

Kieran Szifris Music

CEILIDH MONSTERS

A magical introduction to music and dance in school



What we do



Ceilidh Monsters gives children that very rare thing : a chance to **dance to** music that's played by real **live musicians**. No CDs or backing tracks **just real instruments**. Not simplified in order that they can join in. They hear the music and can join in straight away with help from our **fantastic professional folk musicians**.

What's more it is a **fabulous foundation** and introduction to learning any type of music in school and it **keeps them fit** too!

Each session includes **captivating performances** and **teaching moments** to further the children's understanding of musical concepts and the deeper musical historical setting.

Then the best bit - the children get to dance to the music they've just been **inspired by**. Dancing all together sharing the feeling of being **part of a bigger group** both emotionally and historically.

Ceilidh Monsters provides workshops and long term residencies for schools in North Tyneside.

Who we are

Ceilidh Monsters is lead by **Kieran Szifris**. Kieran is a folk musician and music educator based the North East of England probably best know for known for playing octave mandolin with **Monster Ceilidh Band** and **Kathryn Tickell and the Darkening**. He's been a professional musician and educator for **over 15 years**. He's toured the world; from the rain soaked jungles of Borneo to the icy winters of Russia all the way to Canada and all over Europe.



A Musical Journey

Each Ceilidh Monsters workshop is a different musical journey...



1. **Introduction** *"I don't know what it is but I like it"*

We make sure to **wow the children** to start off with. They will often start clapping, dancing or miming along. They start to understand they can enjoy themselves

2. **Musical Teaching Moment** *"We get to dance and interact with this music!"*

This is where we introduce musical concepts like pulse, rhythm and structure. suddenly the kids understand what this music is and how it's created.



3. **Learning to Dance Together** *"If I work together with my friends this is really fun"*

The children start to get used to working together and start to help each other as a team.

4. **Musical Performance** *"Oh! there's loads of different types of dances, music and rhythms!"*

While the children are resting we play and talk about the music and it's composers and their historical context. The kids start to realise this is part of a much larger tradition in the UK.



5. **Learning different dances** *"learning is getting easier now i understand about pulse and how to dance with my friends"*

This is where the kids really build their confidence as they are introduced to dances in all sorts of different timings and styles

6. **Resting and Reflecting** *"I feel calm and thoughtful whilst listening to this music too"*

To end the session we play a slow meditative piece to calm them letting them peacefully rest in their own thoughts accompanied by the music.

