

# Invitation



The Worcester Waits cordially invite all members of The International Guild of Town pipers to the (delayed) 9<sup>th</sup> Festival of the International Guild of Town Pipers at Worcester on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of May 2022.

## **Provisional programme for the festival**

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of May**

For the early arrivers. A tour of the city,  
A tour of the Cathedral library which includes over 300 medieval manuscripts including music from as early as 1250  
(There will be an additional charge for both these events)

18.00 -22.00hrs Opening reception at the Guildhall with a welcome from the Lord mayor of Worcester. Presentation of badges, speeches etc. a welcome drink and buffet will be served.  
Members to attend in costume but instruments not required.

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of May**

Day of music. After assembling at the Commandery groups will depart for performances around the city. Currently groups can expect to play 3 or 4 times. See below for venues. Exact timings will be distributed at the Friday reception.

18.30-22.30hrs Hog roast (a vegetarian alternative will be available) and party with cash bar in the great hall & gardens of the Commandery. No costume, but music party pieces and general revelry is encouraged!

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of May**

10.30 hrs Rehearsal in the Commandery for the Great Noyse  
11.30 hrs Process to Elgar Square for the Great Noyse  
12.00 hrs The Great Noise! (Music will be circulated in early 2022)  
13.00 hrs approx., return to the Commandery for a farewell drink. Food can be purchased in the Commandery café.  
14.00 hrs Those who wish, may continue to perform at the Commandery prior to their departure.

And that is it! Obviously all events and timings are subject to change.

To date the situation with regard to COVID in the UK is looking optimistic, however as we all know nothing is guaranteed and those who wish to come to the festival should plan accordingly.

## **COST**

Our aim is to run the festival at the same cost as planned for 2020 namely £50 per person. This will include one drink and the buffet at the Friday night reception. The hog roast on Saturday night and a farewell drink on the Sunday

There will be an additional charge of £6 per person per activity for the tours on Friday afternoon for those who wish to participate.

We would appreciate it if you could complete the enclosed form and return it to the guild at your earliest convenience, as this will help us enormously with our planning of the event. If you do not wish to commit at this stage, but hope to be at the festival please do let us know as this also will help us. Obviously many of you committed to the festival in 2020 and these bookings will be carried forward. However do please check the details and let us know if there are any changes.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Worcester has a range of accommodation but none of it is particularly big and prices vary widely, consequently accommodation can soon become full. Obviously given the current situation with regard to COVID it is strongly recommended that you look carefully at any accommodation bookings that you make and the terms and conditions / cancellation policies. For those of you who may be travelling further, travel insurance is recommended. There is pay and display parking near the Commandery from £6 a day.

## **VENUES**

Worcester is best known for its magnificent Cathedral but is also famous for the world renowned Worcester Porcelain, the piquant Worcestershire Sauce and the most picturesque cricket ground in the country.

Explore The Commandery to learn about its important role in the English Civil War. See a contemporary exhibition at the City Art Gallery and admire the half-timbered buildings in Friar Street. These include Greyfriars' House & Garden and the 500 year old Tudor House. The Guildhall is a truly beautiful building in its own right and dates back to 1721.



The guildhall venue for our Friday night reception and one of our performance locations it fronts onto one of Worcester's busiest streets.



## Greyfriars



Built in 1480 and now run by the National Trust Greyfriars will be another of our Saturday performance venues. We hope to play in the garden where there is a small tea room popular with the locals.

Just across the road from Greyfriars is the Tudor House independent museum. Built in 1520 this will be another of our venues – it also has its own coffee shop!



The Commandery was Charles II's headquarters during the battle of Worcester in 1651. Originally built as a hospital, most of the present building dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. It enjoys a pleasant canal-side location and the Commandery has its own café. This will be one of our playing venues as well as the location for our Saturday night revels. The building has a magnificent great hall as well as a large garden so there is plenty of space.







The Great Noyse will be held in Elgar Square a busy area of shops and restaurants right by the Cathedral, under the statue of Sir Edward Elgar one of England's most famous composers.



It looks like being another great event, so we hope to see you there! None performers are of course welcome to attend as well and enjoy the revelry, provided that they are part of a member band or individual members in their own right.

