

**Jon Boden**  
**Doctor of Music**  
**Durham Cathedral, 2 July 2019**

Jon Boden is the most versatile and inventive folk musician of his generation, combining skills as an arranger, composer and performer with a powerful vocal style

The experiences and enthusiasms that took root during Jon's time at Durham are found throughout his career: performance and participation; the power of social singing; drama and theatricality; poetry and tradition. At the end of his time as an undergraduate, he opted to eschew accountancy and study for a Masters in Composition for Musical Theatre at London College of Music.

A key impetus to Jon's journey was his collaboration from with Oxford melodeonist John Spiers from 2000. Together, they created a new stylistic and performance base for a distinctively English folk music that was confident, dramatic and cosmopolitan. Their award-winning performances as Spiers & Boden were the basis for their next innovation: the formation of Bellowhead in 2004 with Jon as lead singer and arranger. Bellowhead reinvented big band folk and brought together some of the best folk musicians of their generation, garnering a string of awards. It broke a glass ceiling for English folk music within the contemporary folk scene, becoming "the big party band" that could headline and

Jon has released three solo albums of original songs. Songs from the Floodplains unfolds a post-apocalyptic concept album set in an English valley on the urban fringes. It combines the drama and narrative of traditional folk with an almost cinematic feel for character and landscape. It anticipanticipanticipanticip