

David Coffin Biography

David has performed throughout New England since 1980. His venues range from concert halls and coffeehouses to schools, radio, and museums. He has performed for weddings, birthdays, memorials, festivals, bonfires — you name it. He is equally adept firing up a crowd to sing, or at playing music in the background to create atmosphere (often during the same occasion!) Widely known for his rich baritone voice, his impressive collection of musical instruments includes concertinas, recorders, penny-whistles, bombards (loud Breton double reeds), gemshorns, cornamuse, shawm, rauschphieffe — or, as he explains, “generally anything that requires a lot of hot air.” Many of these instruments are used in his interactive school enrichment program: [Music from the King's Court: Exploring the Early Winds](http://www.davidcoffin.com/index.php?page=music-from-the-king-s-court) (<http://www.davidcoffin.com/index.php?page=music-from-the-king-s-court>).

At the heart of David's work is traditional and contemporary folk music. He draws on vocal and instrumental music from North America as well as England, Scotland, Ireland and Brittany. David also has an extensive collection of songs from the Maritime tradition. Sea-chanteys, ballads and the songs of the sailors comprise his main repertoire, though he still will rise to an occasion to perform his favorite Baroque recorder sonatas.

David has performed with the Cambridge-based [Revels](http://www.revels.org/) (<http://www.revels.org/>) since 1980 as a singer, instrumentalist and, since 1991, as Master of Ceremonies. As of 2009, with the Christmas and Spring performances combined, he has appeared in over 50 different Revels productions, celebrating the solstices through the traditions of many cultures.

In 2000, David quit his “day job” to become a full-time performer, bringing original Enrichment Programs to schools throughout New England. In 2007, he was named Director of Education for [Boston Early Music Festival](http://www.bemf.org/) (<http://www.bemf.org/>). His one-of-a-kind presentation highlighting period instruments, [Music from the King's Court: Exploring the Early Winds](http://www.davidcoffin.com/index.php?page=life-at-sea), highlights the history of the recorder and related period wind instruments. David's dynamically interactive performance has inspired novice musicians and “wowed” more advanced students, in hundreds of schools. [Life at Sea: A Voyage in Song](http://www.davidcoffin.com/index.php?page=life-at-sea) (<http://www.davidcoffin.com/index.php?page=life-at-sea>) is the no less lively program — based on an imaginary whaling voyage — that gets audiences singing authentic, historical sea songs as they learn about mariners' lives long ago and far from home.

David also provides rollicking group tours of Boston Harbor for private parties, meetings and

celebrations. You pick the day, time and season, and make the sailing arrangements; we promise an unforgettable educational experience in song and story. Suitable for all ages.

During the summer months David leads 200 inner-city children a day on boat trips through Boston Harbor to George's and Spectacle Islands for a day of history, music, fun. It's a mind-broadening experience of Boston's own harbor and maritime history. Many of the participating children have never been on a boat, let alone walk on sand or swim in salt-water. For more information about the All Access Boston Harbor programs, please visit <http://www.savetheharbor.org/index.php/all-access-boston-harbor>

To date, David has recorded four solo CD's and has participated on numerous other recording projects both vocally and as an instrumentalist. His latest CD is scheduled for release Fall 2009.