

**SOLIHULL**  
**SUMMER FEST**  
2025

19<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025  
TUDOR GRANGE PARK  
[WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK](http://WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK)  
f SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST @ SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST

SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025

**UB40** FEAT **ALI CAMPBELL**  
**MAXI PRIEST**  
**LOUISE | BITTY MCLEAN**  
**ORITSE WILLIAMS (JLS) | ARTFUL DODGER**  
**DETROIT SOUL COLLECTIVE**

SUNDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025

**BANANARAMA**  
**LEO SAYER**  
**BAD MANNERS**  
**HUE & CRY | RICK PARFITT JNR**  
& THE RPJ BAND  
**BORN IN THE EIGHTIES BAND | DJ ROBIN HOLLAND**

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO VISIT:  
**[WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK](http://WWW.SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST.CO.UK)**

f SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST

@ SOLIHULLSUMMERFEST

**41<sup>ST</sup> BIRMINGHAM**  
**JAZZ & BLUES** FESTIVAL  
JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> 2025

**MOSTLY  
FREE**

Photo by  
Merlin Daleman

[WWW.BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL.COM)  
[FESTIVAL@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM](mailto:FESTIVAL@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM)  
HOTLINE: 0121 454 7020

🐦 @BIRMJAZZFEST #BJBFESTIVAL  
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@ BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL

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23 meeting spaces in total with masses of breakout space

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Part of the Marriott family the hotel boasts 195 guest rooms, a cocktail lounge and 120-seater restaurant.

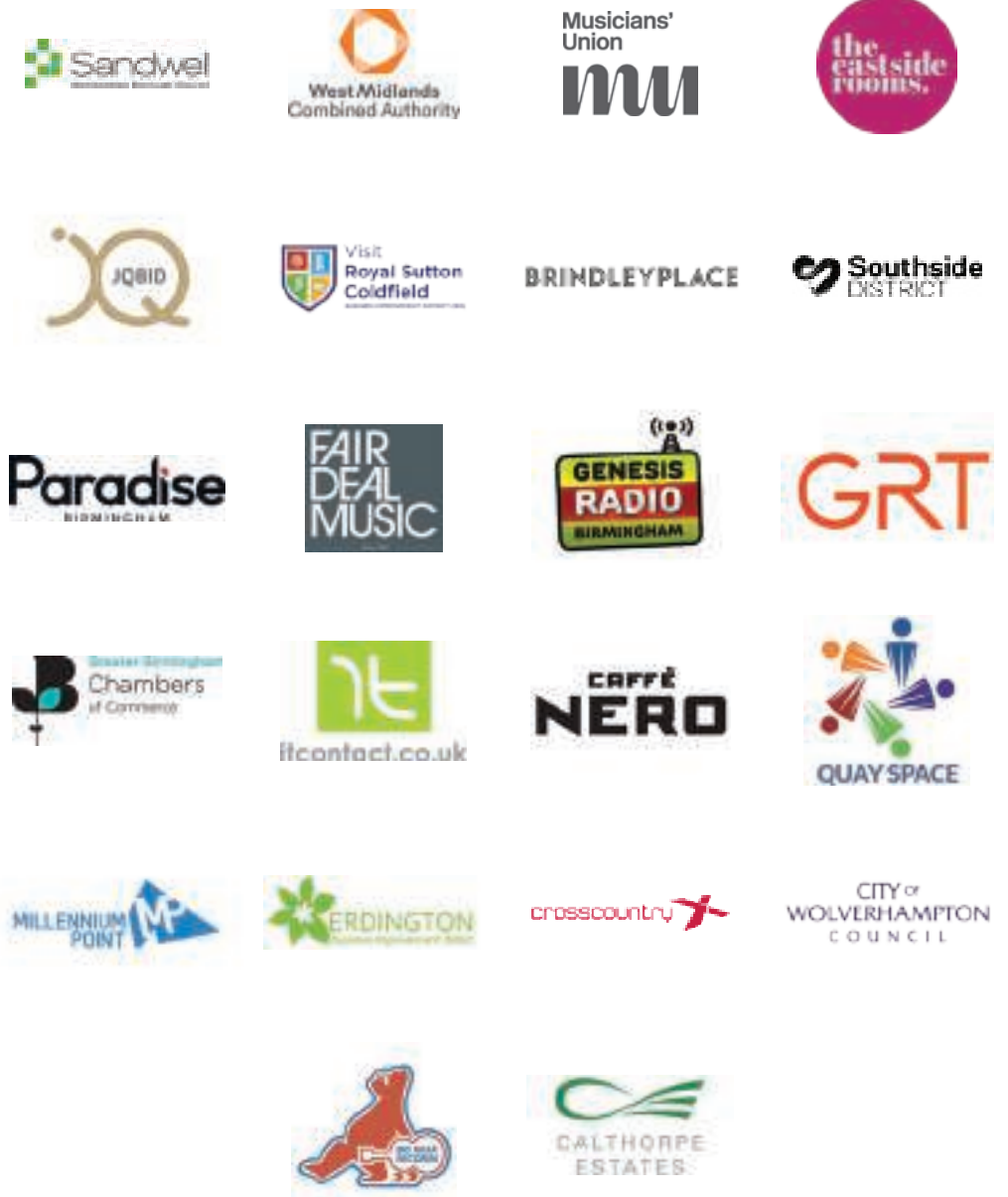
195 Bedrooms & 2 Suites

Gym

Wine Cocktails Bar

Tempo Restaurant

**Aloft**  
different. by design.



As its Patron I have, by definition, long and happy memories of the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival. They stem from the earlier days when legends like Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, The Modern Jazz Quartet and literally hundreds of others were regular visitors year by year. Sadly the passage of time has meant that such giants of jazz music no longer walk the earth but – no less

We are delighted that Sandwell is once again supporting the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival.

This 41st festival will see local, national and international musicians showcase their talent across Sandwell's six towns, including in our libraries, museums and parks.

With artists from all over the UK as well as musicians from much further afield, this year's

WMCA was established in 2016, and our aim is to make the West Midlands the best region in the UK. We support inclusive growth across multiple aspects of life in the region. Our funding is supplied by UK Government but what do with that funding is up to us; a group of people who know our region best and champion the wellbeing of its residents. We deliver exciting projects that support with things like

appropriately – the BJ&BF has replaced them with new – and established – stars from the UK blues and jazz scene and, no less importantly, new arrivals from America and Europe who continue to believe in – and celebrate – Duke Ellington's immortal dictum that 'it don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing!'

Such dedication to the fundamentals of jazz has

festival reflects the value and importance we place on equality, diversity and inclusivity as we are rightly proud of Sandwell's rich and diverse culture and heritage.

In addition to these events over the summer, we run an exciting, year-long calendar of council events with something for everyone. Go to our Visit Sandwell website [www.visitsandwell.com](http://www.visitsandwell.com) to find out more.

creating jobs, improving sustainability, building affordable homes, and upgrading public transport across the West Midlands.

Culture and creativity are at the heart of our region. As a key part of WMCA, this team exists to champion and empower the culture and creative sectors to thrive in the West Midlands.

We work in close partnership with stakeholders to develop

sometimes fallen foul of new (or might that be '*nouveau*'?) philosophies that regularly come along in an attempt to redefine the music. But the Festival has sternly refused to go along with the fashions of the day and still brings us timeless jazz from young and old alike.

Enjoy your festival!

**Digby Fairweather**

Festivals and events such as this really show that Sandwell is a Bostin Place that is home to Bostin People, which is why we are proud to welcome residents and visitors from further afield.

Enjoy the festival!

**Councillor Kerrie Carmichael**  
**Leader of Sandwell Council**

these sectors, with the aim of increasing investment to foster innovation and ensure the West Midlands is recognised for its rich creativity and culture. Data-led insights and in-depth research back up our work, meaning that we can advocate for the benefits of these projects in the region and embed our work within the WMCA's priorities.

**West Midlands Combined Authority [WMCA]**



I know there's been some speculation about the future of our much-loved Jazz & Blues Festival, so I'd like to assure everyone that this, the 41st year of the festival is absolutely going ahead from July 18th to 27th, with 178 performances – more than 95% of them completely free to attend – across 103 venues in Sandwell, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sutton Coldfield and Solihull, with top class musicians from across the UK, France, Italy, USA, New Zealand and Sweden.

This festival is a celebration of live music, community, and resilience – and in challenging times, that spirit shines even brighter.

While it's true that Birmingham City Council made the difficult decision

to withdraw arts funding for 2024/25, and we have also experienced the loss of support from Westside BID this year, amounting to a combined shortfall of £45,000, our response has been to push forward with renewed purpose – and the support we have received has been nothing short of inspiring.

We are grateful to Sandwell Council and The Musicians' Union, whose unwavering backing has been essential to our continued success and we are delighted to welcome on board West Midlands Combined as a major sponsor.

Your support has also been extraordinary. Through our GoFundMe campaign, individuals and fans of the festival have been stepping up to contribute, helping secure our future – whether through small donations or simply by spreading the word.

In 2024, despite the sudden and significant funding cuts – which coincided, ironically, with the festival's 40th consecutive year – we chose to celebrate louder and larger than ever before. We delivered 239 performances, 230 of them free, in 120 venues to nearly

88,000 people. No other event in this region can match that track record.

While no new institutional funders came forward last year, you did – our loyal and supportive audience. You showed up in full force, proving once again that this festival belongs to the community that supports and loves it.

Thanks to a mix of funding, generous donations, and a personal loan I've taken out to safeguard the event, I'm proud to confirm that the 2025 festival is secure and will proceed as planned.

That said, we can't do this alone. The long-term future of this unique event depends on meaningful investment from cultural, business, and arts organisations. If you or your company can help, we'd love to talk.

Finally, with our limited funding, we've had to stretch every resource, and as a result, we are very much behind schedule in our planning – for which we sincerely apologise. We're working hard, and your understanding means the world to us.

**Jim Simpson**  
**Festival Director**

## The Jazz Festival would like to thank...

**Festival Patron:** Digby Fairweather

**Festival Board:** Barry Clark, Dan Cole, Dani Hadley, Derek Inman, Jill Hitchman, John Hemming, Gary Newbon, John Patrick, Rob Sealey, Nadia Ilya, Lorraine Olley

**Festival Director:** Jim Simpson

**Commercial and Development Director:** Tim Jennings

**Business and Marketing Manager:** Yue Yang

**Development Manager:** Charlie Moore

**Co-ordination:** Folasade Akinbinu, Joseph Corbett, Julianne Peralta, Karely Paola, Katie Adams, Katie Garrett, Lucie Rodrigues, Louise Sergent, Nina Truscott, Veena Patel, Will Vere Brown

**Volunteer Co-ordination:** Barry Clark

**Programme Editor:** Ron Simpson

**Photographers:** Merlin Daleman, Irina Mackie

**Programme & Publicity Design:** Nerys James (nerys.james@gmail.com)

**Media Marketing:** Steve Dyson Media

**Business Consultant:** Ken Banks

**Technical Managers:** Christian Tester, David Berman, Daniel Zahir, Dave Spittle, Nick Hart, Lyndon Bolshaw, Oliver Layton, Tom Roberts.

**Operations:** Amanda Cardall, Angie Lane, Azra Pathan, Charlie Osbourne, Dave Spittle, Diana Boateng, Gaelle Vilfour, Jim Broom, Joseph Alchemy, Karl Wilkinson, Kieron Burns, Lucy Jennings, Maggie Tyler, Paul Graham, Prentice Bannister, Sharon Bannister, Sue Riley, Tony Dyer, Zoe Toft

**Artists Booking:** Big Bear Music Agency 0121 454 7020 admin@bigbearmusic.com

**PA & Backline:** Fair Deal Music

**Hotel Partner:** Aloft Birmingham Eastside

**IT Support:** ITContact (www.itcontact.co.uk)

**Accountants:** David Cutter & Co (www.davidcutter.co.uk)

**Website:** Rob Sealey (www.grtmedia.net)

**Chinese Marketing:** Jenny Wong, Shuai Yuan, Mi Lan, Yuqing Shen, Zhirong Yu

**Special Projects:** Mark Thomas

**Outstanding Generosity:** Ken Banks

**Special Thanks To:** Alison Page, Andrea McGee, Andrew Kirkman, Andrew Wade, Andy Street, Anna Bradzel, Becki Leonard, Becky Frall, Ben Benson, Brogan George, Chicken George, Chris Horst, Chris Mason, Chris Maher, Claire Knapton, Daisy Clark, Dave Marshall, David Davies, Deborah Yates, Denise Sandford, Donna Bensley, Ed King, Elaine Mortiboy-Clarke, Ella Latham, Ellis Read, Garry Chapman, Georgina Cheung, Graham Young, Harpreet Sian, Hayley Peplar, Helen McLachlan, Jackie Clay, Jackie Hawkins, Jamie Whittingham, Jane Hanney-Martin, Jenna Harvey, Jenni Fryer, Jennifer Lockley, Jenny Bestwick, Jo Jeffries, Jo Kinsella, Jules Raikes, Julia Robinson, Junior Laidley, Kate O'Connor, Kay Cadman, Kerrie Barber, Laura Milner, Laura Wesson, Lisa Beaumont, Liz Carnell, Lucy Burnett, Lucy Stone, Luke Crane, Mi Lan, Michelle Baker, Molly Orviss, Nick Hickman, Nigel Barker, Paul Marshall, Qasim Bashir, Raul Navarro, Richard Leigh, Richard March, Robert Hayward, Robyn Delaney, Sam Goode, Sarah Garner, Sarah McCarthy, Satnam Purewal, Sonia Rull-Badham, Sophia Tandy, Stephen Brown, Steve Dyson, Stuart Hancock, Tate Masiye, Tony Collins, Vicki Ellery-Jones, Victoria Webb, Wayne Tracey, Wendy Sweatman.

Find us on social media

 BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

 @BIRMJAZZFEST #BJBFESTIVAL

 @BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL

## THE JAZZ FESTIVAL BOARD



Barry Clark



Dan Cole



Dani Hadley



Derek Inman



Gary Newbon



Jill Hitchman



John Hemming



John Patrick



Rob Sealey



Lorraine Olley



Nadia Ilya

## TUESDAY IS BLUESDAY

Year round, Tuesday evening at Snobs is Henry's Blueshouse, so the Festival has decided to celebrate Tuesday as Bluesday by making it an all-day blues session. Playing Henry's in the evening are Steve Young and the Real Time Players, but before that in the afternoon are sessions from Chickenbone John and Harmonica Dave and Stuart Maxwell's Blues Raiders, plus workshops with Chickenbone John and Stuart Maxwell.

For regular information on Henry's Blueshouse sign up to the free subscription Henry's Bluesletter to receive weekly updates on bands booked and other important blues news and features. For a free subscription send your email address to [admin@bigbearmusic.com](mailto:admin@bigbearmusic.com).

## BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

P.O. Box 944, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8UT

[www.birminghamjazzfestival.com](http://www.birminghamjazzfestival.com)

Phone 0121 454 7020 Email: [festival@bigbearmusic.com](mailto:festival@bigbearmusic.com)

**SUTTON COLDFIELD JOINS THE BIRMINGHAM**

# Jazz & Blues Festival

**18-27 JULY**

**FRIDAY 18**  
Silver Tree Bakery - 12.30pm

**SATURDAY 19**  
The Duke Inn - 5pm

**SUNDAY 20**  
Patty Freaks - 1pm  
The Gate Pub - 7pm

**MONDAY 21**  
Heavenly Desserts - 4pm

**TUESDAY 22**  
Toldin Tea - 1pm

**WEDNESDAY 23**  
Military Chef - 1pm  
The Three Tuns - 7.30pm

**THURSDAY 24**  
The Cake Solution - 12.30pm  
Kings Arms Pub & Indian Grill - 8pm

**SATURDAY 26**  
Ash Restaurant - 3pm

**SUNDAY 27**  
The Bottle of Sack - 2pm  
The Station Pub - 7pm

**FREE EVENT**

Brought to you by:  
Visit Royal Sutton Coldfield  
41st Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival  
JULY 18-27 2025



Rich Dickinson

Photo by  
Merlin Dalemman

**12:30**  
CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE,  
PARADISE  
**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

**12:30**  
SILVER TREE BAKERY,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**BILLY THOMPSON TRIO**

**13:15**  
ALOFT BIRMINGHAM  
EASTSIDE  
**GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)**

**14:45**  
**VERONICA & MAX  
(ITALY)**

**16:15**  
**STACY MITCHHART  
(USA)**

**17:00**  
SNOBS  
**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

**17:00**  
THE BRASSHOUSE  
**STUART MAXWELL'S  
BLUES RAIDERS**

**17:30**  
HIPPODROME SQUARE  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

**18:00**  
MAILBOX  
**BILLY THOMPSON TRIO**

**18:30**  
COSY CLUB,  
BRINDLEYPLACE  
**GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)**

**18:30**  
OIKOS CAFÉ, ERDINGTON  
**CALYPSO MOON**  
£5

**18:30**  
NOVOTEL  
**TENEMENT JAZZ BAND  
WITH NANNA CARLING  
(SWEDEN)**

**19:00**  
BACCHUS BAR  
**THE DELTA ACES**

**19:00**  
LIGHTWOODS HOUSE  
**VERONICA & MAX (ITALY)**

**19:30**  
BARBARA'S BIER HAUS  
**RICH DICKINSON'S  
DRIVING FORCE**

**19:30**  
EARLSDON PARK VILLAGE  
**HIT PARADE HEROES £12**

**19:30**  
BLACKHEATH LIBRARY  
**STACY MITCHHART (USA)**

**19:30**  
BROMWICH HALL  
**SLIDE BOY ROY**

**19:30**  
THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY  
**BOO HEWERDINE  
& YVONNE LYON**  
£15/ £10 CONCESSIONS

## PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR FESTIVAL

YOUR DONATION WILL HELP  
THIS IMPORTANT, MOSTLY  
FREE, MULTI-PERFORMANCE  
FESTIVAL SURVIVE.

NO MATTER HOW  
SMALL, YOUR DONATION  
IS IMPORTANT.

PAY BY CHEQUE PAYABLE  
TO BIRMINGHAM JAZZ &  
BLUES FESTIVAL OR BY  
CARD, PHONE 0121 454 7020

**11:00**  
BIRMINGHAM INDOOR  
MARKET  
**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

**12:00**  
CAFFE NERO  
**STRICTLY JITTERBUG**

**12:00**  
BROMWICH HALL  
**THE SHUFFLEPACK**

**12:30**  
CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE,  
PARADISE  
**TENEMENT JAZZ BAND  
WITH NANNA CARLING  
(SWEDEN)**

**13:00**  
MARTINEAU GARDENS  
**WALTER SMITTY  
& THE UNVIABLES  
THE SAX PISTOLS**

**13:00**  
BULLRING RAG MARKET  
**GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)**

**14:00**  
BIRMINGHAM MARKETS  
CUSTOMER CENTRE  
**BACKYARD MUSIC BOYS**

**15:00**  
AC HOTEL MAILBOX  
**ROY FORBES QUARTET**

**17:00**  
SNOBS  
**SLIDE BOY ROY**

**17:00**  
THE BRASSHOUSE  
**VEE-JAY KING &  
HIS DUKES**

**17:00**  
THE DUKE INN,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**PLAYING DJANGO**

**17:00**  
CORE THEATRE CAFÉ,  
SOLIHULL  
**THE DELTA ACES**

**17:00**  
NO 18 COFFEE HOUSE &  
WINE BAR, TAMWORTH  
**THE SHUFFLEPACK**

**17:30**  
HIPPODROME SQUARE  
**CHICK WREN'S ROLLIN'  
RIVER BAND**

**18:30**  
RED LION, JEWELLERY  
QUARTER  
**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

**19:00**  
WINTERBOURNE  
HOUSE & GARDEN  
**TENEMENT JAZZ BAND  
WITH NANNA CARLING  
(SWEDEN)**

£18, £16 STUDENTS,  
£12 CHILDREN

**19:30**  
WEST BROMWICH  
CENTRAL LIBRARY  
**HONEYBOY HICKLING  
BLUES BAND**

**19:30**  
SOLIHULL VILLAGE  
**ROY FORBES QUARTET**

**20:00**  
FIGHTING COCKS,  
MOSELEY  
**THE SMOKIN' ADE  
WAKELIN BAND**

**20:00**  
THE WELLINGTON  
**GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)**

**12:00**  
OAK HOUSE  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

**12:30**  
CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE,  
PARADISE  
**HONEYBOY HICKLING  
BLUES BAND**

**12:30**  
YARDLEY WOOD  
SOCIAL CLUB  
**THE FAT CHOPS BIG  
BAND WITH SPECIAL  
GUEST LOUISE CLARE  
MARSHALL**  
£12

**13:00**  
PATTY FREAKS,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)**

**13:00**  
BANTOCK HOUSE,  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
**PLAYING DJANGO**

**14:00**  
BOURNVILLE GARDENS  
VILLAGE  
**BACK ON THE ROAD**

**14:00**  
TOUCHWOOD, SOLIHULL  
**THE WALTER SMITTY TRIO**

**14:00**  
RED LION, WEST  
BROMWICH  
**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

**15:00**  
THE BRASSHOUSE  
**TENEMENT JAZZ BAND  
WITH NANNA CARLING  
(SWEDEN)**

**15:00**  
THE SCHOOL YARD,  
HARBORNE (C/O BOSTON  
TEA PARTY, KOI KI & THE  
MARTIN JAMES GROUP)  
**THE SMOKIN' ADE  
WAKELIN BAND**

**17:00**  
ALL BAR ONE  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

**17:30**  
HIPPODROME SQUARE  
**JUST DOIN' IT**

**18:00**  
O NEILL'S BROAD STREET  
**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

**19:00**  
THE LORD CLIFDEN,  
JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**TENEMENT JAZZ BAND  
WITH NANNA CARLING  
(SWEDEN)**

**19:00**  
THE GATE, SUTTON  
COLDFIELD  
**GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)**

**20:00**  
SNOBS  
**HIT PARADE HEROES**



12:30

WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND  
**JAMES OLIVER  
 BLUES BAND**

13:00

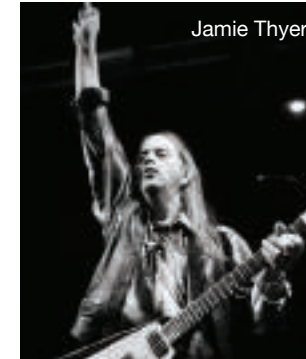
ALEXANDRA THEATRE,  
 PIANO BAR  
**BD LENZ (USA)**

14:00

NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE  
**YOU'RE NEVER ALONE  
 WITH A UKE**

16:00

HEAVENLY DISSERTS,  
 SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**ROY FORBES TRIO**



Jamie Thyer



Roy Forbes

18:00

LA BELLEZZA, PARADISE  
**SHEILA WATERFIELD DUO**  
*Reservations required*

19:00

THE LORD CLIFDEN,  
 JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**JAMES OLIVER BAND**

19:30

WEDNESBURY LIBRARY  
**JAMIE THYER &  
 THE WORRIED MEN**

20:00

SNOBS  
**BD LENZ (USA)**

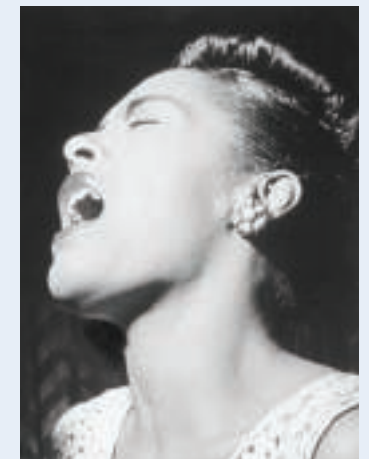
## LADYS SINGS THE BLUES SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL SATURDAY 26TH JULY

*Celebrating the music of Billie Holiday*

*Val Wiseman (vocals), Bruce Adams (trumpet),  
 Ian Bateman (trombone), Alan Barnes (saxophone/  
 clarinet), Dave Newton (piano), Dave Green (bass)  
 and Steve Brown (drums)*

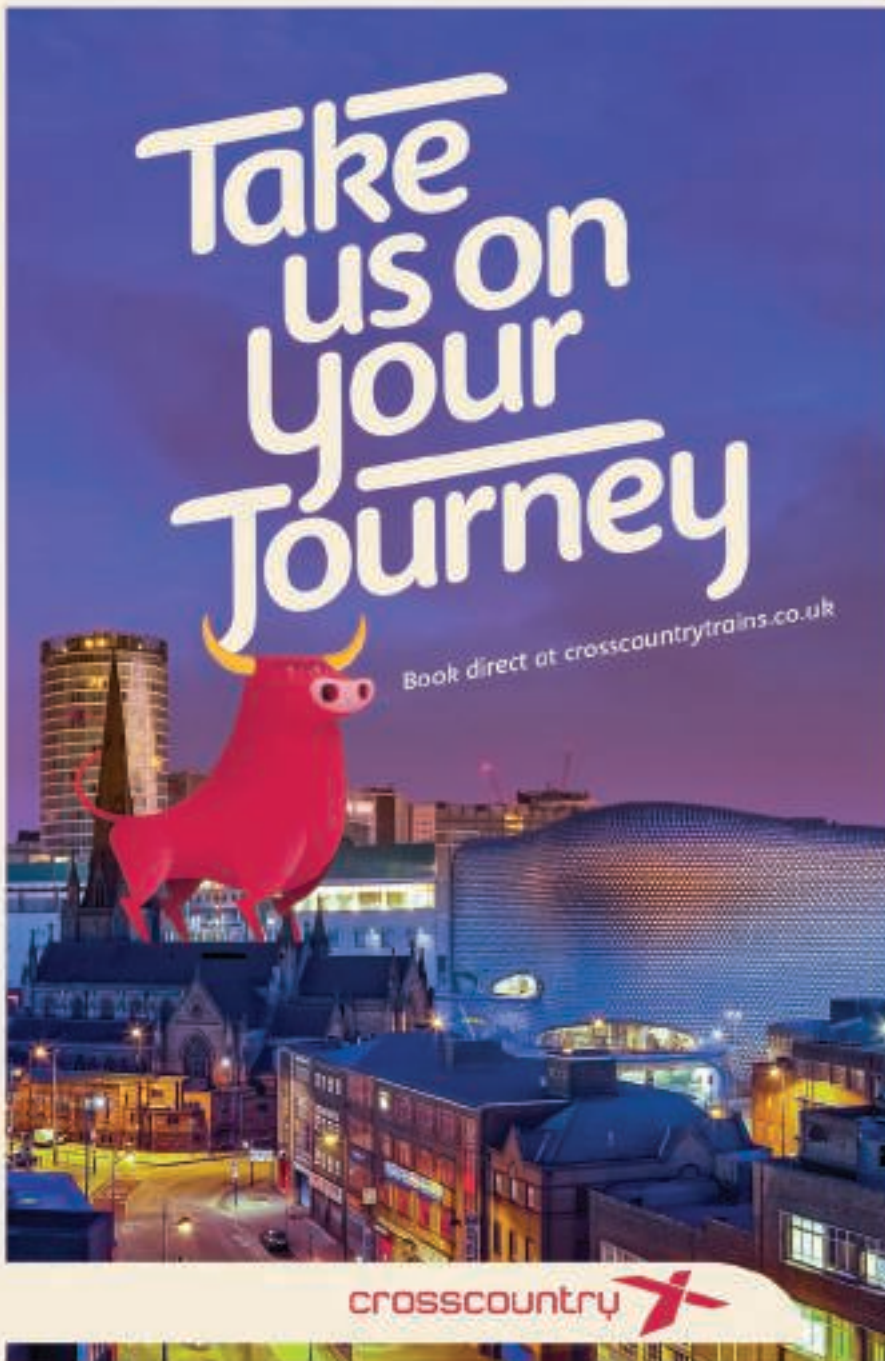
Lady Sings The Blues presents the music of Billie Holiday chronologically through the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s using many of the original arrangements. It is the closest that any of us will ever get to hearing that tremendous repertoire performed live, properly, just as it was when it was first performed all those years ago.

"Val Wiseman gave an uncanny reproduction of the Holiday sound and style. Arrangements are based on the original records, but with solos often surpassing the old masters" - *The Guardian*



Show Starts: 19:30 • Admission: £21.50 • [www.suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com/events](http://www.suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com/events/enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com)  
[enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com](mailto:enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com) • 0121 296 9543

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Upper Clifton Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, B73 6DA





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CONSERVATOIRE

# LIVE AT EASTSIDE JAZZ CLUB

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of the scene, and soak up the  
laid-back vibes of Birmingham's  
only purpose-built jazz club

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Birmingham City University

## PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Our Festival Photographer MERLIN DALEMAN works for two Dutch daily newspapers, undertakes commissions worldwide, has recently produced a book looking at Britain post-Brexit and is twice winner of the Silver Camera Award for best documentary photographer in the Netherlands. On Tuesday 22nd July at Hilton Garden Inn he will conduct a free workshop open to photographers and aspirant photographers of all levels.

**11:00**  
HILTON GARDEN INN  
**PHOTOGRAPHY  
WORKSHOP WITH  
MERLIN DALEMAN**

**12:30**  
WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND  
**WARREN JAMES  
SKIFFLE GROUP**

**13:00**  
TOKIN TEA, SUTTON  
COLDFIELD  
**DJANGO CHUTNEY**

**13:30**  
SNOBS: HENRY'S  
BLUESHOUSE  
**LEARN TO PLAY THE  
CIGAR BOX GUITAR  
WITH CHICKENBONE  
JOHN WORKSHOP**

**14:00**  
SNOBS: HENRY'S  
BLUESHOUSE  
**CHICKENBONE JOHN  
& HARMONICA DAVE**

**16:15**  
SNOBS: HENRY'S  
BLUESHOUSE  
**THE MISSISSIPPI  
SAXOPHONE: STUART  
MAXWELL TALKS  
BULLETS, AND BENDS**

**16:30**  
ALBERT'S SCHLOSS,  
PARADISE  
**SWING CAFÉ**

**17:00**  
SNOBS: HENRY'S  
BLUESHOUSE  
**STUART MAXWELL'S  
BLUES RAIDERS**

**19:30**  
GREAT BRIDGE LIBRARY  
**DJANGO CHUTNEY**

**19:30**  
ALOFT BIRMINGHAM  
EASTSIDE  
**ANVIL CHORUS**

## FESTIVAL INFORMATION POINT

Snoobs on Broad Street is the focal point for much activity during the Jazz Festival. It is the home of one of the most important elements in the Festival, an Information Point where punters can pick up programmes and get the latest information.

**19:30**  
TEMPER AND BROWN,  
JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**WARREN JAMES  
SKIFFLE GROUP**

**20:00**  
SNOBS: HENRY'S  
BLUESHOUSE  
**STEVE YOUNG & THE  
REAL TIME PLAYERS**

**41<sup>ST</sup> BIRMINGHAM  
JAZZ &  
BLUES FESTIVAL**  
JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> 2025

SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL VIA GOFUNDME



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
CHARLIE MOORE ON 0121 454 7020 OR  
EMAIL [CHARLIE@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM](mailto:CHARLIE@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM)



### St Martin's Rag Market

Offering a mix of the latest fashions – hats, bags, fabrics, haberdashery, gifts, cosmetics, a wide range of household goods and mobile repairs & accessories – it's a real Aladdin's cave.  
**Open from 9am to 5pm (Tue, Thu & Fri) and 9am to 5.30pm (Sat)**

### Bull Ring Open Market

A vast array of fruit and vegetables, tasty cheese and farm fresh eggs, along with a wide choice of fabrics, handbags, jewellery and other household essentials.  
**Open from 9am to 5pm (Tue to Fri) and 9am to 5.30pm (Sat)**

### Bull Ring Indoor Market

An exotic mix of fresh meat, fish and produce to suit all tastes – along with bedding, fabrics, casual dining and mobile repairs & accessories.  
**Open from 9am to 5.30pm (Mon to Sat)**



**ALWAYS FULL OF FRESH IDEAS**

All information about events, musicians and venues is correct at the time of going to print. The Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival is not responsible for any necessary changes. However, the Festival will endeavour to inform festival-goers as soon as possible and to provide equivalent replacements.

**12:00**  
 THE EXCHANGE  
**DJANGO CHUTNEY**

**12:30**  
 WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND  
**JAMIE THYER & THE WORRIED MEN**

**12:30**  
 MOSELEY ALL SERVICES CLUB  
**THE BIRMINGHAM BIG BAND WITH SUZI WOODS**  
 £8

**13:00**  
 MILITARY CHEF, SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**JOHN HEMMING AND THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

**13:00**  
 THINKTANK  
**SIMON SPILLETT QUARTET**  
 USUAL RATES APPLY

**13:00**  
 NEW SQUARE, WEST BROMWICH  
**JAKE LEG JUG BAND**

**15:00**  
 SOLIHULL VILLAGE  
**SWING CAFÉ**

**17:00**  
 THE SHIRES, MOSELEY  
**JOHN HEMMING & THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

**19:30**  
 CRADLEY HEATH LIBRARY  
**ART THEMEN QUARTET**

**19:30**  
 THE THREE TUNS, SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**VERONICA & MAX (ITALY)**

**19:30**  
 ALOFT BIRMINGHAM EASTSIDE  
**DJANGO CHUTNEY**

Art Themen



**20:00**  
 CBSO CENTRE  
**MIHO HAZAMA (JAPAN/USA)**  
 £12

**20:00**  
 SNOBS  
**SIMON SPILLETT QUARTET**

**21:00**  
 THE JAM HOUSE, JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND**

### PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR FESTIVAL

YOUR DONATION WILL HELP THIS IMPORTANT, MOSTLY FREE, MULTI-PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL SURVIVE.

NO MATTER HOW SMALL, YOUR DONATION IS IMPORTANT.

PAY BY CHEQUE PAYABLE TO BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL OR BY CARD, PHONE 0121 454 7020

### RPM ANALOGUE AUDIO

In the unlikely event of any Festival-goers being left with time on their hands, a visit to RPM Analogue Audio in Sandon Road, Bearwood, can be recommended. The shop, run by Richard P. March of Pop Will Eat Itself, specialises in vintage hi-fi equipment and boasts a spectacular range of audio equipment.

# ORCHESTRAL MUSIC THAT'S RIGHT UP YOUR STREET

**GBSO**  
City of  
Birmingham  
Symphony  
Orchestra

ADVENTUROUS

CALMING

COMFORTING

FEEL-GOOD

MOVING

POWERFUL

REFLECTIVE

ROMANTIC



**2025-26  
SEASON**

**FIND YOUR GBSO**  
**GBSO.CO.UK**

**10:00**  
NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE  
**STRICTLY JITTERBUG**

**11:00**  
THE EXCHANGE  
**VERONICA & MAX (ITALY)**

**12:30**  
WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND  
**ART THEMEN QUARTET**

**12:30**  
THE CAKE SOLUTION,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**THE WALTER SMITTY  
TRIO**

**13:00**  
BLAKESLEY HALL  
**DJANGO CHUTNEY**  
£3.50

**13:00**  
EDGBASTON STADIUM  
(LUNCH)  
**SHEILA WATERFIELD  
QUARTET**

**14:00**  
NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE  
**JAKE LEG JUG BAND**

## BEARS VERSUS PEARS

The third day of the County Championship match between Warwickshire and Worcestershire (July 24th) is also the place to go for jazz and blues, with the Tom Dollery Room hosting music in the breaks in the action – and hoping for no extra breaks for rain!



Back on the Road

**15:50**  
EDGBASTON STADIUM  
(TEA)  
**SHEILA WATERFIELD  
QUARTET**

**17:00**  
DISHOOM, PARADISE  
**WALTER SMITTY  
& THE UNVIABLES**

**17:30**  
LEE LONGLANDS  
**JAMIE THYER & THE  
WORRIED MEN**

**19:00**  
HILTON GARDEN INN  
**ART THEMEN QUARTET**

**19:00**  
THE LORD CLIFDEN,  
JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**RICH DICKINSON'S  
DRIVING FORCE**

**19:30**  
GREAT BARR LIBRARY  
**BACK ON THE ROAD**

**20:00**  
SNOBS  
**DJANGO CHUTNEY**

**20:00**  
THE JUNCTION  
**JUST DOIN' IT**

**20:00**  
ROCK AND ROLL  
BREWHOUSE,  
JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**VERONICA & MAX (ITALY)**

**20:00**  
KING'S ARMS PUB  
& INDIAN GRILL,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**JAKE LEG JUG BAND**

Performances are free unless denoted otherwise. In restaurant performances accepted etiquette may apply in terms of purchasing food.

## KEEP INFORMED

Send your email address to [festival@bigbearmusic.com](mailto:festival@bigbearmusic.com) to go on the free e-bulletin list.

# ONE-DAY MINI MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July

10:00AM

## EVERYBODY HAS A VOICE

Join us at Millennium Point for a free, fun singing workshop with Tipitina's Debbie Jones. Open to all ages and abilities, with a group performance to follow.



1:00PM

## ONE-DAY BLUES JAM

Four incredible acts delivering full-length sets, all for free! The unmissable line-up features the Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band, Tipitina, Chickenbone John & Harmonica Dave, and Slide Boy Roy.



**FREE ADMISSION**

BOOK TO GUARANTEE YOUR SPACE AT [MILLENNIUMPOINT.ORG.UK](http://MILLENNIUMPOINT.ORG.UK)

12:30

CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE,  
PARADISE  
**BD LENZ (USA)**

13:00

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM  
& ART GALLERY  
**HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX**

17:00

THE BRASSHOUSE  
**ALAN BARNES QUARTET**

17:00

SNOBS  
**HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX**

17:30

HIPPODROME SQUARE  
**MARTIN BURCH BAND**

17:30

REP CAFÉ BAR  
**SUNJAY**

18:00

MAILBOX  
**PLAYING DJANGO**

18:30

WOLVERHAMPTON  
ART GALLERY  
**WORKSHOP: LEARN  
TO PLAY CIGAR  
BOX GUITAR WITH  
CHICKENBONE JOHN**

18:30

COTE, SOLIHULL  
**JAKE HENRY**

18:30

COSY CLUB,  
BRINDLEYPLACE  
**JUMP JIVE & WAIL**

19:00

1000 TRADES  
ON THE PARK  
**THE BUSKETEERS  
PLUS ALAN WARDEN**

19:00

BACCHUS BAR  
**SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN  
& ANDY HISEMAN**

19:00

DARTMOUTH  
CENTRAL CLUB  
**WALTER SMITTY DUO**

19:00

WEDNESBURY MUSEUM  
AND ART GALLERY  
**VEE-JAY KING  
& HIS DUKES**

19:30

BARBARA'S BIER HAUS  
**JUST DOIN' IT**

**A Very Special  
Thanks To  
MARK THOMAS**

19:30

IBIS BIRMINGHAM CENTRE  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

19:30

BLEAKHOUSE LIBRARY  
**SWING CAFÉ**

19:30

WOLVERHAMPTON  
ART GALLERY  
**CHICKENBONE JOHN**

19:30

SUTTON COLDFIELD  
TOWN HALL  
**KING PLEASURE  
& THE BISCUIT BOYS**  
£19.50

Photo by  
Merlin Daleman



Alan Barnes

**FESTIVAL HOTEL**

The Festival is extremely grateful to Eastside Rooms in Woodcock Street, near Millennium Point, for serving as the Festival Hotel, accommodating overnight musicians who are staying overnight. In addition it will host a series of concerts during the Festival.

**10:00**  
MILLENNIUM POINT  
**WORKSHOP:**  
**EVERYBODY HAS A**  
**VOICE WORKSHOP WITH**  
**DEBBIE JONES AND**  
**JUSTIN RANDALL**

**11:00**  
BIRMINGHAM  
INDOOR MARKET  
**JUMP JIVE & WAIL**

**12:00**  
SELFRIDGES  
**HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX**

**12:00**  
MILLENNIUM POINT  
**EVERYBODY HAS A**  
**VOICE - PERFORMANCE**

**12:00**  
WEDNESBURY MUSEUM  
AND ART GALLERY  
**ALAN BARNES**  
**& DAVE NEWTON**

**12:00**  
CAFFE NERO  
**YOU'RE NEVER ALONE**  
**WITH A UKE**

**13:00**  
BULLRING RAG MARKET  
**ROY FORBES TRIO**

**13:00**  
MILLENNIUM POINT  
**HONEYBOY HICKLING**  
**BLUES BAND**

**13:00**  
SAREHOLE MILL  
**FLORENCE JOELLE**  
**(FRANCE)**  
£3.50

**14:00**  
BIRMINGHAM MARKETS  
CUSTOMER CENTRE  
**PLAYING DJANGO**

**14:00**  
SELFRIDGES  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

**14:00**  
BOTANICAL GARDENS  
**BRUCE ADAMS QUARTET**  
£9 ADULTS, £6 CHILDREN  
AGED 5-16, FREE  
ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN  
AGED 4 AND UNDER

**15:00**  
ASH, SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**HANNAH BRINE**

**15:15**  
MILLENNIUM POINT  
**TIPITINA**

**16:00**  
ERDINGTON HIGH STREET  
NEAR OIKOS CAFE  
**LAZY FIFTY**  
**(NEW ZEALAND)**

**17:00**  
SNOBS  
**MIKE DAVIDS BAND**

**17:00**  
THE BRASSHOUSE  
**HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX**

**17:30**  
HIPPODROME SQUARE  
**JUMP JIVE & WAIL**

**17:30**  
MILLENNIUM POINT  
**CHICKENBONE JOHN**  
**& HARMONICA DAVE**

**18:00**  
DELTA HOTELS  
BY MARRIOTT  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

**18:00**  
THE QUEENS ARMS,  
JEWELLERY QUARTER  
**JOHN HEMMING & THE**  
**JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

**18:30**  
NEW INN, HARBORNE  
**FLORENCE JOELLE**  
**(FRANCE)**

**19:30**  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
TOWN HALL  
**LADY SINGS THE BLUES**  
**FEATURING VAL WISEMAN**  
[VOCALS], **BRUCE ADAMS**  
[TRUMPET], **IAN BATEMAN**  
[TROMBONE], **ALAN**  
**BARNES** [SAXOPHONE/  
CLARINET], **DAVE NEWTON**  
[PIANO], **DAVE GREEN**  
[BASS] **AND STEVE**  
**BROWN** [DRUMS]  
£21.50

**19:30**  
WEST BROMWICH  
CENTRAL LIBRARY  
**HANNAH BRINE**

**WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL**

The Festival welcomes the involvement for the first time of Wolverhampton Council. As the Festival expands its reach, Wolverhampton (on the tram route) is well within the scope of Birmingham festival-goers. The museum, the Arts Centre and Bamford House are the Wolverhampton venues for the Festival.

**19:45**  
MILLENNIUM POINT  
**SLIDE BOY ROY**

**20:00**  
FIGHTING COCKS,  
MOSELEY  
**SMOKIN' ESKIMO**

**20:00**  
THE WELLINGTON  
**HONEYBOY HICKLING**  
**& BOB WILSON**

Hannah Brine

Photo by  
Genevieve Girling**MUSICIANS UNION**

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

As always the Festival is particularly grateful for the support, financial and otherwise, of the Musicians' Union, especially after such a difficult time for musicians, event organisers and the union itself.

Chickenbone John

Photo by  
Merlin Dalemán

**12:00**  
SELFRIDGES  
**TIPITINA (DUO)**

**13:00**  
LEE LONGLANDS  
**ALAN BARNES QUARTET**

**13:00**  
OLD JOINT STOCK  
**ALFIE WEINBERG**

**13:00**  
BANTOCK HOUSE,  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
**ROY FORBES QUARTET**

**13:00**  
ASTON HALL  
**BRUCE ADAMS QUARTET**  
USUAL RATES APPLY

**14:00**  
SELFRIDGES  
**HIT PARADE HEROES**

**14:00**  
LONGBRIDGE VILLAGE  
**BACKYARD MUSIC BOYS**

## FAIR DEAL MUSIC

Fair Deal Music, supplier of equipment to the Festival, is Birmingham's largest independent music brand. Based at 79-83 Holloway Head, Fair Deal can also be reached on **0121 643 1685** and online at [www.fairdealmusic.co.uk](http://www.fairdealmusic.co.uk) [www.genesisradiobirmingham.com](http://www.genesisradiobirmingham.com)

**14:00**  
HADEN HILL HOUSE  
**CHICKENBONE JOHN & HARMONICA DAVE**

**14:00**  
BOTANICAL GARDENS  
**MARTIN BURCH BAND**  
£9 ADULTS, £6 CHILDREN  
AGED 5-16, FREE  
ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN  
AGED 4 AND UNDER

**14:00**  
THE BOTTLE OF SACK,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**STUART MAXWELL'S  
BLUES RAIDERS**

**14:00**  
COTE, SOLIHULL  
**TOM LINDSAY**

**15:00**  
THE SCHOOL YARD,  
HARBORNE (C/O BOSTON  
TEA PARTY, KOI KI & THE  
MARTIN JAMES GROUP)  
**THE UPTOWN JUKES**

**15:00**  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
ARTS CENTRE  
**HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX**

**15:00**  
THE BRASSHOUSE  
**THE SAX PISTOLS**

**16:45**  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
ARTS CENTRE  
**JUMP JIVE & WAIL**

**17:00**  
ALL BAR ONE  
**BRUCE ADAMS QUARTET**

**17:30**  
MYTHOS  
**WALTER SMITTY  
& THE UNVIABLES**

**18:00**  
O NEILL'S BROAD STREET  
**TIPITINA**

**19:00**  
THE LORD CLIFDEN  
**HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX**

**19:00**  
THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY  
**HIT PARADE HEROES**

**19:00**  
THE STATION,  
SUTTON COLDFIELD  
**STUART MAXWELL'S  
BLUES RAIDERS**

**20:00**  
SNOBS  
**JUMP JIVE & WAIL**

## PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR FESTIVAL

YOUR DONATION WILL  
HELP THIS IMPORTANT,  
MOSTLY FREE,  
MULTI-PERFORMANCE  
FESTIVAL SURVIVE.

NO MATTER HOW  
SMALL, YOUR DONATION  
IS IMPORTANT.

PAY BY CHEQUE PAYABLE  
TO BIRMINGHAM JAZZ  
& BLUES FESTIVAL  
OR BY CARD, PHONE  
0121 454 7020

## KEEP INFORMED

Send your email address to [festival@bigbearmusic.com](mailto:festival@bigbearmusic.com)  
to go on the free e-bulletin list.

## GENESIS RADIO BIRMINGHAM

Genesis Radio Birmingham is unique in being community-based and designed to serve as a hub to provide training to groups within the community. It provides a platform on which all who need it can make their voices heard. Honesty, openness and balance are key to GRB's approach which reaches out to all regardless of age, culture, ethnic background, religion or class.

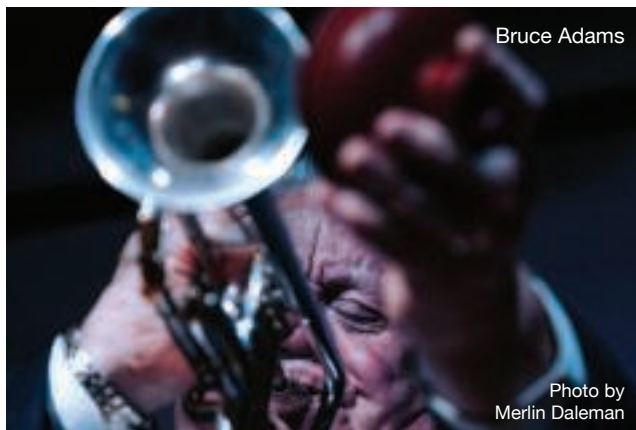
In addition GRB is an active supporter of the Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival and is due to schedule live outside broadcasts.

## MANY THANKS TO BIDS

The Festival is grateful for the co-operation and involvement of the Sutton Coldfield BID, the Jewellery Quarter BID, the Erdington BID and the Southside BID.

## SELFRIIDGE'S

Another splendid newcomer to the Festival is Selfridge's store in the Bull Ring. Four shows over the last weekend represents a major commitment by Selfridge's.



Bruce Adams

Photo by  
Merlin Daleman



Hit Parade Heroes



Jump, Jive & Wail

## 1000 TRADES ON THE PARK

Lightwoods Park,  
Bearwood, B67 5DP  
0121 638 0451

## AC HOTEL BIRMINGHAM

The Mailbox, B1 1RL  
0121 643 9344

## ALBERT'S SCHLOSS

Paradise, B3 1EH  
0121 314 8858

## ALEXANDRA THEATRE, PIANO BAR

Suffolk Street Queensway, B5 4DS  
0333 009 6690

## ALL BAR ONE

Brindleyplace, B1 2HL  
0121 643 3157

## ALOFT BIRMINGHAM EASTSIDE

4 Woodcock St, Birmingham B7 4BL  
0121 820 6000

## ASH, SUTTON COLDFIELD

8 Birmingham Road, B72 1QD  
0121 805 1925

## ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, B6 6JD  
0121 348 8000

## BACCHUS BAR

Burlington Arcade, B2 4JH  
0121 632 5445

## BANTOCK HOUSE

Finchfield Road,  
Wolverhampton WV9 1LQ  
01902 552195

## BARBARA'S BIER HAUS

195, 196 Broad Street, B15 1SU  
0121 387 5675

## BIRMINGHAM MARKET CUSTOMER CENTRE

Edgbaston Street, B5 4QL  
0121 303 0250

## BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH  
0121 348 8000

## BIRMINGHAM INDOOR MARKET

50 Edgbaston Street, B5 4RQ  
0121 303 0208

## BLACKHEATH LIBRARY

145 High Street, Blackheath,  
B65 0EA  
0121 569 4920

## BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, B25 8RN  
0121 348 8000

## BLEAKHOUSE LIBRARY

Bleakhouse Road, Oldbury B68 9DS  
0121 569 4923

## BOTANICAL GARDENS

Westbourne Road, B15 3TR  
0121 454 1860

## BOURNVILLE GARDENS VILLAGE

49 Bristol Rd S, Bournville B31 2FR  
0121 227 9000

## BRASSHOUSE

44 Broad Street B1 2HP  
0121 633 3383

## BROMWICH HALL

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich  
B71 2EA  
0121 588 2985

## BULLRING RAG MARKET

Edgbaston Street, B5 4RB  
0121 303 0208

## CAFFE NERO

Brindleyplace, B1 2JB  
0121 643 4572

## CBSO CENTRE

Berkley St, Birmingham B1 2LF  
0121 616 6500

## CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE

Paradise, B3 3AX  
0121 780 3333

## CORE THEATRE CAFÉ

Touchwood, Solihull B91 3RG  
0121 704 6962

## COSY CLUB

Brindleyplace, B1 2HL  
0121 546 0438

## CÔTE

142 High St, Solihull B91 3SX  
0121 828 4848

## CRADLEY HEATH LIBRARY

Upper High Street, B64 5JU  
0121 569 4926

## DARTMOUTH CENTRAL CLUB

Devonshire Drive, West Bromwich  
B71 4AA  
0121 553 1927

## DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT

12 Hagley Road, B16 8SJ  
0121 452 1144

## DISHOOM

Paradise B3 3AX  
0121 809 5986

## EARLSDON PARK VILLAGE

Albany Road, Coventry CV5 6JQ  
024 7771 8000

## EDGBASTON STADIUM

Edgbaston Rd, B5 7QU  
0330 551 1994

## FIGHTING COCKS

1 St Mary's Row, Moseley, B13 8HW  
0121 449 0811

## GREAT BARR LIBRARY

Birmingham Road, B43 6PF  
0121 569 4929

## GREAT BRIDGE LIBRARY

Sheepwash Lane, Tipton DY4 7JF  
0121 569 4930

## HADEN HILL HOUSE

Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath  
B64 7JU  
01384 569444

## HEAVENLY DESSERTS

53 Birmingham Road,  
Sutton Coldfield, B72 1QF  
020 3770 7845

## HILTON GARDEN INN

Brindleyplace, B1 2HW  
0121 643 1003

## HIPPODROME SQUARE

Hurst Street, Southside, B5 4TB  
0121 622 5348

## IBIS BIRMINGHAM CENTRE

21 Ladywell Walk, B5 4ST  
0121 622 6010

## KING'S ARMS PUB & INDIAN GRILL

Coleshill Road, Sutton Coldfield,  
B75 7AA  
0121 824 6903

## LA BELLEZZA

Paradise, B3 3AX  
020 4578 4370

## LEE LONGLANDS

224 Broad Street, B15 1AZ  
0121 600 5400

## LIGHTWOODS HOUSE

Bearwood, B67 5DP  
0121 569 4141

## LONGBRIDGE VILLAGE

Austin Way, Rednal, B45 8TD  
0121 272 4000

## LORD CLIFDEN

34 Great Hampton St, B18 6AA  
07843 786575

## MAILBOX

B1 1RS  
0121 632 1000

## MARTINEAU GARDENS

27 Priory Rd, Birmingham B5 7UG  
0121 440 7430

## MILLENNIUM POINT

Curzon Street, B4 7XG  
0121 202 2200

## MILITARY CHEF

Gracechurch Shopping Centre,  
Sutton Coldfield B72 1PA  
info@militarychef.co.uk

## MOSELEY ALL SERVICES CLUB

91 Church Rd., B13 9EA  
0121 389 3766

## MYTHOS TAVERNA

Hurst Street, Birmingham B5 4TD  
0121 622 5298

## NEW INN

Harborne, B17 0DJ  
0121 792 6027

## NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE

25 Fosseway Drive, Chester Road  
B23 5LD  
0121 377 5000

## NEW SQUARE

Cronehills Linkway,  
West Bromwich B70 7PP  
0121 647 7040

## NOVOTEL

70 Broad Street, B1 2HT  
0121 619 9002

## NO 18 COFFEE HOUSE & WINE BAR

18 Lichfield St, Tamworth B79 7QD  
01827 64161

## O'NEILLS

Broad Street B1 2HG  
0121 616 1623

## OAK HOUSE

Oak Road, West Bromwich B70 8HJ  
0121 553 0759

## OIKOS CAFÉ

58 High Street Erdington, B23 6RH  
0121 663 1441

## OLD JOINT STOCK

4 Temple Row, B2 5NY  
0121 200 1892

## QUEENS ARMS, JEWELLERY QUARTER

150 Newhall St, B3 1RY  
0121 285 4803

## RED LION, JEWELLERY QUARTER

95 Warstone Lane, B18 6NG  
0121 233 9144

## RED LION, WEST BROMWICH

190 All Saints Way, B71 1RH  
0121 588 2304

## REP CAFÉ BAR

Centenary Square, B1 2EP  
0121 236 4455

## ROCK AND ROLL BREWHOUSE, JEWELLERY QUARTER

19 Hall St, B18 6BS  
07969 759649

## SAREHOLE MILL

Cole Bank Rd, B13 0BD  
0121 348 8160

## SELFRIDGES

The Bullring, B5 4BP  
0121 600 6629

## SILVER TREE BAKERY

Gracechurch Shopping Centre,  
Sutton Coldfield, B76 9BG  
0121 748 6455

## SNOBS

200 Broad Street, B15 1SU  
0121 643 5551

## SOLIHULL VILLAGE

Shirley, B90 3LP  
0121 289 1000

## SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL

Upper Clifton Road, B73 6DA  
0121 296 9543

## TEMPER & BROWN

12-13 Albion St, Jewellery Quarter  
B1 3ED  
0121 758 8634

## THE BOTTLE OF SACK

2 Birmingham Rd, The Parade,  
Sutton Coldfield B72 1QG  
0121 362 8870

## THE CAKE SOLUTION

Gracechurch Shopping Centre,  
Sutton Coldfield, B72 1PD  
0121 803 0910

## THE DUKE INN

12 Duke Street, Sutton Coldfield  
B72 1RJ  
0121 355 1767

## THE EXCHANGE

Centenary Square, B1 2DR  
07814 062 984

## THE GATE

34 Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72  
1TJ  
0121 272 5499

## THE JAM HOUSE

St Paul's Square,  
Jewellery Quarter B3 1QU  
0121 200 3030

## THE JUNCTION

212 High Street, Harborne B17 9PT  
0121 428 2635

## THE PATTY FREAKS

Gracechurch Shopping Centre,  
Sutton Coldfield, B72 1PH  
07398 765365

## THE SCHOOL YARD

104a High Street, Harborne, B17 9NJ  
0121 820 0099

## THE SHIRES

218 Wake Green Road, Moseley,  
B13 9PQ  
0121 449 4870

## THE STATION

Station Street, Sutton  
Coldfield B73 6AT  
0121 362 4961

## THE THREE TUNS

19 High St, Sutton Coldfield B72 1XS  
0121 355 2996

## THE WELLINGTON

37 Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN  
0121 269 4112

## THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY

Thimblemill Road, Smethwick,  
B67 5RJ  
0121 569 4943

## THINKTANK

Millennium Point, B4 7XG  
0121 348 8000

## TOKIN TEA

Gracechurch Shopping Centre,  
Sutton Coldfield, B72 1PA

## TOUCHWOOD, SOLIHULL

Homer Rd, B91 3GJ  
0121 709 6900

## WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND

Brindleyplace, B1 2JB  
0121 454 7020

## WEDNESBURY LIBRARY

Walsall Street, WS10 9EH  
0121 569 4945

## WEDNESBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Holyhead Road, WS10 7DF  
0121 556 0683

## WEST BROMWICH CENTRAL LIBRARY

316 High Street, B70 8DZ  
0121 569 4900

## WINTERBOURNE HOUSE & GARDEN

58 Edgbaston Park Road,  
Edgbaston B15 2RT  
0121 414 3003

## WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Lichfield Street, WV1 1DU  
01902 552055

## WOLVERHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE

Dunkley Street, WV1 4AN  
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### ALAN BARNES

One of the country's outstanding soloists, Alan Barnes' career has touched most of the bases, from his early years with the extremes of the Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Tommy Chase Quintet before settling into a band that perfectly fitted his talents: the Humphrey Lyttelton Band. In his years as a freelancer, he has picked up multiple British Jazz Awards as alto and baritone saxist, clarinetist, arranger and composer, in recent years producing suite after suite for his octet, most recently *Copperfield*, his latest Dickens offering. His association with Dave Newton in duo format has produced some glorious sessions – and just for a change he comes to Birmingham fresh from leading an Art Pepper tribute at Buxton. Alan's hugely varied recording career includes many releases on his own label, Woodville. At the Festival expect to hear him as part of the all-star *Lady Sings the Blues* band as well as leading his own quartet.

### ALFIE WEINBERG

Alfie Weinberg is 20 years old, from Birmingham, and is a classical and jazz violinist. He is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Joshua Fisher. He also had offers to study at the

Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he was offered a scholarship. Alfie started learning the violin at the age of 3, and achieved his Grade 8 with distinction when he was 12. He was a member of the Young Strings Project at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire between the ages of 6 and 9, before studying at Chetham's School of Music until the age of 16.

Alfie enjoys playing as a soloist, in chamber ensembles and orchestras and has been a member of the National Children's Orchestra and the CBSO Youth Orchestra, and now regularly plays with the Royal Academy Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist he has performed at Manchester Cathedral, The Saville Club, Stoller Hall and has twice been invited to perform at Newcastle City Hall.

Alfie's love of jazz began when he was 13 and since this time, alongside his classical studies, he has been having jazz violin lessons with Tim Kliphuis, and more recently with Chris Garrick. Over the years, he has also had a number of masterclasses with Nigel Kennedy. He regularly takes part in jazz jams in London and this will be the third year that Alfie will be taking



Alfie Weinberg

part in the Birmingham Jazz and Blues festival. He also enjoys playing piano and composing his own music.

### ANVIL CHORUS

The barber shop group, the Anvil Chorus, has appeared at the Jazz & Blues Festival for many years. 'Anvil Chorus' is the stage name for the West Midlands Barbershop Harmony Club which formed in 1977, is based in Great Barr and it's members are delighted to be a part of the 41st year of the festival.

The Chorus which performs mostly standard four-part barbershop arrangements, meets every Tuesday evening at the Beacon Church in Pheasey and guests and potential new members are always welcome. As a registered charity the Chorus supports the work of many

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other charities around the West Midlands in their fund-raising activities and competes in local Music Festivals - most recently in Dudley where the Chorus won the trophy with a 'Distinction' result from the Adjudicator. The Music Director is Victor Wong who is a multi-talented leader and coach, supported by two experienced Assistant Directors, Andy Foster and Guy Dowling.

### ART THEMEN QUARTET

Over 60 years since he first made his mark with the Cambridge University Jazz Band, tenor and soprano saxist Art Themen is still picking up accolades. He recently received a lifetime achievement award from the Worshipful Company of Musicians and was shortlisted for Jazz Musician of the Year in the Parliamentary Jazz Awards. A high-profile career working with the likes of Alexis Korner, Stan Tracey and such American giants as Charlie Rouse, Nat Adderley, Bud Shank, Sal Nistico, Arturo Sandoval and Red Rodney happened alongside his work as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon.

Since his retirement Art has become even more active on the British jazz scene, recording with different groups including his organ trio, and astonishing everyone with his mastery of his

### AUDIENCE SURVEYS

We are always grateful for the response of Festival-goers to volunteers bringing round surveys for them to complete. For a mostly free festival it is essential to raise funds elsewhere and impressive survey returns are a key factor in this process. Audience surveys thus play a highly important part in maintaining the high standard of Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival.

Festival-goers are welcome to express their views directly by going to [www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/survey](http://www.birminghamjazzfestival.com/survey).

instruments at the age of 85. David Lyons wrote of him a few months ago, 'Art played like a young man with intensity and joy.' We take his point, though where you could find a young man who plays like Art is a mystery!

'Themen is one of the very few totally original, utterly engaging jazz musicians around.' - Dave Gelly, *The Observer*

### BACK ON THE ROAD

Back on the Road have built their considerable reputation as real crowd pleasers by delivering their own versions of rock, pop and blues classic repertoire. This invariably fills venues and gets folk on their feet dancing and singing the lyrics on the way home.

Back on the Road are Tony O'Brien (vocals), Richard Fedeski (piano), Ray Sweeney (guitar), Stevie Barr (guitar) and Bill Jefferson (drums).

### B.D. LENZ (U.S.A.)

'Part of the reason for his accessibility is that he not only fuses jazz and rock, he complements it with warm chords of funk, soul and rhythm and blues.' - *New York Times*

New Jersey native, guitarist B.D. Lenz, brings together the styles of Pat Metheny, Mike Stern and Stevie Ray Vaughan and has released 13 acclaimed albums featuring the likes of Mike Stern and Randy Brecker. He is engaged on his annual visit to the UK (taking in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Luxemburg this year) with his band members James Rosocha and Joe Falcey, but is already well known internationally for his music being used in television shows such as *Breaking Bad* and *Young Sheldon*.

'Lenz transitions from fleet and nimble to heavy and funky, maintaining interest throughout with an intriguing sonic palette.' - *Jazziz*

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**BEN TOURY (FRANCE)**

Benjamin Toury was born in La Châtre on January 20, 1982. When he was about 4-5 years old, while his bluesman father performed on stage, backstage, Benjamin dabbled on a small keyboard. From then on he developed a flourishing concert career, as a soloist and leader of various groups from duo upwards. In 2020, at the age of 38, he clocked up his 2500th concert.

In 2019, Ben toured the United States performing in Cincinnati (Cinci Blues Society) and at the Bloomington boogie festival.

In 2020, the CD, Ben Toury Live was released. Though concerts come to a halt during Covid, Ben now plans to record *Wild Boogie* volume 3 which focuses mainly on Boogie dance.

Ben's stylistic originality is asserted: a subtle mix of classical and Arabic sounding scales, based on contemporary rhythms. An energetic and efficient stage musician with a sound experience, his virtuoso playing thrills the theatres and festivals where he performs.

**BIRMINGHAM BIG BAND**

Playing a mixture of popular and contemporary big band jazz, The Birmingham Big Band, led by John Ruddick and powered by the drumming of Gary Allcock, play a quarterly gig

at Moseley All Services Club, with such guests over the years as Jools Holland, Annie Lennox and Elton John.

**BOO HEWERDINE**

Boo Hewerdine, born Mark Hewerdine on February 14, 1961, in London, England, is a renowned English singer-songwriter, musician, and producer whose career spans more than four decades. Known for his poetic lyrics, warm voice, and understated musical style, originally with indie band The Bibe, Hewerdine has become one of the most respected and sought-after songwriters in the UK.

Hewerdine is also widely admired for his work with other artists. He is best known for his long-standing collaboration with Eddi Reader, the former lead singer of Fairground Attraction. Hewerdine wrote many of her signature songs, including *Patience of Angels*, which became a top 40 hit and was nominated for the prestigious Ivor Novello Award.

Beyond Reader, he has written for and collaborated with artists such as K.D. Lang, Natalie Imbruglia, Darden Smith, Melanie C, Chris Difford (of Squeeze), and David McAlmont. His songwriting is often described as tender, literate, and emotionally resonant.

**BRUCE ADAMS**

Bruce Adams' spectacular technique and ferocity of attack have made him an indispensable part of Birmingham Jazz Festivals. In the last couple of years Bruce's legendary richness of tone has been enhanced by his partnership with Eclipse Trumpets, providing him with a trumpet, a flugel and a cornet.

In a long freelance career Bruce has worked with many of the greats from both sides of the Atlantic, with Birmingham fans treasuring the memory of his high-note wizardry with Kenny Baker's Dozen. He has brought lyricism as well as iron-lunged thrills to many recordings, recently in a duo setting with Craig Milverton on *Keepin' Out of Mischief Now*. For many people he is known for his long association with Alan Barnes, from their classic quintet sessions in the 1990s to a featured role with Alan's Octet on sessions such as his *Copperfield Suite*. He appears at the Festival leading his incomparable attack to the swansong for *Lady Sings the Blues* and leading his own quartet,

**THE BUSKETEERS**

The Busketeers are Tim Martin and Billy Spakemon (of Black Country Radio) who offer a bit of this and more of that music. Black Country stalwarts, their previous gig was at the Black Country

Music Festival at Himley Hall. At the Festival they are joined by guest ALAN WARDEN.

## CHICK WREN'S ROLLIN' RIVER BAND

Chick Wren's Rollin' River Band was initially formed around the Millennium and three of the original members remain: Chick on lead vocals and guitar, Pete Walsh on lead guitar and vocals and Simon Neale on bass and vocals. Now with Mike Stone on drums and Jonathan Middle on keyboards, they play a mixture of soul, rhythm and blues and classic blues.

## CHICKENBONE JOHN WITH HARMONICA DAVE

The Godfather of the Cigar Box Guitar has built an international reputation for making and playing his cigar box guitars, re-creating the music of those Mississippi juke joints, starring in the BBC documentary *Cigar Box Blues*, organising the



annual Boxstock Festival and attracting the crowds at the UK's blues venues. With influences ranging from John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters to Ry Cooder and R.L. Burnside, Chickenbone John, alongside his long-time collaborator Harmonica Dave, is on a mission to keep those roots of the blues alive.

## DAVE GREEN

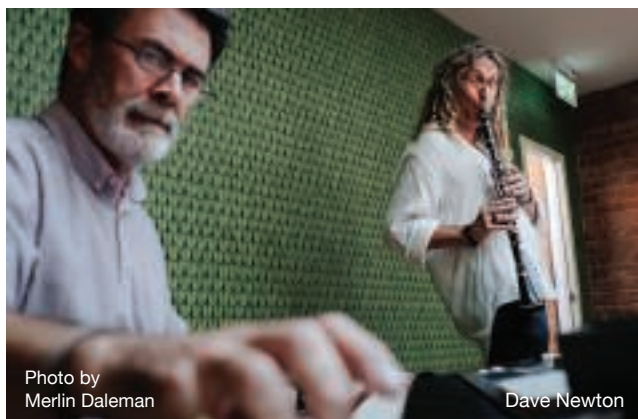
Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival has always been noted for the superlative

nature of its rhythm teams and 2025 is no exception.

We are delighted to welcome back Dave Green, unquestionably the country's top bass player and a legend in jazz circles. A boyhood friendship with Charlie Watts led to a lifetime playing in his jazz groups. He also performed with many visiting Americans at Ronnie Scott's as well as spending many years in Humphrey Lyttelton's Band, working regularly with Stan Tracey and leading or co-leading Fingers and the ABC&D of Boogie Woogie. Now he is part of the magnificent rhythm team of Newton, Brown and Green, powering the all-star line-up of *Lady Sings the Blues* as well as appearing elsewhere in the Festival.

## DAVE NEWTON

16 times winner of the British Jazz Awards, Dave Newton is everyone's idea



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of the complete jazz pianist. From swinging stride piano to meditative improvisations to beautifully supportive accompaniments to singers, he has it all. From his emergence from Leeds College of Music in 1979, he instantly commanded a place at the top table of British jazz, a place he has shown no sign of vacating.

His recording career began at the top with Buddy De Franco and Martin Taylor and since then, beginning with Linn Records, he has built up a formidable catalogue, as leader and sideman. His association with Alan Barnes has produced superb performances and the singers he has accompanied are a list of the best in British and American jazz: Carol Kidd, Marion Montgomery, Tina May, Annie Ross, Claire Martin, Stacey Kent – and, of course, Val Wiseman who Dave joins as part of the all-star line-up for *Lady Sings the Blues*.

### DELTA ACES

The Delta Aces are an acoustic blues duo from Staffordshire consisting of harmonica player Paul Appleton and singer/songwriter Steve Luff. Stand by for what Soar Sound Radio called 'an authentic take on classic blues.'



### DJANGO CHUTNEY

Django Chutney are a trio from Brighton made up of two guitars and a bass fiddle.

Their eclectic sound ranges from frantic manouche swing, mellow three part harmony jazz, ridiculous guitar show-offery, violently slapped bass solos, the occasional Black Sabbath cover, chaotic energy and much more.

### FAT CHOPS BIG BAND

The long-established Fat Chops Big Band, now under the control of John Riddick

Junior, has developed into one of the most exciting big bands in the country. With a repertoire from such jazz greats as Buddy Rich, Woody Herman and Bob Brookmeyer, plus British stars such as Allan Ganley and Mark Nightingale and band members Martin Williams and Kevin Wedrychowski, they play monthly gigs with guest stars such as Callum Au, Sheila Waterfield and Matt Ford. At the Festival Fat Chops Big Band is joined by LOUISE CLARE MARSHALL.



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Florence Joelle

#### FLORENCE JOELLE (FRANCE)

Florence Joelle is a Paris-born jazz singer, songwriter, harmonica player, and recording artist based in London, where she is a favourite performer across the city. Bred on jazz at home, and on the music of the Paris streets, she has created a musical subgenre all of her own with her albums, *Kiss Of Fire*, *Stealing Flowers* and *Life Is Beautiful If You Let It*, a Franco-Anglo blend of Latin and classic jazz, vintage and contemporary blues, gypsy folk, fifties R&B and Parisian torch song.

Joelle's authentic, organic sound, although deeply rooted in the past, vibrates in the present. Classic jazz, French chanson and old-style R&B happily rub shoulders in her compositions.

A record collector from an early age, Florence also freelances for various catalogue as a record label consultant. She has reissued and compiled over a hundred titles.

'Akin to a glass of fizz, with Joelle's joie de vivre coursing through the album's 10 tracks.' *Record Collector\*\*\*\**

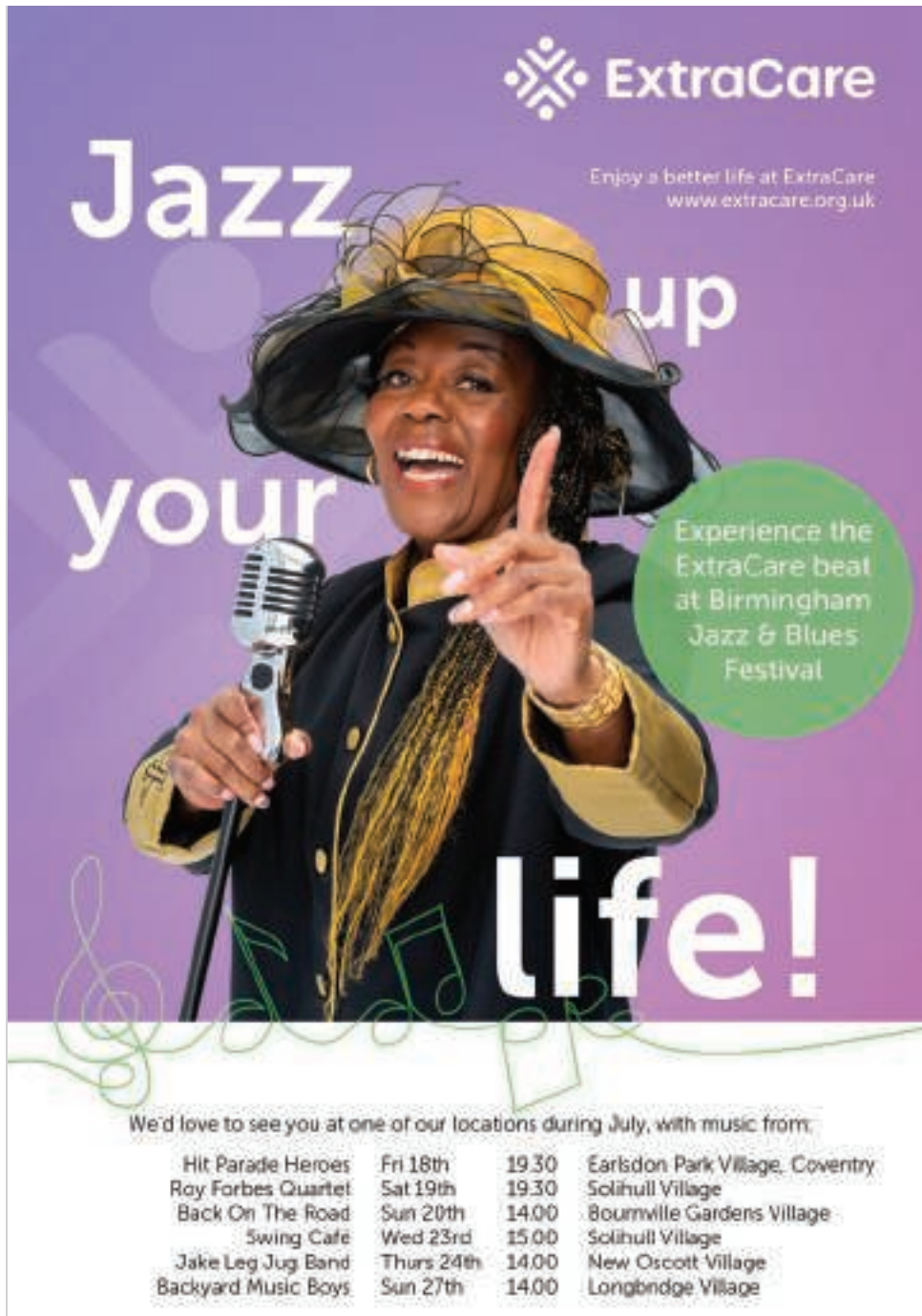
'All of Joelle's songs have a point delivered in a laid back manner with an eye, and an ear, for the underdog, and her tight-knit band support her well.' *Marlbank*

#### GIANNI TBAY (ITALY)

Hailing from Torino, Italy, The Blues Against Youth is the stage name for the country blues one man band led and operated by the multi instrumentalist Gianni TBAY who sings, plays guitar, hi-hat and bassdrum simultaneously.

#### MIHO HAZAMA

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has pulled off a major coup in securing the services of Miho Hazama for a concert at the CBSO Centre. A Grammy nominee for her album *Dancer in Number* with her group m\_unit, she was named as one of '25 for the future' by *Downbeat*. She combines the best of the classical and jazz worlds, having studied at Kunitachi Conservatoire (classical) and Manhattan School of Music (jazz). Her symphonic jazz brings a unique jazz sense to bear on her classical sensibilities and she is heavily in demand for classical orchestras and jazz ensembles. Her concert will mix modern jazz classics with her own compositions.



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Hit Parade Heroes	Fri 18th	19.30	Earlsdon Park Village, Coventry
Roy Forbes Quartet	Sat 19th	19.30	Solihull Village
Back On The Road	Sun 20th	14.00	Bournville Gardens Village
Swing Cafe	Wed 23rd	15.00	Solihull Village
Jake Leg Jug Band	Thurs 24th	14.00	New Oscott Village
Backyard Music Boys	Sun 27th	14.00	Longbridge Village

Primarily influenced by country blues and outlaw country genres, TBAY's sound has developed, over a 15 years career, in diverse directions, at times exploring John Fahey's primitive guitar, other times echoing the pre-war blues fathers' legacy and occasionally delving into the 90's garage blues vibes of Fat Possum and In The Red Records. Since 2009, TBAY has released six full length albums and several 7", toured extensively in all Europe, UK and part of the US, taken part in festivals like Binic Folk Festival, Relache Bordeaux, Time in Jazz and London Blues Festival sharing the stage with the likes of Watermelon Slim, CW Stoneking, Son Of Dave, Bob Log III, Popa Chubby and many others.

"Modern Country Blues are alive and well and living in Turin, Italy" *Americana UK*

### HANNAH BRINE

A rising star of the UK music scene, Hannah Brine has been likened to Norah Jones and Carole King. She delivers an exquisite selection of standards and covers alongside her own wonderful compositions. Last year her single, an original titled *Let Love Find You*, was a nod to her years fronting jazz bands and expresses



Gianni TBAY

her affinity with the Great American Songbook combined with her ability to create a timeless song.

Now she is just bringing out her first album, *Blue Sky Now*, with a major tour to follow, beginning at the Concorde Club, Eastleigh. Among dates before Birmingham, Hannah opened for Rumer at the Buxton International Festival.

### HIT PARADE HEROES

Following on the skiffle boom, British pop music of the 1950s and 1960s changed gear, with new American stars such as Buddy Holly, Elvis, the Everly Brothers and Johnny Cash joining home-grown stars such as Lonnie Donegan and Joe Brown. The Hit Parade Heroes celebrate these years with a string of hits of the time, from *Rock Island Line* to *Folsom*

*Prison Blues*, with Warren James (guitar/banjo) joined by Jim Swinnerton (bass) and Baby Jools (drums).

### LAZY FIFTY

Lazy Fifty are a powerhouse blues-rock trio from New Zealand whose sound channels the gritty energy of 70s British rock, fused with thought-provoking lyrics, driving rhythms, and standout guitar work. With a style that's raw, melodic, and unapologetically Kiwi, the band has built a reputation for dynamic live performances.

Playing a mix of toe tapping blues-rock that'll see you bringing out your air guitar and traditional blues with emotion pouring out of the guitar, you'll soon see why Lazy Fifty are so popular on the festival circuit, both at home and internationally.



## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has been unfailingly helpful in the build-up to the Festival which is happy to record its gratitude.

## HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND

This is rocking, post-war Chicago blues of the highest calibre delivered by a top-class band with musicians of impeccable pedigrees. Harmonica players and singer Honeyboy Hickling spent three years touring with Steve Marriott, recording with Bo Diddley and a whole lot more. Guitarist Bob Wilson played with Idle Race, Ruby Turner and the Steve Gibbons Band. Tony Baylis served with Trevor Burton, Chicken Shack and Steve Gibbons and Frank Walker was with the Flying Hat Band and Glenn Tipton. The band are a regular top draw at Henry's Blueshouse.

## THE HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

The Hot Club of Halifax are a fresh and exciting collective of seasoned jazz musicians offering dynamic and charismatic renditions of songs and tunes from the Django 'Gypsy Jazz' repertoire and elsewhere.

With doubling the HCoH includes two guitarists, three vocalists, double bass, clarinet and fiddle. The band can provide a substantial helping of deep and danceable swing interlaced with thoughtful arrangements of Jazz and Latin infused standards, mesmerising Gypsy waltzes and folk music from other parts of the world.

The Hot Club of Halifax



## IAN BATEMAN

Ian Bateman is a highly respected British jazz trombonist known for his superb technique, expressive playing, and deep roots in traditional and mainstream jazz. With a career spanning several decades, he has become one of the UK's most in-demand trombonists, appreciated for both his solo work and his collaborations with some of the biggest names in British jazz.

Born in the West Midlands, Ian developed an early passion for jazz and quickly made a name for himself on the UK jazz circuit. His talent and versatility led him to work with legendary figures such as Acker Bilk, Kenny Ball, Terry Lightfoot, and Chris Barber.

In addition to performing as a sideman, Ian Bateman has led his own projects, most notably the Bateman Brothers Jazz Band, which he co-founded with his brother, trumpeter Alan Bateman. The group is well-known for its faithful tributes to Louis Armstrong's All Stars, delivering high-energy, nostalgic performances that celebrate the golden age of jazz. Ian appears in the Festival in the all-star line-up of *Lady Sings the Blues*.

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### JAKE HENRY

Jake is a pianist and vocalist who can adapt to various styles from pop/rock/covers to jazz. He is an experienced singer/songwriter who is heavily influenced by Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles and Bill Withers.

### JAKE LEG JUG BAND

The Jake Leg Jug Band bring you the authentic sounds of 1920s and 30s America – jazz, blues, gospel, ragtime – and put their own twist of them. Permanent members are Duncan Wilcox (bass and vocals) and Warren James (banjo and vocals), with a multiplicity of guest artists. One of the most popular traditional bands, they are great Festival favourites, following Birmingham with Twinwood, Bude and others. Their recent release, *Live at Green Note*, featuring Gabriel

Garrick, was their 10th album, including a previous one of gospel music.

‘Expert musicianship and great arrangements...highly recommended’ – *Just Jazz*

‘A fine feast of good-time music.’ – *Blues News* (Norway)

### JAMES OLIVER

“James is a passionate roots rocker loaded with guitar firepower.” - Bill Kirchen – guitar legend

James Oliver is one of the UK's busiest acts playing over 300 gigs a year all over the UK, Europe, and the USA! He has performed over 3000 gigs and shared the stage with many acts including Albert Lee, Bill Kirchen, Deke Leonard, Greg Koch, Walter Trout, Steve Gibbons, and many others. In 2020 James won the UK Blues Awards Emerging Artist of



James Oliver

Photo by  
Merlin Dalemán

### ALL-DAYER AT MILLENNIUM POINT

On Saturday 26th Millennium Point presents an all-day celebration of the best in music. First of all Debbie Jones conducts one of her popular singing workshops under the title *Everybody Has a Voice*, then in the afternoon Millennium Point is the focus for a rhythm and blues all-dayer.

The *Everybody Has a Voice* Workshop (10.00-11.30) is an opportunity for you to join others for a fun singing session in a Birmingham landmark. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome to join us at Millennium Point for this exclusive opportunity to enjoy a free workshop with Debbie Jones of Tipitina. The rehearsal culminates in a performance from 12.00-12.20

Tickets are free, but please book in advance.

Then from 1300 the blues takes over, with the Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band, followed by Tipitina, Chickenbone John with Harmonica Dave, a Slide Boy Roy, all playing a 90 minute set. Again pre-booking for the free event is necessary.

the Year and has since been nominated 3 additional times.

"I am not easily impressed by guitarists, but this guy is definitely a comer." - John Drumbo, drummer. for Captain Beefheart.

### JAMIE THYER AND THE WORRIED MEN

Jamie Thyer is the guitar player's guitarist, building an awesome reputation demonstrating Marshall Amplifiers and Rotosound strings. In 1994 he released the rave-reviewed *Fear and Loathing at the Wunder Bar* and went out of the road, opening for Chicken Shack, Jefferson Starship, Robin Trower, Robert Cray, Peter Green, Johnny Winter and Walter Trout. Jamie is a true show-stopper in the wild man tradition of Guitar Slim and Buddy Guy. *Blues Unlimited* wrote of him, 'British blues guitar men? There's Eric Clapton, Peter Green...and Jamie Thyer!'



King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys

Photo by  
Merlin Daleman

### JOHN HEMMING AND THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS

John Hemming is best known for a productive and at times controversial 10 years as MP for Birmingham Yardley. However, the only trace of his political career at Festival time comes in the name of his band. He is an accomplished jazz pianist who regularly assembles a fine band to play melodic jazz, with the welcome presence of singer Lorraine Olley.

### JUMP, JIVE AND WAIL

'Raising the roof' - Jump, Jive and Wail have consistently demonstrated their live performance credentials at vintage events, festivals, dancehalls and jazz clubs around the North of England for the last 20 years.

With a live set guaranteed to make the joint swing, combining boogie woogie piano, honking sax, exuberant

### WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Festival is especially grateful for the involvement and support of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

harmonica and 3-part vocal harmonies they bring a tireless energy to the multiple styles of dance music from the 1940's and early 50's.

Spanning musical genres including jazz, the swing of the big band era, the American influences of G.I. Jive to the beginnings of rock 'n' roll and musical influences from Louis Prima and Louis Jordan to Big Joe Turner and Fats Waller, this dynamic band create music for everyone.

### JUST DOIN' IT

Just Doin' it play no-nonsense blues boogie in the style of early Status Quo, a mix of 1970s and early 1980s rock classics, more *Roll Over Lay Down* than *Marguerita Time*. Their live performances ensure a fresh and authentic feel to the show.

### KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS

Paul Jones on BBC Radio 2 called them 'the hardest act to follow since the parting of The Red Sea.'



Lady Sings the Blues

With more than 6500 performances in 21 countries under their belt in their 30 years on the road, King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys are more than just the world's greatest jump, jive and swing band - they're an institution! In that time they have opened shows for B.B. King, Cab Calloway and His Orchestra and Ray Charles, and toured with the real Blues Brothers Band - the one from the movie.

Rough, tough and always rocking, King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys have appeared at festivals, in concert and at clubs throughout the UK and Europe - and they still play the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival, where they have headlined for an unprecedented 14 years. Along the way, the band have recorded 11 albums for Big Bear Records, all distributed worldwide.

The band lines up as King Pleasure (vocals and baritone saxophone), Boysey Batrum (alto and tenor saxophones), Bullmoose K Shirley (guitar), Mighty Matt Foundling (piano), Shark Van Schtoop (bass), and Gary 'The Enforcer' Barber (drums).

### LADY SINGS THE BLUES

The six-piece band features the finest of British Jazz Musicians, every one of them on top of their game, the arrangements are the best; from the former Humphrey Lyttelton Band arranger Pete Strange; the repertoire is direct from the Billie Holiday bands of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s - offering a rare opportunity to hear these songs played and sung in the way they were in those clubs and cafes of Jazz Age Harlem, New York. And of course, there's the singer the remarkable Val Wiseman who is without

doubt the finest interpreter of Billie Holiday songs.

This remarkable show has been on the road for 38 years, recording two albums along the way. That's a full dozen more years than Billie Holiday herself managed! And, as for the musicians, a line-up of Digby Fairweather, Roy Williams, Al Gay, Brian Lemon, Jim Douglas, Len Skeat and Eddie Taylor represented the best in British jazz 1987-style. Ruby Braff, famed for his brusqueness, had no doubt on a BBC blindfold test:

'I think she's wonderful and the musicians sound so beautiful. That's the best singing I've heard in ages, that's just really wonderful.'

After 38 years the concert at Sutton Coldfield is likely to be the swansong for Lady Sings the Blues - and what a line-up to bid farewell to this legendary show: Bruce Adams (trumpet), Ian Bateman (trombone), Alan Barnes (saxophone/clarinet), Dave Newton (piano), Dave Green (bass) and Steve Brown (drums).

### LAZY FIFTY (NZ)

This three-piece are the original Kiwi rock band who were influenced by 1970s British rock, new music in a style you've always loved, with thought-provoking lyrics, driving

# Free concerts Jazz & blues events in Sandwell



<b>Friday 18 July</b>	7pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Lightwoods Park Blackheath Library Barnwich Hall	Veronica & Max (Italy) Stacy Mitchart (USA) Slide Boy Ray
<b>Saturday 19 July</b>	12 noon 7.30pm	Barnwich Hall West Bromwich Central Library	The Shufflepack Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band
<b>Sunday 20 July</b>	12 noon	Oak House	The Sax Pistols
<b>Monday 21 July</b>	7.30pm	Wednesbury Library	Jamie Thyer & The Worried Men
<b>Tuesday 22 July</b>	7.30pm	Great Bridge Library	Django Chutney
<b>Wednesday 23 July</b>	7.30pm	Cradley Heath Library	Art Themen Quartet
<b>Thursday 24 July</b>	7.30pm	Geist Bar Library	Back On The Road
<b>Friday 25 July</b>	7pm 7.30pm	Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery Blenkhouse Library	Yee-Jay King and his Dukes Swing Café
<b>Saturday 26 July</b>	12 noon 7.30pm	Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery West Bromwich Central Library	Alan Barnes & Dave Newton Hannah Brine
<b>Sunday 27 July</b>	2pm 7pm	Haden Hill House Thimblemill Library	Chickenbone John & Harmonica Dave Hit Parade Heroes

These listings are correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change beyond Sandwell Council's control.  
Please check our website for latest details and how to view the streamed events.

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41ST BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL  
AUG 18th TO 23rd 2025



Sandwell

rhythm and stand-out guitar work. Their latest recording, *The Good, The Bad and the Lazy* is typical of their uncompromising music, raw, melodic and unapologetically Kiwi.

And, as for that name, years ago a very good friend of the band had the habit of asking for 'a lazy twenty', meaning 20 dollars they would never see again. The 'fifty' is simply to account for the passage of time which has taken their friend.

'They play solid 70s-style melodic hard rock while at other times they are channelling Sabbath or George Thorogood.'  
– Gonzo magazine

### MARTIN BURCH BAND

The Martin Burch Band from Leicester play a ferocious brand of blues music familiar to devotees of Henry's Blueshouse and other

### SANDWELL COUNCIL

One of the unfailingly supportive institutions for the Festival in recent years has been Sandwell M.B.C. This year is no exception, with many concerts scheduled for the libraries and museums of Sandwell.

Birmingham venues. The appearance at Birmingham comes as part of a crowded festival schedule for the Burch Band: Alford Rock and Blues, Diggle Blues ad Upton Blues.

### MIHO HAZAMA (JAPAN/USA)

Pianist-composer Miho Hazama is presenting a programme of her own work and classics from the likes of Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk and Herbie Hancock. Miho was hailed by *DownBeat* as one of '25 for the future'. Already she has extended her contract as Chief Conductor of the Danish Radio Big Band and is Permanent Guest Conductor of the

Metropole Orkest and Founder and Leader of her own ensemble, m\_unit.

Now based in New York, she trained as a classical composer at Kunitachi Conservatory in Japan and as a jazz musician at Manhattan School of Music. She has collaborated with such orchestras as the NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic, Ensemble Kanazawa and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and as a guest conductor has presented works by Gershwin, Ellington, Bernstein and Morricone among others. With m\_unit she has released four albums.

### MIKE DAVIDS BAND

The Mike Davids Band's unique blend of rock, blues and soul has captivated audiences for more than a decade. Mike's soulful vocals and guitar skill result in a powerfully unforgettable show.

### PLAYING DJANGO

Birmingham-based, although they ended a 15-year residency at La Bastille in the City Centre some years ago, Playing Django have become more or less a fixture





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## KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL

FRIDAY 25TH JULY

**RESISTANCE IS FUTILE -  
SURRENDER TO HAVING  
A GOOD TIME!**

With more than 6500 performances in 21 countries under their belt in their 30+ years on the road, King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys are more than just the world's greatest jump, jive and swing band – they're an institution!

"The hardest act to follow since the parting of The Red Sea"  
*Paul Jones, BBC Radio 2*



**Show Starts: 19:30 • Admission: £19.50 • [www.suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com/events](http://www.suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com/events)  
[enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com](mailto:enquiries@suttoncoldfieldtownhall.com) • 0121 296 9543  
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, Upper Clifton Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, B73 6DA**

at the Jazz Festival. Their music is based on that of the Quintet of the Hot Club of France and inspired by the great Django Reinhardt.

### **RICH DICKINSON'S DRIVING FORCE**

Rich Dickinson has a long pedigree in the blues industry and has toured with many big names including Blackfoot, Frank Marinos, Mahogany Rush and Skinny Molly. He helped launch the Hendrix Signature series Marshall amp based on Jimi's original that Rich owned.

Aby assisted by the talented Rich (Dave) Sleep on bass and Ted (Thundersticks) Nawrot on drums, this band takes absolutely no prisoners, playing well-crafted originals and iconic tributes.

If you like Jimi Hendrix, Joe Bonamassa, Gary Moore and Rory Gallagher, you're gonna love this....

### **VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

The Festival depends on the volunteer army whose efforts enable the event to function. Volunteer for us and be part of a team that ensures the Festival runs smoothly. You'll meet other like-minded volunteers and receive your special Festival t-shirt – and, of course, you get to hear loads of great music.

We are looking for:

- Drivers
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- Distribution
- Artist Liaison

Call Sarah on **0121 454 7020**  
or email [admin@bigbearmusic.com](mailto:admin@bigbearmusic.com).

### **ROY FORBES**

An immaculate and stylish singer who is equally at home with the blues, Roy Forbes' enthusiasm for jazz started early, with a particular devotion to the music of Nat 'King' Cole and the jazz/funk acts of the late 1970s and early 1980s. As a principal singer with Andy Hamilton's band and then as an in-

demand freelance he has shared a stage with Scott Hamilton, Benny Waters, Al Casey, Sweets Edison and many others. As well as his many appearances at Birmingham, he has appeared at festivals in Brecon, Greenwich, Milan, St. Lucia and Marbella.

### **THE SAX PISTOLS**

Based in Stratford-upon-Avon, the Sax Pistols offer fresh-funky entertaining crowd-pleasing grooves. The band developed out of New Orleans brass bands, but with a British twist. Their jazzy funky horn riffs take in material from Stevie Wonder to Miles Davis, via Queen.

The sax and brass-heavy line-up is Simon Kemp (trumpet/baritone sax), Elodie Turner Hurd (alto sax), David Skeleter (baritone



**The Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone who donated to the 2024 and 2025 Festival GoFundMe Campaigns. Without whom, this event would never have been possible.**

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sax), Matt Telfer and Finn Marshall (tenor saxes), David Jones (trombone), Joel Roberts (sousaphone) and Sam Bradley (drums).

### SHEILA WATERFIELD

Sheila is a UK based vocalist, composer and band leader with a style that draws upon jazz, blues, soul and Latin influences. Working in all musical settings, from a piano duo up to a 17 piece Big Band, Sheila can be seen performing at events and festivals throughout the Country and overseas. She is an established name on the UK jazz scene and has performed at London's Jazz Cafe, The Millennium Dome, CBS Arena, Ronnie Scott's and has been a regular feature at the Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival for several years. She enjoys collaborations and performances with many of the UK's top musicians. Sheila is delighted to have released an album of her own compositions in 2023; the

songs tell stories of loss, love, hope, gratitude and belief.

### THE SHUFFLEPACK

Blues to make you wanna jump and shout!

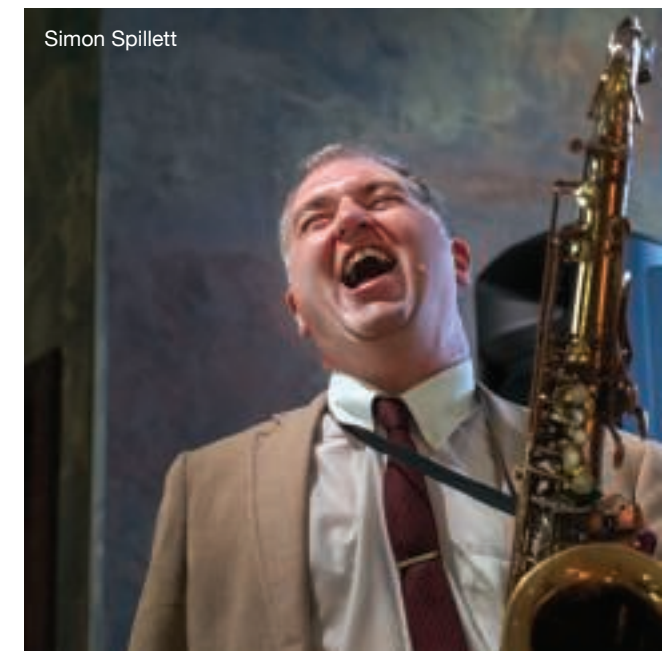
Every show is different, but the groove is always the same. With The Shufflepack,

the deck is always stacked with the blues. Shufflepack are Stuart Maxwell (vocals and harmonica), Barney Nikolic (guitar), Tom Domagala (saxes/flute), George Leslie Calvert (bass) and Chris Lloyd (drums).

Five guys who set out to play swinging R&B and shuffling blues. That's proper R&B, not RnB, that funny new stuff they do now.

### SIMON SPILLETT

Over a 25-year career Simon Spillett has made his mark as saxist, quartet leader, big band leader, author, record producer, historian, archivist, magazine columnist and – lately- blogger, with a sardonic way of dealing with



In the event of inclement weather an alternative indoor venue will be found for outdoor performances. Festival-goers should ring **0121 454 7020** for the latest information.

jazz critics and reviewers. Above all, though, he is a powerful, swinging, straightahead tenor saxist, a very popular figure at festivals such as Birmingham, London, Brecon, Swanage, Scarborough among many others, plus taking his big band into Ronnie Scott's.

In the last few years he has become the go-to expert on Tubby Hayes. Following an excellent biography, *The Long Shadow of the Little Giant*, he is much in

demand for liner notes, but most important has been the formation of his big band to huge acclaim whose second CD is in production.

### SLIDE BOY ROY

With 25 years on the road through Europe, the USA and the UK, the West Midlands-based Slide Boy Roy Band is one of the toughest boogie blues rock and roll roots band on the circuit today.

Singer and guitar man Slide Boy Roy lines up with Tony Garrinton (guitar), Boogie T Matthews (bass guitar), Steve James (harmonica) and Richard Goodyear, depping for Richie Rich on drums, along with guest vocalists Kami Desilets from Canada and Jack Bell.

### SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN AND ANDY HISEMAN

The duo play authentic country blues and jazz, both original songs and covers of some of the greatest country blues and jazz of the last 100 years. Ade draws on influences from Freddie King, BB King, Jimmy Vaughan, Ronnie Earl, Jimmy Smith, Jimmy McGriff and far more. His new original songs blend seamlessly into the set of great classic blues. Andy is a singer, guitarist and songwriter who has played around The Midlands and South West for decades, mostly as half of The Barflys. He has shared a stage with the likes of John Mayall, John Otway, the Big Town Playboys, Mike Sanchez, Connie Lush, Eugene Hideaway Bridges and the Climax Blues Band.

### SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN BAND

Guitarist Ade has played with many of the greats over the years and now leads his own band which is particularly popular on the Birmingham blues scene. Expect red hot Texas and Chicago blues guitar shuffle and a cool Hammond organ groove.

### SMOKIN' ESKIMO

Smokin' Eskimo are a three-piece hailing from the Black Country. Blending blues and rock influences, their sound attracts a wide range of listeners with lyric



exploring diverse themes, from contemplating the mysteries of the Universe to the simple joys of a countryside drive.

Drawing inspiration from psychedelic rock and blues, 90s Britpop and touches of jazz and funk, Smokin' Eskimo offer a distinctive multi-genre style that defies easy categorisation.

### STACY MITCHHART (USA)

Stacy Mitchhart is an American blues guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter renowned for his dynamic performances and distinctive blend of traditional blues, funk, and soul. Born on February 16, 1959, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mitchhart was immersed in music from an early age. His household resonated with the sounds of jazz guitar legends like Wes Montgomery and Johnny Smith, which profoundly influenced his musical direction.

In his youth, Mitchhart was captivated by the showmanship of artists like Little Richard and the soulful performances of Bobby "Blue" Bland and B.B. King. These influences shaped his energetic stage presence and expressive guitar style.

Throughout his career, Mitchhart has shared the stage with legendary artists such as James Brown, Keb' Mo', Buddy Guy, and John Entwistle of The Who. He has also performed at major festivals worldwide, including the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival and the Kalamazoo Blues Festival.

Mitchhart's contributions to the blues genre have been recognized with several accolades, including the Albert King Guitar Player Award at the International Blues Competition and multiple awards from the Music City Blues Society. In 2016, he was inducted into the Canada South Blues Hall of Fame.

### STEVE BROWN

Steve Brown is a distinguished British jazz drummer renowned for his exceptional technique, versatility, and contributions to the UK jazz scene. Born in Manchester, England, Steve began his musical journey at the age of 14 and quickly established himself as a prominent figure in the jazz community.

In the early 1990s, Steve honed his skills in New York, studying under renowned drummers Carl Allen and John Riley. His time in the city allowed him to perform alongside jazz luminaries such as Harry Allen, Art Farmer, and Conte Candoli, solidifying his reputation as a sought-after sideman.

Upon returning to the UK in 1996, Steve's career flourished. He became a fixture in London's vibrant jazz scene, collaborating with esteemed artists including Benny Golson, Benny Green, Carl Fontana, Barry Harris, Junior Mance, Charles McPherson, and John Bunch. His dynamic playing and adaptability made him a preferred choice for both British and visiting American musicians.

Steve appears at the Festival as part of a dynamic rhythm team for *Lady Sings the Blues*.

**41<sup>ST</sup> BIRMINGHAM  
JAZZ & BLUES  
FESTIVAL**  
**JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> 2025**

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### STEVE YOUNG & THE REAL TIME PLAYERS

Steve Young & the Real Time Players are known for their live performances of music focussing on rock, blues, country and singer-songwriter styles. They have released an album, *Anyone Listening? (Live)*. The leader is also recognised for his fund-raising for cancer research following his own groundbreaking treatment.

### STRICTLY JITTERBUG

Strictly Jitterbug unites the experienced teaching of Alistair Fitzgerald with the enthusiasm of festival-goers for East Coast Swing, Jitterbug, Jive and 1920s Charleston. Alistair runs classes locally and has a fine record, in association with the NHS, of using dance in patients rehabilitation.

### STUART MAXWELL'S BLUES RAIDERS

The music is hard-edged blues, rooted in tradition, but rocking and funky. From Muddy and the Wolf to Bill Withers and The Altman Brothers. Graham Bond is in there, too, alongside plenty of original songs in the classic style. But, when you grew up listening to Black Sabbath, Miles Davis, Jethro Tull, Hawkwind, Tony Williams and Sonny Boy Williamson, weird things are going to happen.



Sunjay

Joining Stuart Maxwell (vocals/harmonica/organ) are Matt Edwards (guitar), Derek White (bass) and Jason Reeve (drums).

### SUNJAY

Sunjay, born in Derby, but now based in Quarry Bank, has already had two successful careers: in folk and in blues. Early in his career he picked up various awards in the folk field, a finalist in the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk competition and winner of the Young Artist at Wath Folk Festival and the New Roots Competition at St. Albans. Chris Smither was a big influence and for the last ten or so years Sunjay has been a blues musician. He has just completed a

tour of the Czech Republic and late last year brought out his most recent album, *I'm Just Like You*, originally intended as an 80th birthday tribute to Chris Smither.

### SUZI WOODS

Guesting with the Birmingham Big Band is international singer Suzi Woods whose record of performing for the great and the good has seen her bringing her smooth stylings to audiences such as Princess Caroline of Monaco, David and Victoria Beckham, and Tiger Woods.

### SWING CAFÉ

Led by popular Midlands singer Billie Baker, Festival favourites Swing Café is

a swing and jazz band devoted to playing the best loved songs of the era from the 1920s to the 1950s. Fine melodies mix with a sound that keeps you on the sunny side of life.

### TENEMENT JAZZ BAND

Tenement Jazz band are a traditional jazz band formed in early 2018 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Brought together by their shared love of early Jazz, Ragtime and Blues, they are on a journey of exploration back to the roots of the music that they play.

Their aims are to capture the raw energy and excitement of the earliest jazz recordings, with most of their repertoire composed before 1930. They aim to find and revive lesser-heard songs and cultivate their own interpretations.

In their existence so far they have performed at Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Dundee, Islay and Glasgow Jazz Festivals, Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival, FestJazz in France and Fjellrocken Festival in Norway. The band have



Tipitina

produced sell-out shows at Edinburgh Festival Fringe & Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival, including as backing band to New Orleans singer Meschiya Lake and alongside international stride piano stars Stephanie Trick and Morten Gunnar-Larson. They were voted 'Best Band' at the Scottish Awards 2022.

Guesting with the Tenement Jazz Band is one of the rising stars of European traditional jazz, NANNA CARLING. The soprano saxist, singer and composer has become known in the last few years for her energetic stage presence, her crystal clear musicality and

her sparkling charisma. She draws inspiration from such jazz greats as Sidney Bechet, Billie Holiday and Johnny Hodges and has headlined such festivals as Gothenburg, Riverboat (Denmark), Jazzbox (Netherlands) and Zlota Tarka Old Jazz Meeting (Poland). Earlier this year she released her second full-length album, *Melodies for Two*.

### TIPITINA

At the heart of Tipitina are powerhouse singer Debbie Jones with her roots in gospel and Justin Randall, quite simply the finest and most exciting New Orleans-style piano player

## MUSEUMS SHOWS

The Festival is delighted to welcome the Birmingham Museums Trust on board with five sessions at Birmingham Museums properties. All of these involve a fee with the exception of the Museum and Art Gallery. In the case of Thinktank and Aston Hall admission to the performance is included in admission to the property, while Sarehole Mill and Blakesley Hall carry a fee of £3.50.

However, a Jazz and Blues Ticket at £25 for adults and £15 for children will give access to all five performances. By buying one of these special tickets you can ensure that you don't miss a beat. Tickets can be bought via the link

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/birmingham-jazz-festival>



outside of Louisiana. The great Irma Thomas said of Debbie, 'She has a lot of soul in her voice.' Together they deliver the red hot and rocking music of Dr John, James Booker, Professor Longhair and Fats Domino.

Based in Lancashire, the band is a regular favourite at the Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival, both the Upton Jazz and Blues Festivals, and represented the Royal Albert Hall at the West End Live Festival. The band has recorded two albums for Big Bear which have enjoyed extensive international airplay.

'Tipitina are a barnstorming live act. Few do this with such conviction. A joyous ride through up-tempo feel-good rockers and gospel-tinged blues.' – *Rock'n'Reel* magazine.

#### TOM LINDSAY

Tom Lindsay is an accomplished pianist, singer, bandleader and songwriter, blending exciting musicianship with easy charm. With style and lyrical wit he brings together smooth vocals and piano playing that honours the jazz greats. In his case piano influences are Keith Jarrett and Bill Evans, with Kurt Elling and Diana Krall among his vocal heroes.

#### THE UPTOWN JUKES

With several lifetimes of experience behind them, this slick bunch of guys have



Vee-Jay King and his Dukes

been around the block and back again, so they certainly know how to deliver the blues and how to entertain.

The Uptown Jukes line up as guitar man and singer Terry Reep, Ken Moore (keyboards), Roger Hudson (bass) and drummer Chris Lloyd, with tenor sax men Tom Domagala and George Northall. The band's repertoire is a real melting pot with wailing saxes and a rhythm section as tight as a wheel nut.

#### VAL WISEMAN

Val Wiseman is universally acclaimed for her interpretations of Billie Holiday songs in her hit show, *Lady Sings the*

*Blues*, which she will be performing at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall for possibly the last time.

Born in West Bromwich, she advanced quickly to the fore of Midlands singers via the West Side Jazz Band and the Second City Jazzmen, then in her twenties she was headhunted by Monty Sunshine for his band. Raising a family disturbed her smooth progress to the top, but a splendid second act to her career began with national and international touring with Eggy Ley's Hotshots. Soon – at the Birmingham Jazz Festival

of 1987 – she was re-discovered by Jim Simpson and *Lady Sings the Blues* ensued. Since then she has starred all over the world in the show and recorded two albums, in addition to becoming an expert on the Brontes and writing a song cycle with Brian Dee based on their works.

#### VEE-JAY KING AND HIS DUKES

This Midlands-based group serves up a glorious mixture of West Cast Rhythm and Blues and the swamp blues of Louisiana. Like the music of T Bone Walker, Gatmouth Brown, Slim Harpo and Lazy Lester? You'll love Vee-Jay King and his Dukes!

#### VERONICA AND MAX (ITALY)

Max de Bernardi and Veronica Sbergia are well-known musicians in the international blues scene, respected in their own right individually, but together, as Max and Veronica, they are truly something special.

With just their voices and a few acoustic instruments, this delightful duo has assembled an extraordinary repertoire of American Roots music from country and folk, to ragtime and swing, from gospel to blues. But above all, their musical narratives are so evocative and their attention to tradition

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Veronica &amp; Max

so faithful, that your senses will be instantly captivated as you take an unforgettable journey through the musical history of the southern states of America during the 1920s and 1930s.

The songs and stories may be steeped in the past, but their music is alive and made for modern eyes, ears, hearts, souls and minds. Their concerts are designed both for an attentive audience who love to learn something while having fun and for dancers!

### WALTER SMITTY AND THE UNVIABLES

Walter Smitty and Unviabls, with vocals by international singer SUZI WOODS, are an acoustic band playing Latin, jazz and bluesy pop. Returning to the Birmingham Festival, they are popular favourites throughout the Midlands.

### WARREN JAMES SKIFFLE GROUP

Following the success of Warren James' telling of The Lonnie Donegan Story we are delighted to welcome the band here to perform for us a more broad and varied

selection of songs that had England swinging throughout the 1950s Skiffle Boom.

Lonnie Donegan had launched The Skiffle Boom the previous year and in doing so he quite accidentally became the catalyst for the future of British Pop Music..

Thousands of Skiffle Groups appeared all over Britain and many had some major hit records. Skiffle was the influence behind the 60s folk revival, whilst many more became the pop stars and hit makers of the 50s and 60s onwards. The Beatles, Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones and The Who all started in skiffle groups and the music is as vibrant as ever.



Warren James



You're Never Alone with a Uke

As for Warren James, the skiffle group, Hit Parade Heroes and the Jake Leg Jug Band are only three of about a dozen shows he puts out, including Some Glad Morning (gospel music) and the Great American Folk Songbook.

### YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WITH A UKE

One of the most popular features of the Birmingham Festival, *You're Never Alone with a Uke* takes absolute beginners on the instrument and coaches them in learning one tune. Then comes the difficult part - getting a ukulele out of the hands of a five-year-old who has just discovered he can play it!

### YVONNE LYON

Yvonne Lyon is a Scottish singer-songwriter and musician known for her beautifully crafted songs that blend folk, acoustic, and Americana influences. Based near Glasgow, she has become one of the most respected voices in the UK's contemporary acoustic music scene, praised for her emotive vocals, poetic lyrics, and deep musicality.

Yvonne began her career in the late 1990s as part of the Glasgow-based band Land, before launching her solo career in the early 2000s. Since then, she has released several

critically acclaimed albums, including *Fearless*, *Ashes & Gold*, and *Growing Wild*. Her music explores themes of hope, vulnerability, faith, and human connection, often delivered with intimate arrangements and subtle, expressive instrumentation.

At Thimblemill Library she collaborates with Bob Hewerdine in a programme based around their latest CD, *Things Found in Books*, based on a notice board at Culzean Castle devoted to articles left in books.



### RECALLING THE LAUNCH AND SOME MEMORIES OF LADY SINGS THE BLUES.

Fronting a show in tribute to my idol, Billie Holiday, was a daunting prospect. It was launched during the Birmingham Jazz Festival on July 4th 1987 in the Adrian Boult Hall, attended by a discerning press and sponsored by Birmingham's BRMB Radio. Featuring a formidable line-up of some of the best jazz musicians in the country; Digby Fairweather, trumpet; John Mumford, trombone; Al Gay, tenor sax/clarinet; Brian Lemon, piano; Jim Douglas, guitar, Jeff Clyne, double bass and Martin Drew on drums, how could I possibly fail, but I was as nervous as hell!

A lot of preparation had gone into this project the year previously. There was much sorting through Holiday's recorded material, in order to present a chronological programme of her work throughout the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Local pianist Roy Fisher rehearsed many of them with me in a local recording studio, before making the final selection of some 26 songs. These were then sent off to Pete Strange, Humphrey Lyttelton's trombonist and arranger, who had agreed to transpose the original recordings to suit a seven piece band. His arrangements were superb. Faithful to the

originals, they captured the exuberance of songs such as *One, Two, Button Your Shoe* and *Miss Brown To You* and the pathos of *Am I Blue* and *Good Morning Heartache*. All I had to do was sing them!

The show that night in Birmingham in July 1987 was a resounding success. It all came together just as we had hoped and the critics were charmed! Thanks to their reviews and such a positive response from the audience, it has to be said, Jim Simpson's team at Big Bear Music had a successful show on their hands. The only way forward was to market it to the rest of the UK with

photo calls, broadcasts and bookings. There were bound to be some hiccups along the way of course, when musicians are not always available, but we gradually settled on our A team, with Roy Williams replacing John Mumford, Len Skeat replacing Jeff Clyne and Eddie Taylor replacing Martin Drew.

These were heady days, with appearances on BBC TV's *Pebble Mill* at One and local TV and radios broadcasts. I even made an appearance on 'Woman's Hour!' By this time we had our first album 'Lady Sings the Blues' to promote, which in turn led to tours abroad and appearances on major Festivals. I recall the enthusiastic students at St. Andrews University



treating us like rock stars! We also had some super deps when a member of the A team wasn't available. These include two from the USA who had both worked with Billie; pianist and arranger Nat Pierce and guitarist Mundell Lowe. The A Team evolved also over the years. With the sad loss of Brian Lemon

and Al Gay, Brian Dee joined us on piano and Alan Barnes took Al's chair. Bobby Worth also replaced Eddie Taylor and reflecting on theatre budgets, we reluctantly removed guitar from the line-up.

With changing tastes and a precarious economic climate, Lady Sings the Blues has somehow managed to survive over the years. The line-ups have varied too. Our second album, recorded live at Birmingham Jazz Festival in 2015, featured reed-man Julian Stringle and drummer Eric Ford, plus some of the original Pete Strange arrangements which weren't aired on our first album. Its enduring success is all due to Jim Simpson's original concept and his incredible A team at Big Bear Music and for this I am extremely grateful.

VAL WISEMAN

