database and map on the European Folk Day website registered 248 events in 244 venues run by 259 organisers.

200 events focussed on music, 53 on dance, 15 on storytelling and others were multi-disciplinary, combining these arts.

Over 100 tracks were submitted to the Folk Day website's Music Repository from over 28 countries + others with multi-national origin.

26 radio stations, members of the European Broadcasting Union, produced special programmes on or around the European Folk Day.

Press releases were issued in 26 European languages.

**For a full range of information on the European Folk Day visit [www.europeanfolkday.eu](http://www.europeanfolkday.eu)**

The European Folk Day is a pilot project proposed by EFN members at their annual conferences and planned by the EFN Board team with the help of EU funds accessed by EFN from the MusicAIRE project.



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

# EUROPEAN FOLK NETWORK CONFERENCE 2023

19 & 20 OCTOBER MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

## EUROPEAN FOLK NETWORK CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### ENGLISH FOLK EXPO SCHEDULE FOR EFN DELEGATES REGISTERED FOR EFX

#### WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

*VENUE to be announced to registered delegates by email*

19.00 21.00 Informal meet-up for early arrivals

#### THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

##### HALLE at ST MICHAELS

*36-38 George Leigh Street, Manchester M4 5DG*

09.00 11.00 REGISTRATION + Coffee & Teas

11.00 11.30 Welcome & Introductions

11.30 12.30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Anastasiya Voytyuk  
Traditional Arts in Ukraine

12.30 13.45 LUNCH

13.45 14.45 PANEL: Traditional Arts Responding to Crisis  
Panellists: Anne Hart & Dara Vallely (Armagh Rhymers) and  
Anastasiya Voytyuk (Lviv Bandur Festival)  
Moderator: David Francis (EFN Chair)

14.45 15.00 Delegates walk to Matt & Phreds for EFX welcome

15.00 16.00 Welcome to EFN and EFX delegates at Matt & Phreds

17.00 23.00 EFX Showcases and Manchester Folk Festival concerts - various venues

23.00 01.00 EFX Late Night Festival Club

## FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

### STOLLER HALL

*Hunts Bank, Manchester M3 1DA*

09.00	11.00	<b>REGISTRATION + Informal meetings + information about the day</b>
10.00	11.00	<b>EFN delegates access to EEx Trade Fair + Coffee &amp; Teas</b>
11.00	12.00	<b>Breakout discussion sessions ONE: Review of European Folk Day</b>
12.00	13.00	<b>Breakout discussion sessions TWO: Members' specific interest groups</b>
13.00	14.15	<b>LUNCH</b>
14.15	15.00	<b>PANEL: Cultural tourism - community or industry? Panellists: Pablo Camino (Spain Is Music) &amp; Danny KilBride (trac Cymru) Moderator: Nod Knowles (EFN Administrator)</b>
15.00	15.45	<b>OPEN MIC: Members' own proposals and information</b>
15.45	16.45	<b>Breakout discussion sessions THREE: Members discuss EFN future plans</b>
16.45	17.15	<b>Wrap up and thanks</b>
17.15	23.30	EFEx Showcases and Manchester Folk Festival concerts - various venues
23.00	01.00	EFEx Late Night Festival Club

## SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER

### English Folk Expo at various venues - check the EEx schedule

10.00	11.30	EFEx Networking breakfast
12.00	13.30	EFEx Showcasing partners' lunch
14.00	17.30	EFEx Partner showcases
13.30	20.00	EFEx Showcases on the emerging artists stage
19.30	22.30	Manchester Folk Festival performances
23.00	01.00	Late Night Festival Club

## Conference Programme Sessions: A Thumbnail Guide

### *Thursday 19*

**Keynote Speaker: Anastasiya Voytyuk**  
**Traditional Arts In Ukraine.** An overview of the Ukrainian scene, in times of peace and now in time of war.

**Panel: Traditional Arts Responding to Crisis**  
Ukraine is experiencing an all-out war with Russia; for 30 years Northern Ireland experienced sectarian conflict and violence. How do traditional arts and artists continue, survive or change in such circumstances?

### *Friday 20*

**Panel: Cultural Tourism, Community, Industry?**  
Traditional arts are often used as tourist attractions in festivals and tours. Can they maintain their integrity or are there pressures on them to change their art to attract tourism?

#### **Breakout Session ONE:**

**Review of the first-ever European Folk Day.**  
Members discuss what happened, the achievements and problems and future plans.

#### **Breakout Session TWO:**

**Members' specific interest groups.** This is the opportunity for Members to break into groups of people working in the same field (for example Festivals, Agents, National, Organisations, Educators etc etc) to discuss common interests, ideas and issues.

#### **Open Mic:**

Open Mic is a busy session where **anyone can take a five minute spot** to offer a short presentation of their own ideas, interests or issues – to begin conversations and inform colleagues.

#### **Breakout Session THREE:**

**Members discuss future EFN plans.** EFN is growing fast and has already worked on several plans proposed by Members including Mapping the Traditional Sector (Stage One) and the European Folk Day project. Members can discuss other ideas and plans for EFN's work now and in future years.

## Keynote Speaker: Anastasiya Voytyuk



**Anastasiya Voytyuk** is a singer, promoter of Ukrainian folk culture and a virtuoso of bandura – the unique Ukrainian instrument. She also produces performance, educational and experimental projects as the leader of the Unbeaten Path NGO. In 2017 she created and launched Lviv Bandur Fest - the modern bandura music festival in Lviv, Ukraine, which was held until 2021. She is co-creator of the online school Music Up, teaching musicians about management and marketing.

Anastasiya also leads the Ukrainian folk fusion band Troye Zillia, which she describes as giving “a second breath to Ukrainian ancient folk songs from various regions of Ukraine, releasing the archaic polyphonic singing in contemporary musical forms.”

During the current war with Russia Anastasiya switched to three main activities: concerts, folk singing workshops and educational activities about Ukraine abroad - plus writing about Ukraine in Folker magazine.

**Panel:**  
**Traditional Arts**  
**Responding to Crisis**

**Speakers:** **Anastasiya Voytyuk**  
**Anne Hart**  
**Dara Vallely**



**Anne Hart and Dara Vallely** represent the Armagh Rhymers, based in the city of Armagh in Northern Ireland, a country that saw violent sectarian conflict – the ‘Troubles’- for over 30 years.

The Armagh Rhymers is one of the most celebrated traditional music and theatre ensembles on the island of Ireland. Founded in the 1970s, they have delighted audiences in schools and festivals throughout Ireland and around the world. Through music, storytelling and drama they provide an experience that is entertaining, educational and cultural. Their colourful costumes evoke a sense of tradition and history and encapsulate the spirit of the Wren boys and the ancient house visiting traditions of Ireland, where the kitchen floor became the stage. The Rhyming tradition is a celebration of the ‘theatre of the people’.

The Armagh Rhymers draw on the wealth and history of traditional Irish culture. It is their philosophy that every person has a right to experience live music, drama and the arts. They encourage a high level of participation from the audience in drama, music and storytelling. A major focus of their work is to promote tolerance, inclusivity and understanding through the arts, true to their watchword: **“Over us all is the self-same sky”.**

**Panel:**  
**Cultural Tourism –**  
**Community or Industry?**

**Speakers:** **Pablo Camino**  
**Danny KilBride**



**Pablo Camino** is the founder of Spain is Music Tour, a music travel agency that organises tailor-made trips for those who want to get to know Spain, with music as a first focus and from there to learn about other aspects of Spanish culture such as its gastronomy, history, natural landscapes and cultural heritage.



**Danny KilBride**, Director of Wales’ national organisation for traditional music trac Cymru, served on the Wales Cultural Tourism Partnership for the Welsh Government, liaising with the tourist authority Visit Wales, the tourism industry, cultural organisations and related businesses.



## EUROPEAN FOLK NETWORK

The new democratic, not-for-profit membership network for everyone working in traditional music & arts in Europe.

Membership is democratic, for all organisations and individuals working in traditional music and arts.

EFN welcomes new members and is easy to join.  
To find out more about EFN membership - go to:

<https://www.europeanfolknetwork.com/membership>

or contact

[info@europeanfolknetwork.com](mailto:info@europeanfolknetwork.com)

*EFN is a democratically constituted membership organisation registered in the  
Judicial District of Brussels as a not-for-profit association n° 0718 789 695  
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