

DEBORAH CHALMERS



Based: London and the South-East

Email: deb.chalmers@mailbox.org

Nationality: British

Musical Specialities: Traditional
English style fiddle, violin, viola, voice
(folk), Lancashire clog dance, Cotswold
Morris dance

Other instruments: Scottish and Irish style fiddle, Baroque violin and viola,
keyboard, ukulele, treble and descant recorders

MUSICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1999-2003 Birmingham Conservatoire BMus (Hons) 2:1, principle study viola
studying under Jonathan Barrett, second study folk fiddle studying under
Joe Broughton and Baroque viola studying under Annette Isserlis

2018-21 Trinity Laban, MA The Teaching Musician (Distinction)

RECENT NOTABLE PERFORMANCES & PROJECTS

Travelling With Thomas Showcases

Violin, viola and backing vocals: I have performed in showcases of Laurel Swift's fledgling folk musical 'Travelling with Thomas' from 2017 to the present, through several rounds of development.

Stepling

I play fiddle and sing with English music and dance ensemble Stepling, performing at such festivals as Sidmouth, Priddy and Shepley Spring Festival.

Fiddle player for Folk Dance Remixed project

I play fiddle for Folk Dance Remixed, a project involving folk musicians and dancers alongside street dancers and beat-boxers. Here the musicians & dancers develop original collaborative pieces based on traditional music & hip hop, performing at numerous festivals and theatre events around the country. All musicians are on stage for the duration of the piece and are required to move around the stage and interact with the dancers.

Fiddle and viola player for singer-songwriter Bella Hardy

I played for Bella for a number of years and can be heard playing violin and viola on her first two albums. Notable live performances include the Madder Theatre in Norwich, Glasgow's Celtic Connections Festival and Cambridge Folk Festival.

Fiddle player in various function bands

I play with a number of function bands including Licence to Ceilidh, playing for ceilidhs and barn dances, necessitating a high standard of sight-reading and a large degree of flexibility, playing with ever changing line-ups and in different styles.

Fiddle player and dancer for the Belles of London City

I played and danced for the Belles of London City Morris side until 2015 performing at Cropredy and Swanage Festivals with the Morris On Band, at the Hyde Park Jubilee celebrations, and at numerous private events.

PAST NOTABLE PERFORMANCES & PROJECTS

- I played with folk band Suntrap from 2008-2011, performing at such events as Warwick Folk Festival and in the foyer of the National Theatre, and featuring on their album 'Unravelling'.
 - I have performed with a range of musicians in one-off projects and performances, including singer-songwriter Birdy, folk musician Jim Moray, accordionist Karen Tweed, and guitarist Graeme Taylor.
 - I have recorded string samples for independent music producer and composer Joe Rodwell, for use in songs, library music and short films.
 - I am often booked to play for local orchestras and choral societies.

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

- Jim Moray: Sweet England (2006)
- Bella Hardy: Nightvisiting (2007) and In the Shadow of Mountains (2009)
- Suntrap: Unravelling (2010)
- Life and Times: Where the Working Boats Went (2011)
- Joe Rodwell: Loud Noises in Quiet Spaces (2013)
- Jim Bob: What I Think About When I Think About You (2013)
- Robin Harvey: Keep Holding On EP (2014)
- Gigi Hamilton: Colours of Her Mind (2015)
- Mystery Fax Machine Orchestra: Hero's Journey (2017)
- Stepling: Leap (2018)

OTHER SKILLS

- I have my own car and hold a full, clean driving licence.
- I am DBS checked.
- I am an experienced teacher and currently work for Kingston Music Service and Surrey Arts also freelancing for the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

REFERENCES

Available on request