

# 10 Years of Newcastle's Folk Degree

During the last decade, musicians from across the world have graduated from Newcastle University's Folk and Traditional Music Degree. The University is now considered a leading centre for the study of the genre.

The Cumberland Arms has always supported students from the course. And on Sunday 6th May, the pub has invited all graduates who have previously graced The Cumberland's stage to come and perform. The event could see over 100 musicians – including some of the best ukulele players, banjo players, fiddlers and folk singers in the UK today – entertain customers for free.

Because of touring commitments, however, two of the most exciting graduates from the Folk and Traditional Music Degree – Banjo genius Dan Walsh and Harmonica wizard Will Pound, AKA Walsh & Pound – won't be there.

After watching the Cohen Brother's classic 'Oh Brother Where Art Thou' as a 14-year-old, Dan Walsh became obsessed with bluegrass. He is now considered the UK's best claw hammer banjo player and Maverick Magazine recently hailed him as the new 'face of folk and country music.' Will pound is also internationally renowned for his playing style, which saw him receive a nomination for Best Musician at the 2012 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

I was lucky to catch Walsh & Pound's Cumberland Arms show earlier this month and was completely blown away by the technical brilliance of these two rising stars. They were amazing and I doubt I'll see a better gig this year.

Walsh & Pound return to the North East in May for The Hexham Gathering.

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