

**36TH BIRMINGHAM
SANDWELL & WESTSIDE
JAZZ FESTIVAL**
OCTOBER 16TH TO 25TH 2020



Photo by
Merlin Daleman

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Alessandra Perozzo
of The Jim Dandies

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WESTSIDE BID

The Festival is, as always, enormously grateful for the magnificent support of the Westside BID, support which is reflected in the addition of 'Westside' to the Festival's title. In a normal year events in and around the bars and restaurants on Broad Street constitute a decent sized festival on their own, last year amounting to approximately 50 gigs in all.

The changed shape and reduced size of the 2020 Festival has had an effect on Westside events, as in other areas, but the Canal House and Velvet Music Rooms are both full of music during the Festival, and the final weekend takes us, weather permitting, back to one of the central locations of the Festival, the Water's Edge Bandstand, for two afternoon concerts.

Appropriately enough the best place to pick up the latest information during the Festival lies just off Broad Street: the Festival Information Point at the Bull's Head on Bishopsgate Street.

ALAN BARNES

During the months of lockdown Alan has been completing his latest suite for octet, based on Dickens' *David Copperfield*, and with his previous suite, *Jazz Portraits* hardly premiered before lockdown, Barnes the composer will be well to

the forefront as things return to normal. At Birmingham, however, the focus is on the outstanding soloist, versatile but distinctive, who has picked up multiple British Jazz Awards on both clarinet and alto sax.

ALEX CLARKE

Up and coming sax star Alex Clarke has an assurance and awareness of tradition remarkable in one so young – as her many fans found at last year's festival. Predominantly a tenor saxist who acknowledges the influence of Lester Young and Ben Webster, she is equally at home playing clarinet with Dixieland bands. Now restrictions permit, she is once again

filling up a datesheet that sees her working with a huge variety of bands in the Midlands and the North West and keeping such eminent musical company as Alan Barnes, Bruce Adams and Greg Abate.

THE BACKYARD MUSIC BOYS

This four piece acoustic band captures the excitement and verve of 1920s/30s hot jazz. Lining up with clarinet, trumpet, sousaphone and banjo, led by Matt Palmer, they are equally comfortable strolling or static on stage

BILL COLEMAN

One of the regular members of the outstanding house rhythm sections at the Birmingham festival, Bill Coleman is best known as a first call bassist with many of the top traditional jazz bands, including many years with the Kenny Ball Band.

BILLY THOMPSON TRIO

Billy Thompson is a remarkable improvising violinist from North Wales who first came to notice when he reached the televised stages of BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year in both 1996 and 1998. Nowadays he is most often heard with his Gypsy Jazz group, but as a musician of rare versatility his career has included appearances at Brecon Jazz Festival and Ronnie Scott's

MUSICIANS UNION

'An organisation that can help its members throughout their professional careers and beyond.'

As always the Festival is extremely grateful for the support, financial and otherwise, of the Musicians Union.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

All venues involved in the Festival will have arrangements in place to take account of regulations concerning social distancing. We ask that all festivalgoers observe these arrangements in every detail. In the case of outdoor events disrupted by wet weather the Festival will make every endeavour to secure convenient indoor accommodation, but there may be unavoidable changes caused by social distancing requirements.

Keep in touch with any last minute changes by contacting **festival@bigbearmusic.com** or contacting the relevant venue directly.

with Barbara Thompson's Paraphernalia and playing in front of 25,000 people at Tom Jones' homecoming concert in Pontypridd – Billy was in the main support band, The Amigos!

BRUCE ADAMS

Bruce Adams needs no introduction to Birmingham Festival goers as one of the most dynamic trumpeters around, a ferocious player with impeccable technique who has appeared here

in various all star line-ups, ranging from Kenny Baker's Dozen to Alan Barnes Octet, led the Lower Broad Street Philharmonic in romping Dixieland and featured frequently as a soloist. Bruce reports that, in the recent enforced lay-off, he has been enjoying getting to know a beautiful long model cornet supplied by his sponsors, Eclipse Trumpets.

CHRIS BOWDEN

Chris is highly rated as an arranger with his own individual style, but is best known at the Birmingham festival for his work as a saxophonist in a small group setting. His latest album, *Unlikely Being*, was released in 2018 and, prior to the impact of the pandemic, his Thursday night jazz sessions at the Blue Piano, with guests such as Xhosa Cole and Andy Derrick, were widely popular.

DAVE NEWTON

Multiple British Jazz Award winner, Dave Newton is a pianist of great originality and individuality who also has the ability to fit perfectly into ensembles of many different sizes and styles. He has been the mainstay of many of Alan Barnes' groups (octets, for the most part) that have been tailor-made for Alan's compositions and has the subtlety and inventiveness to excel in solo and duo situations: many of

Birmingham Festival-goers' best memories of Dave are of his duo performances with Julian Marc Stringle and Alan Barnes.

GARRY ALLCOCK

Garry is best known as the leader of the All Stars Big Band which has played with such jazz stars as Maynard Ferguson, Cleo Laine, Kenny Baker and Ronnie Scott but as a drummer he is highly respected equally for his work with small jazz groups.

THE JIM DANDIES (ITALY)

One of the hits of last year's festival, the Jim Dandies consist of pianist Paolo Fornara, Alessandra Perozzo on vocals, washboard and kazoo, and Paolo Busatto on guitars, playing the swing, stride, hokum and boogie woogie of 1930s barrelhouses and juke joints. The Jim Dandies were formed in 2018 out of the trio's common love for American roots music. Look, sound and repertoire make the Jim Dandies a perfect photograph of what could be seen and felt in that old-time America at the start of the 20th century at the very beginnings of what would soon be called jazz. The Jim Dandies' festival appearances will be followed by the November release of their latest album, *The Hottest Girl in Town*, on Big Bear Records.

JOHN HEMMING AND THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS

John Hemming is best known to the general public for his political career which included 10 years as Liberal Democrat MP for the Yardley constituency. However, to Jazz Festival-goers, he is also the polished jazz pianist who has brought an excellent small band to the Festival for the last six years, reminding us of the acceptable face of politics – in short supply these days!

JOHN PATRICK

For many years a major figure on the Midlands music scene, John Patrick has a CV that includes much respected spells as a stalwart of the Musicians Union and as Head of Music at ATV/Central Television. Now he is much in demand to accompany top soloists at the Festival.

KEITH BILL

A key element in the Festival's presentation of solo jazz stars is effective accompaniment and for many years Keith Bill has been a reassuring sight at the keyboard, a skilled, attentive and responsive accompanist.

MALCOLM GARRETT

Malcolm Garrett epitomises the variety within a musician's life. On the one hand he is a long-time associate of the great

AUDIENCE SURVEYS

Audience surveys are an essential tool in raising the funds to enable us to put on free performances every year. It will be appreciated that, in the current situation, it is not possible to arrange for the intense amount of face-to-face contact between volunteers and festivalgoers that this usually entails.

However, we intend to go ahead with completing surveys, even though numbers will be more limited. This is where we appeal to festivalgoers to be especially supportive. Whenever surveys are available at an event, please take the opportunity to complete one or simply email festival@bigbearmusic.com for a survey via email.

American drum tutor Jim Chapin, father of the more famous Harry; on the other hand he was Ken Dodd's drummer of choice until the comedian's demise. For Jazz Festival patrons Malcolm Garrett is a drummer of superb taste and technique in house rhythm sections, the delight of visiting soloists.

THE NITECRAWLERS

Regular favourites at Henry's Blueshouse off Broad Street, the Nitecrawlers return to the Jazz Festival, once again re-creating the sheer enjoyment of the original R&B clubs of the 1960s. With a lifetime of experience between them they have

appeared alongside some of the biggest names in the music business, digging deep into their experience to produce an archetypal, gritty R&B sound.

ROY FORBES

Roy Forbes has long been a favourite at the Birmingham Jazz Festival, with a personal vocal style that is, in the words of *Jazz UK*, 'infused with the warmth of his own personality.' A noted interpreter of the Great American Songbook, Roy has made an impact on festival audiences as far apart as Milan, Marbella and St. Lucia, but most of all here in his local festival.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION POINT

Throughout the Festival, the Bull's Head will function as the Jazz Festival Information Point, the City Centre location where punters can pick up programmes or the latest information, crucial in a Festival where we are going to have to be always ready to respond to changing circumstances.

FRIDAY 16TH

18:00

Velvet Music Rooms

**BRUCE ADAMS /
DAVE NEWTON QUARTET**

SATURDAY 17TH

09:00-16:00

Birmingham Rag Market

POP UP RECORD FAIR

11:00

Birmingham Markets
Customer Centre

**JOHN HEMMING
& THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

12:30

The Gracechurch Centre

SHEILA WATERFIELD

13:00

Birmingham Rag Market

THE NITECRAWLERS

14:00

Birmingham Markets
Customer Centre

THE WHISKEY BROTHERS

19:00

Live Stream From The Chilterns

THE SHUFFLEPACK

Showing simultaneously at The
Brasshouse, The Bull's Head and
online (details below)

SUNDAY 18TH

13:00

Botanical Gardens

ROY FORBES QUARTET

£6.75 admission to gardens

16:00

The Canal House

BACKYARD MUSIC BOYS

18:30

Velvet Music Rooms

THE NITECRAWLERS

MONDAY 19TH

18:30

The Canal House

BILLY THOMPSON TRIO

19:00

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE

at The Bull's Head

BLUES ON FILM

TUESDAY 20TH

19:00

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE

at The Bull's Head

SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO ON

WESTSIDE BIRMINGHAM:

Muddy, Wolf, Walter,

Buddy, Homesick,

Snooky And The Guys

ON RECORD

19:30

Hotel Du Vin

ALAN BARNES QUARTET

WEDNESDAY 21ST

18:00

St Pauls House

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

18:30

The Canal House

**JOHN HEMMING & THE
JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

19:00

Wednesbury Library

ALEX CLARKE QUARTET

Live Stream (no public admission)

showing simultaneously at The

Brasshouse, The Bull's Head

and online (details below)

THURSDAY 22ND

17:30

The Village, Moseley

CHRIS BOWDEN QUARTET

19:00

Milano Bar & Kitchen

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

£20 fixed menu and

bar space available

FESTIVAL SHOP

You can help support the festival in bringing you 10 days of great live music by treating yourself to something from our online store. There's CDs and LPs from current and previous festival bands, T-shirts featuring exclusive artwork of jazz and blues legends and subscriptions to the best read in British Jazz, *The Jazz Rag* – visit www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/shop

LIVE STREAMS

To watch our 100% live streams advertised here in the programme, check in on www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/streams on the day of the performance.

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL

2020 has been a challenging year, with our plans for a 200 performance festival in July wiped out by Covid-19. Here at Birmingham, Sandwell & Westside Jazz Festival, we've always prided ourselves on bringing real music, properly played to people in this region without asking an admission price in return. If you would like to help us secure the future of the festival as we prepare for our 37th edition in 2021, please consider making a donation at www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/donate or by phoning **0121 454 7020**

FRIDAY 23RD

18:00

Velvet Music Rooms

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

19:00

The Village, Moseley

SPATS LANGHAM'S

HOT FINGERS

SATURDAY 24TH

12:30

Gracechurch Centre

SWING CAFÉ

14:30

Water's Edge Bandstand

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

19:30

West Bromwich Central Library

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

Live Stream (no public admission)

showing simultaneously at The

Brasshouse, The Bull's Head

and online (details below)

SUNDAY 25TH

13:00

Botanical Gardens

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

£6.75 admission to gardens

14:00

Hotel Du Vin

TIPITINA

All information about events, musicians and venues is correct at the time of going to print. The Birmingham, Sandwell and Westside Jazz Festival is not responsible for any necessary changes, whether because of changes in the regulations for dealing with Covid-19 or for other reasons, but will inform festival-goers as soon as possible and endeavour to provide equivalent replacements where applicable.

14:30

Water's Edge Bandstand

THE NITECRAWLERS

16:00

The Canal House

THE JIM DANDIES [ITALY]

18:30

Velvet Music Rooms

TIPITINA

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0121 303 0208

BOTANICAL GARDENS

WESTBOURNE ROAD B15 3TR

0121 454 1860

THE BRASSHOUSE

44 BROAD STREET B1 2HP

0121 633 3383

CANAL HOUSE

12 BRIDGE STREET B1 2JR

0121 643 8829

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SUTTON COLDFIELD B72 1PA

0121 355 1112

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE

AT THE BULL'S HEAD

38 BISHOPSGATE STREET

0121 439 4190

HOTEL DU VIN

25 CHURCH STREET B3 2NR

0121 200 0600

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0121 622 3999

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200 BROAD STREET B15 1SU

0121 248 0500

VILLAGE, MOSELEY

179 ALCESTER ROAD,

MOSELEY B13 8JR

0121 449 7664

WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND,

BRINDLEYPLACE

WATER'S EDGE,

BRINDLEYPLACE B1 2HL

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ANNOUNCEMENT

**37th BIRMINGHAM,
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FESTIVAL**

JULY 16th TO 25th 2021

SHEILA WATERFIELD

Working in all musical settings from duo to 17-piece big band, Sheila Waterfield's sound is a unique blend of jazz, folk, soul, Latin and blues, described by Ron Bailey of *Jazz Live* as 'a beautiful warm expressive voice.' Her third studio album, *Every Sunrise*, featuring some of the finest musicians around, showcases Sheila's talents as producer, arranger and songwriter as well as singer. A 5-tracks EP from the album, *A Better Place*, is currently available.

THE SHUFFLEPACK

Patrons of the Jazz Festival, together with regulars at Henry's Blueshouse off Broad Street, are familiar with the Shufflepack's brand of groovy shuffling blues in the classic style, from Chicago to the West Coast. Led by the vocals and harmonica of noted blues authority Stuart Son Maxwell, the Shufflepack provide an original take on the blues of the likes of Howlin' Wolf, Sonny Boy Williamson, Wynonie Harris and the three Kings.

SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO ON WESTSIDE BIRMINGHAM

Henry's Blueshouse returns to the Bull's Head, Bishopsgate Street, on the Tuesday of the Festival with *Southside Chicago on Westside Birmingham*, an evening of the finest Chicago blues on record: Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Howlin' Wolf and the rest.

For those who prefer their blues with a visual touch, the previous evening at the Bull's Head features classic *Blues on Film*.

SPATS LANGHAM'S HOT FINGERS

Hot Fingers' eclectic mix of vintage acoustic music re-creates the gypsy swing of Django Reinhardt, the blues of Eddie Lang and Big Bill Broonzy and the sophisticated Latin rhythms of Argentinian Oscar Aleman. Emily Campbell brings a touch of class with her plaintive vocals, taking inspiration from the likes of Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald while Spats Langham draws on crooners such as Bing Crosby and Al Bowlly and the hokum of Cliff 'Ukulele Ike' Edwards. Hot Fingers' music ranges from jump jive to swing, from the Charleston to bossa nova, from country blues to red hot jazz. Though only four in number, the band

KEEP INFORMED

There will be changes to the programme as published. Send your email address to **festival@bigbearmusic.com** to go on the free e-bulletin list.

can be found removing two guitars, a double bass, a banjo, a mandolin, a ukulele, a clarinet, a tuba, a bass clarinet, several harmonicas and a gong from the band van.

SWING CAFÉ

Swing Café is a stylish swing/jazz band playing well known and loved tunes from the 1920s to the 1950s. Led by popular Midlands vocalist Billie Baker, Swing Café consists of highly talented musicians with an impressive collective CV. Together they have played numerous events across the region as well as jazz festivals and

POP-UP RECORD FAIR

VIP's Pop up Record Fair in the Rag Market on Saturday 17th will be Birmingham's first record fair since February. The event will feature a handpicked selection of VIP's large roster of sellers with a wide range of CDs and vinyl recordings.
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VIRTUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

The 36th Birmingham, Sandwell and Westside Jazz Festival was scheduled for July 17th to 26th this year. Like almost everything else in the summer of Covid-19 it had to be cancelled. However, the organisers, worried by the possible onset of withdrawal symptoms among the jazz faithful, replaced it with the accurately named Virtual, but Remarkably Real, Jazz Festival.

So for an hour or two each day of the Festival it was possible to imagine the jazz world was revolving as usual – and the Virtual, But Remarkably Real, Jazz Festival can still be browsed on www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/virtualfestival

swing dance events further afield such as the Twinwood Festival and Marlborough Jazz Festival. Their joyous sunny sound reflects a wide range of musical influences.

TIPITINA

Having built up their following with the appealing, but slightly unsatisfactory, expedient of online performances in recent months, Tipitina are back live and in public with their unique blend of blues,

barrelhouse, boogie and gospel, in the New Orleans tradition of Professor Longhair, Dr John, James Booker, Fats Domino and Allen Toussaint. Long-time favourites at the Birmingham Festival, where they recorded live one of their two Big Bear albums, Tipitina continue to delight their many fans with Debbie Jones' exciting vocals and Justin Randall's mastery of the New Orleans piano sound.

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE AT THE BULL'S HEAD

Prior to the lockdown Tuesday was Bluesday at the Bull's Head in Bishopsgate Street off Broad Street. In recent months Henry's Blueshouse has moved to Sunday afternoons in the Botanical Gardens, but during the Festival it returns to the Bull's Head for special events.

On Tuesday, under the banner of *Southside Chicago On Westside Birmingham*, Henry's will be playing recordings of the best in Chicago blues: Muddy Waters, Buddy Guy, Howlin' Wolf and the rest. *Blues on Film* on Monday evening does exactly what it says, with classic blues films showing all evening.

TOM CLARKE-HILL

Tom Clarke-Hill defies stereotypes. A Californian long based in Birmingham, he is an actor, presenter and voice-over artist as well as being a highly versatile musician, anchoring many an all-star band or accompanying trio with his assured bass playing.

THE WHISKEY BROTHERS

Richard Heath (vocals and mandolin) and Gerry Smith (piano) are the Whiskey Brothers, playing the music of 1930s and 1940s American juke joints and combining old-style acoustic blues with their own original material. A quarter of a century ago they formed the Splinter Blues Band; now they combine as a duo, their authentic sound to the fore on their Big Bear CD, *Bottle Up and Go*.

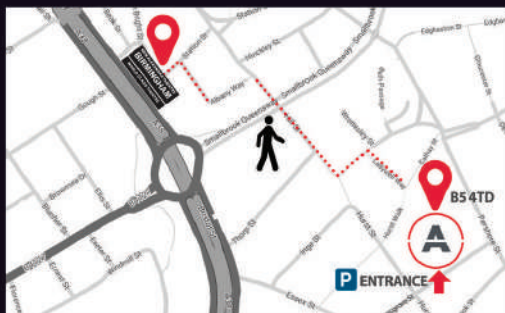
All performances are free, with the exception of the two Botanical Gardens shows, but patrons will be expected to observe the protocols of the individual venues in relation to Covid-19. These may involve booking in advance in some cases.

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