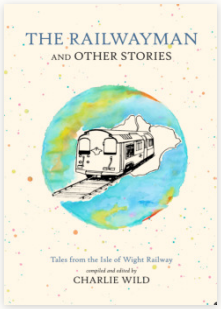
The Railwayman

and Other Stories



Original music and true stories for violin, harp, harmonium, and film screen



▶ WATCH THE TRAILER · youtu.be/B-7wN4Hkg2k

VENTNOR FRINGE 2026

THE SHOW

The Railwayman and Other Stories is a music and story project: a collection of true tales from the Isle of Wight railway in the 1970s, written by Martin Heys and lovingly set to music by his daughter Charlie Wild.

These funny, light-hearted, heartening, and sometimes shocking stories are brought to life by a range of narrators and are backed by, and intertwined with, music played live on stage by Charlie on fiddle, harp, and harmonium.

With a backdrop of vintage Island Line film footage from the 1970s and 80s, Charlie weaves the stories together with beautiful original music to highlight the unseen connections between journeys, memory, music, and people. This brand-new solo show promises to be one heart-warming hour of new music, old stories, nostalgia, and humour.

The show will appeal to anyone who enjoys live music, storytelling, railways, or social history and sits equally well in a folk club, arts centre, village hall, library, heritage railway centre, or festival programme.

ABOUT CHARLIE WILD

Charlie Wild is a violinist and composer based in Worcestershire. Classically trained at Birmingham Conservatoire, with a postgraduate distinction in Scottish fiddle from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, she was a BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award finalist with McNeill and Heys and has played with The Froe, Propellor Ensemble, and The Fair Rain/The Old Dance School. *The Railwayman and Other Stories* was developed with support from Arts Council England.

"superb fiddle" *fRoots* · "beguiling fiddle" *Uncut* · "simply above and beyond" *Folk Radio UK*

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"A gorgeous collection of music and stories from the railway. Charlie's fiddle and harp playing perfectly captures her dad's gentle humour and character in the most beautiful way."
HELEN BELL, HUDSON RECORDS

"A wonderful tribute to a wonderful man."
MAGGIE SAWKINS

"Pretty much the most perfect thing I've heard in ages"

"An interesting and enjoyable afternoon. A brilliant concept."
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

RAILWAYMAN@CHARLIEWILD.CO.UK · 07912 530335

Booking & technical information

AT A GLANCE

RUNNING TIME	Approx. 60 minutes, no interval
PERFORMERS	One (solo show)
INSTRUMENTS	Violin, harp, harmonium. Usually unamplified; can be amplified in larger rooms.
AUDIENCE	Seated. Suited to rooms of around 40 to 150.
AGE GUIDANCE	Family-friendly. Suggested '8+' (not aimed at children, but older children happy to sit and listen to music and stories are welcome).
AVAILABILITY	Booking now for 2027.
FEE	From £300, or a guarantee plus door split. Please get in touch to discuss what works for your venue.
MERCHANDISE	The book (£15, card or cash) is sold at every show.

PAST PERFORMANCES

26 July 2026, Ventnor Fringe	SOLD OUT
27 July 2026, Ventnor Fringe	SOLD OUT

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sound. A PA system is required. The stories are pre-recorded narration and played, along with backing tracks, from a phone/tablet via a 3.5mm jack. This device must be within Charlie's reach on stage throughout the show. For smaller venues Charlie can bring a small portable PA.

Video. A silent film accompanies the performance. A projector or large screen with HDMI input, visible to the whole audience, is ideal. For smaller venues without one, Charlie can bring a projector; a plain pale wall or screen is then needed.

Lighting. No special requirements. House and stage lighting must be dimmable so the projected film reads clearly.

Stage. Minimum playing area 3 m wide by 2 m deep, with a chair, a small table for the playback device, and a power socket nearby. A riser is helpful in flat-floored rooms so the harp can be seen.

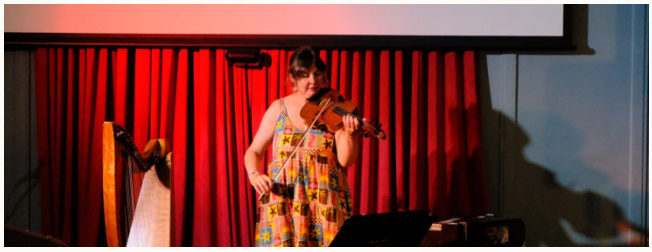
Timings. Set-up and sound check take about 45 minutes; get-out about 30 minutes.

Access. Step-free or short-distance load-in is appreciated for the harp and harmonium, plus parking for one car.

MARKETING

High-resolution photographs, the book cover artwork, short and long copy, and an Arts Council England logo are available on request. Print-ready posters can be supplied, adapted with your venue, date, and ticket details.





Book the show

Full details, music, and the book at charliewild.co.uk/railwayman.
Watch the trailer at youtu.be/B-7wN4Hkg2k.

railwayman@charliewild.co.uk · 07912 530335

LOTTERY FUNDED
Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND