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## Bogles, Marsh Sprites & Green Mists; Three Fenland Stories

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in *Bogles, Marsh Sprites and Green Mists!*

This document contains all production and pricing details – please don't hesitate to be in touch if you would like to discuss any aspect of this or would like to enquire about a booking. We have visited over 60 primary schools in the last 4 years and have lots of experience and suggestions for logistics and funding - please do talk to us!

We look forward to hearing from you

Best wishes

Kate

**Dr Kate Romano, Artistic Director**

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## 1. About the show; music, storytelling and shadow images

For four years, Goldfield have toured our schools' productions to the Fens. Now, for 2019 we bring the Fens to the fore, combining the fascinating landscape and folklore of this area with music from the British Isles in our new production: *Bogles, Marsh Sprites & Green Mists: Three Fenland Stories*.

Our *Three Fenland Stories* are based on Fenland tales reimagined through the eyes and ears of children. Linking the stories are ancient childhood games, rhymes and rituals – the lore of school children and the playground, a culture forgotten or mostly ignored by adults. Our new show is an inspirational, quirky, mysterious and uplifting rhythmical journey through the '*black glistening peat-lands, where great black snags work their way up from submerged forests below*', where bogles and marsh sprites play tricks and a North sea wind whistles through stunted willows.... This original story is illustrated with shadowy images and simple shadow puppetry and musical extracts from an extraordinary blend of arranged folk song, percussion and some of the finest 20<sup>th</sup> century chamber music for string quartet:

- Gustav Holst – St Pauls Suite for strings
- Ralph Vaughan Williams - Norfolk Rhapsody
- Elizabeth Maconchy - string quartets number 3 and 11

The show is written, designed and produced by Kate Romano and performed by members of the Goldfield Ensemble

## 2. Pricing

### **Three-school offer: £1100 total plus travel (£365 plus contribution to travel per school)**

This best value offer is based on three schools within close driving distance collaborating on a single day booking

Example;

School 1: 0910 performance (ending 1000)

School 1: 1130 performance (ending 1220)

School 3: 1400 performance (ending 1450)

Please contact us to discuss feasible variations on the above!

### **Festivals / Private Events**

- One show (approx 50 minutes) in one venue in a single day

£1100 plus travel

- Two shows in one venue in a single day (eg 1400 and 1600)

£1300 plus travel

- Three shows in one venue in a single day (eg 1100, 1400 and 1600)

£1500 plus travel

### 3. Production details

#### A. STAGE REQUIREMENTS AND SHOW DETAILS

Stage must be flat - no special flooring requirements.

- i. As the show involves shadow-play, the performance space needs to be able to shut out bright direct sunlight. The room does not have to be pitch black, but it must be possible to reduce natural day light by around 75%. Simple blinds 3/4 closed or curtains mostly drawn are adequate.
- ii. A black box space with a simple lighting rig works very well. The show does not have a lighting plot – lighting simply needs light the performers and enhance the projections. Goldfield do not tour a lighting technician and projections are operated live by the narrator on stage.
- iii. Staging size: space to seat string quartet with 4 music stands. To SR, space for screen (approx 5 ft square) and projector with 2m throw situated behind screen. Please allow space for the narrator to move comfortably in front of the screen. Most school halls are ideal.
- iv. 4 x musicians chairs
- v. 1 x long table / low bench (such as the 'balancing beam' benches used in school gyms and assemblies)
- vi. Sockets near to the performance space
- vii. The production can be seen by up to 180 children at any one time. Smaller numbers are preferable for a more intimate experience. Please note that the experience will be compromised if children are not able to see the screen. 'Deep' seating is therefore preferable to 'wide' seating. The production is acoustic and performed without microphones. The production is suitable for KS1 and KS2 children. It is ideally suited for years 1-5.

Audio and comms: No sound system / audio is necessary. No communications system necessary.

#### B. SET DETAILS

All items listed provided by Goldfield Productions. Three Stories set comprises:

1 x projection screen: freestanding, floor mounted 5ft square screen (stretched fire-treated canvas over metal frame)

1 x portable overhead projector and small props

5 x lit music stands

Get-in / set-up time: 30 minutes minimum. Ideally 45 minutes

### C. PARKING

Presenter agrees to provide a minimum of secure space for an estate car close to the venue and easily accessible throughout Goldfield's engagement including set-up and performance.

### D. Performance Information:

- i. Total performance time approx 50 minutes

### E. Goldfield will provide:

- Goldfield Productions insurance documents
- Enhanced DBS certificates if required

Two images from our 2018 production as a guide to show the performance set-up:

#### a) In a primary school hall



b) In a black box theatre space



4. Supporting Workshop - Rhymes & Riddles (additional cost – please enquire)

*'What's your name?  
Mary Jane  
Where do you live?  
Down the lane  
What do you keep?  
A little shop  
What do you sell?  
Ginger pop.  
How many bottles do you sell in a day?  
Twenty-four, now go away.'  
(Swansea skipping rhyme)*

We offer a fun, friendly 60-minute workshop for KS2 children (max 30) that complements the touring show, using singing, speech-rhythms and un-pitched percussion (including simple body percussion). What are the musical patterns and rhythms we create when we speak? What patterns do we find in old playground rhymes, skipping songs, riddles and rituals? Using the ancient playground rhymes as models, children work in small groups to create and perform their own playground rhymes and riddles with singing and percussion. What words (perhaps nonsense words?) might we use today? Can you tap the beat and make

an interesting percussion part to the rhyme? For older children; can you perform two rhymes or riddles at once? How do they overlap?

*What will children learn and achieve?*

At the end of an hour, each class will have devised their own riddles or rituals combining physical skills, pattern making and rhythm and can perform to each other. Working directly alongside professional musicians, the workshop is designed to:

- encourage creative composition and develop their sense of rhythm
- enhance their listening skills (ability to hear a beat, to recognise patterns and cross-rhythms)
- encourage collaborative skills and group working by making music with others and ability to hear a beat.

*Who is it suitable for?*

Everyone. The emphasis on practical, hands-on experimentation and non-standardised methods of communicating sounds and ideas make this workshop suitable for all children including those with special educational needs. This fully inclusive workshop is designed to ignite imaginations and develop creativity within a friendly and safe framework, enabling children to communicate and express ideas with confidence. It leaves a 'can-do' legacy; children can continue to make riddles and rhymes with their teachers after the event. Like the show, it demonstrates that imagination and resourcefulness are the most important ingredients for making creative work.

*What does the school need to provide?*

- A classroom and ideally 2 or 3 additional break-out spaces
- Access to school percussion instruments is helpful (Goldfield will also bring a small selection)
- Something to write on (eg a white board / flip chart etc)

## **5. About Goldfield Productions**

Founded in 2011, The Goldfield Ensemble are the resident musicians of Goldfield Productions.

Highly collaborative and relentlessly curious, Goldfield Productions was created to make adventures in sound; to find ways of presenting music and art that transform the everyday into the extraordinary and reawaken our ears.

In 2018, Goldfield created and toured their critically acclaimed *Hansel & Gretel* (a nightmare in 8 scenes) commissioning new poetry from Simon Armitage, chamber music from Matthew Kaner and art / puppetry from Clive Hicks-Jenkins. *Hansel & Gretel* premiered at Cheltenham Music Festival and touring to 9 UK venues with a London premiere at Milton Court Concert Hall (Barbican) and subsequent BBC Radio 3 broadcast.

In 2019 Goldfield will release their debut CD for NMC Records: the chamber music of Erika Fox. They have performed at St Johns Smith Square, Kings Place, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and many appearances at UK festivals and music societies. From 2013-2014 the Ensemble were Artists-in-Residence at Cambridgeshire Stapleford Granary.

The Goldfield Ensemble are especially proud of their storytelling musical productions for younger audiences. These have been seen by over 7000 children and combine the finest chamber music woven into original narratives and imaginative shadow-play images to inspire wonder and curiosity in young audiences.

Goldfield Productions Artistic Director Kate Romano is also a clarinettist, producer and fundraiser and previously held a senior academic role at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for 12 years. Kate is a writer for BBC Orchestras and the Proms. She has also written and narrated 5 children's shows and 80 short stories for BBC Radio 3.