

Best Western Plough & Harrow Hotel



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Stay at the Heart of the Music - The Festival Host Hotel

Make the most of the 42nd Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival by staying at the **Best Western Plough & Harrow Hotel**, the official host hotel for the festival from **23 July to 3 August 2026**.

Perfectly positioned in Edgbaston & close to the city centre, we offer a relaxed, characterful base with **excellent transport links** to festival venues across the city. With **easy access to trams, buses and rail connections**, getting around Birmingham couldn't be simpler. For guests arriving by car, **on-site parking** is available, allowing you to come and go with ease throughout your stay.

As the host hotel, the Plough & Harrow becomes part of the festival experience itself. **Live Jazz and blues performances** will take place in the **hotel gardens**, **weather permitting**, creating an atmosphere that extends beyond the city's stages and into your stay. It's the ideal place to unwind between gigs, meet fellow festival-goers, and enjoy the music long into the evening.

Inside, you'll find comfortable bedrooms, welcoming public spaces, and a bar and restaurant that provide the perfect setting to start or finish your day. Whether you're visiting for a single night or planning a longer festival break, the Plough & Harrow combines **heritage, convenience and live music** in one memorable stay.

Book early to secure your place at the heart of Birmingham's biggest jazz and blues celebration.

42ND BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

JULY 24TH TO AUGUST 2ND 2026



Photo Credit:
Merlin Daleman

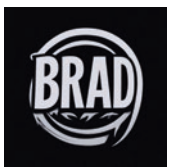
WWW.BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL.COM
FESTIVAL@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM
HOTLINE: 0121 454 7020

@BIRMJAZZFEST #BJBFESTIVAL
 BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL
 @BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL





Supported by



Sandwell is once again supporting the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival.

This 42nd festival will see local, national and international musicians showcase their talent across Sandwell's six towns.

There are concerts in our libraries, museums and parks as well as in pub, club and town centre locations, including West Bromwich Indoor Market and New Square.

With artists from all over the UK as well as musicians

from much further afield, this year's festival will offer top quality entertainment for Sandwell residents as well as bringing visitors into Sandwell, helping to support our local businesses and build a sense of pride in the places we live and work.

On top of these concerts, we run an exciting, year-long calendar of council events with something for everyone. Go to our Visit Sandwell website www.visitsandwell.com to find out more about activities and events for all ages this summer.

I hope everyone enjoys the festival!

Councillor Michael Cooper

**Cabinet Member for
Customer Services and
Neighbourhoods**

Sandwell Council



BUDDY GUY DAY

Buddy Guy, without question one of the all-time Blues Greats, will celebrate his 90th birthday smack dab in the middle of our festival, rendering it, in our opinion, obligatory to name Thursday 30th July BUDDY GUY DAY.

Buddy was born in Pointe Parish, Lettsworth, Louisiana on July 30th 1936. He started to play, self-taught, on a homemade guitar, when he was thirteen, as a youngster played local shows with Lightrnin' Slim, Lazy Lester and Slim Harpo before relocating to Chicago where he steadily built his reputation as one of the hottest blues guitarists and singers around, with Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Jimmy Page, Stevie Ray Vaughan and

so many more citing Buddy Guy as their major influence.

Buddy has recorded around 40 albums, appeared in nine films and won nine Grammy Awards. Buddy Guy's Damn Right Farewell World Tour ran for 18 months, no less, ending in 2024 – though he continues to this day regularly performing at his own Buddy Guy's Legends Club in Chicago.

Buddy first played Birmingham in 1964, starring in Jim Simpson's Tek City Blues Festival that also featured Jesse Fuller and Champion Jack Dupree. He subsequently headlined at The Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival with his Buddy Guy/Junior Wells Chicago Blues Band.

So, at this year's festival, Thursday 30th July will

become Buddy Guy Day, a celebration of a truly legendary bluesman through film, music and first-hand tales from musicians fortunate enough to have met and shared a stage with him. It will be a day to mark not only his 90th birthday, but also his immense influence, his spirit and his long-standing connection with Birmingham's blues history.



FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Okay, so it's been yet another tough year with regards to funding this, the 42nd year of what we consider to be a most important festival, to our city, the region, ourselves and, most importantly, you, our audience who never fail to turn up in impressive numbers, to make this festival as enjoyable and life-affirming as it always is. The festival provides, in the words of former Birmingham City Councillor Ian Ward, "the soundtrack to the summer" in this region, and has done so for more than four decades.

Once again, an army of fine musicians from throughout the UK as well as those from France, Estonia, Venezuela, USA and Japan will be delighting our audiences, and once again almost all of the performances, 162 out of a total of 174, will be free admission.

We often get asked, why, with the lack of funding that has long been a problem, don't we charge admission. The answer is simple, it would go right against the basic reasons for presenting this festival. Nowadays, music

forms that bear little of no resemblance to jazz, use the "jazz" word – nu jazz, smooth jazz et al. – which moves us to do all we can do to keep proper, hot, entertaining jazz alive. The same applies to The Blues, a most important music form which so rarely features in mainstream media.

Real Music – Properly Played is our mantra. That's another reason that we present free performances in unlikely places, to bring it to the attention of folk as they go about their daily life.

There have been a lot of questions asked over funding, with some even questioning whether or not the festival will even take place. I have to assure you, that the future of our festival was never in any doubt in the minds of the festival team, Tim Jennings, Sarah Yang, Lucy Stone and myself. The success of last year's festival, in the face of those severe funding cuts, was more than enough to make us determined to continue our work, ever more so with the inspiring financial support that you, our audience, gave so generously. Your contribution

to our Crowdfunder campaign, officially launched only 10 days ago as I write this, has already totalled nearly £1000. This, combined with the backing of our always helpful Board, plus the generosity of our sponsors-in-kind, ensures the festival's continuance.

Particular thanks must go to our core sponsors, particularly to the ever-supportive Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and Musicians' Union who this year were joined by our new partners, Los Angeles-based Rockefeller TV and Brad Henshaw who provided a total support of £11,450.

With that figure in mind, it doesn't come as a surprise that once again we have to depend on the generosity of you, our ever-loyal music fans, to get us over that finish line.

I know that you will donate what you can, you will attend and enliven the festival performances and once again demonstrate that you are the best damn audience there is.

See you on the front line.

With respect,

Jim Simpson

A MESSAGE FROM FESTIVAL PATRON DIGBY FAIRWEATHER

Unfortunately, the Festival's venerated Patron, Digby Fairweather, will be unable to attend this year's event due to a series of ailments.

Digby, renowned as a trumpet player, bandleader, author and broadcaster, remains as optimistically ebullient as ever and wishes well to all musicians, fans and organisers of the festival, exhorts everyone to enjoy yet another tremendous festival, to have

fun, to take pleasure in the company of like-minded music fans and to not forget to buy the trumpet player a drink.

Digby took over the role of Festival Patron following the death of our first Patron, Humphrey Lyttelton, in 2008.

The Jazz and Blues 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, Lorraine Olley, Nadia Ilya, Rob Sealey

CIC Board: Jim Simpson, Tim Jennings, Henrik Court

Festival Director: Jim Simpson

Commercial and Development Director: Tim Jennings

Business and Marketing Manager: Yue Yang

Development Manager: Lucy Stone

Co-ordination: Katie Lerescu, Larissa Catchpole, Louisa Warr, Lucie Rodrigues, Lucy Panther, Nina Truscott, Sabrina Sanfilippo, Sadie Morritt, Sophie O'Neill, Tegan Dollard, Veena Patel, Virgil Lautrette, Zak Basger

Volunteer Co-ordination: Barry Clark

Programme Editor: Ron Simpson

Photographer: Merlin Dalemán

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

Media Marketing: Steve Dyson

Media Business Consultant: Ken Banks

Technical Managers: David Berman, Dave Spittle, Nick Hart, Lyndon Bolshaw, Oliver Layton, Tom Roberts.

Operations: Amanda Cardall, Angie Lane, April McGeary, Azra Pathan, Barry Clark, Bobbie Lawson, Charlie Osborne, Cheyanne Kailla, Connor Craven, Dali Jandu, Dave Spittle, David Berman, Debbie Chambers, Diana Boateng, Dilly Bhogal, Gaelle Vilfour, Haydn Harman, John Milward, Karl Wilkinson, Loverel Vinton-Gordon, Lucy Jennings, Lyndon Bolshaw, Maggie Tyler, Mohammad Al-Khudhur, Myat Thadar Hmoo, Paul Graham, Paul Levesley, Pete Rawlins, Prem Singh, Prentice Bannister, Rick Zheng, Sharron Bannister, Stephanie Sharman, Sue Riley, Tom Roberts, Vibeke Farnsworth, Zoe Toft.

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

PA & Backline: Fair Deal Music

Hotel Partner: Plough & Harrow Hotel

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

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

Accounting Support: Favour Okunrobo, Q'mara Lewis

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

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

Special Projects: Ken Banks

Outstanding Generosity: Mark Thomas

Special Thanks To: Alicja Majewska, Alexandra Wheeldon, Alison Page, Andrea McGee, Andrew Kirkman, Andrew Kulman, Andrew Wade, Andy Bucknall, Andy Street, Anna Brakel, Becki Leonard, Becky Frall, Ben Benson, Carlie Hill, Carrie Fleetwood, Chicken George, Chris Horst, Chris Mason, Claire Knapton, David Davies, Deborah Yates, Denise Sandford, Donna Bensley, Elaine Mortiboy-Clarke, Esha Kohli, Garry Chapman, Georgia Charlton-Briggs, Graham Young, Harpreet Sian, Helen McLachlan, Henrietta Brealey, Jackie Clay, Jackie Hawkins, Jamie Whittingham, Jane Hanney-Martin, Jenna Harvey, Jennifer Lockley, Jenny Bestwick, Jules Raikes, Julia Robinson, Junior Laidley, Kate O'Connor, Katie O'Hanlon, Kay Cadman, Kerrie Barber, Laura Milner, Laura Wesson, Lesley Griffiths, Luke Crane, Mary Holden, Mi Lan, Michelle Baker, Moby Jama, Molly Orviss, Nathan Tromans, Nick Hickman, Nigel Barker, Paul Marshall, Paul Smyth, Qasim Bashir, Raul Navarro, Rebecca Delmore, Richard March, Sam Goode, Sandy Sungu, Sarah Garner, Sarah McCarthy, Satnam Purewal, Sonia Rull-Badhan, Sophia Tandy, Stephen Brown, Tate Masiye, Taylah Catlow, Tony Collins, University of Birmingham, Victoria Webb, Wendy Sweatman

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 BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

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 @BIRMINGHAMJAZZFESTIVAL

THE FESTIVAL BOARD



Barry Clark



Dan Cole



Dani Hadley



Derek Inman



Gary Newbon



Jill Hitchman



John Hemming



John Patrick



Rob Sealey



Lorraine Olley



Nadia Ilya

THE FESTIVAL CIC BOARD



Henrik Court



Tim Jennings



Jim Simpson

BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

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

www.birminghamjazzfestival.com

Phone 0121 454 7020 Email: festival@bigbearmusic.com

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

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EVE OF FESTIVAL

12:30

SANDWELL LAUNCH,
WEDNESBURY LIBRARY
**HONEYBOY HICKLING
BLUES BAND**

18:15

WEST MIDLANDS
POLICE MUSEUM
**JAZZ & BLUES MURDER
MYSTERY NIGHT**
£26 PLUS BOOKING FEE

20:00

CBSO CENTRE
**MIHO HAZAMA
(JAPAN/USA)**
£15.00

FRIDAY 24TH JULY

12:00

THE EXCHANGE
STACY MITCHHART (USA)

18:30

COTE SOLIHULL
JAKE HENRY

19:30

BARBARA'S BIER HAUS
BACK ON THE ROAD

12:30

SILVER TREE BAKERY,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

19:00

REGINA'S BAR &
RESTAURANT
STACY MITCHHART (USA)

19:30

BLACKHEATH LIBRARY
ALAN BARNES QUARTET

12:30

CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE
JUMP JIVE & WAIL

19:00

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

20:00

PLOUGH AND HARROW
HOTEL
HIT PARADE HEROES

14:30

DELTA BY MARRIOTT
ALAN BARNES QUARTET

19:00

MUSEUM COLLECTION
CENTRE
BRAD HENSHAW
£12.00

20:00

FIGHTING COCKS,
MOSELEY
HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

17:00

THE BRASSHOUSE
ROYAL BLUES

19:00

WEST BROMWICH
INDOOR MARKET
THE SAX PISTOLS

18:00

SNOBS
**HONEYBOY HICKLING
BLUES BAND**

19:30

WEDNESBURY MUSEUM
& ART GALLERY
PLAYING DJANGO

18:00

1000 TRADES
ON THE PARK
THE BUSKATEERS

19:30

THE TERRACE SUITE
BOTANICAL GARDENS,
**KING PLEASURE
& THE BISCUIT BOYS**
£25

18:30

THE COSY CLUB
JUMP JIVE & WAIL



SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL
VIA CROWDFUNDER



FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
LUCY STONE ON
0121 454 7020 OR EMAIL
LUCY@BIGBEARMUSIC.COM

11:00
BIRMINGHAM
INDOOR MARKET
B.D.LENZ (USA)

12:00
WEDNESBURY MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY
JUMP, JIVE & WAIL

12:00
CAFFE NERO,
BRINDLEYPLACE
STRICTLY JITTERBUG

12:30
CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE
HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

13:00
SANDWELL VALLEY
VISITOR CENTRE
ALAN BARNES QUARTET

13:00
BULLRING RAG MARKET
**STACY MITCHHART
(U.S.A.)**

13:00
CENTRAL SQUARE,
BRINDLEYPLACE
SINGITBIG

13:30
BOURNVILLE
VILLAGE GREEN
THE DELTA ACES

14:00
BIRMINGHAM MARKETS
CUSTOMER CENTRE
PLAYING DJANGO

14:30
BOTANICAL GARDENS
**JUKEBOX RHYTHM
ORCHESTRA**
£10 plus concessions

15:00
AC HOTEL MAILBOX
**WALTER SMITTY & THE
UNVIABLES**

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
TIPITINA

15:00
ARCADIAN
ROYAL BLUES

16:00
BOURNVILLE
VILLAGE GREEN
**SMOKIN ADE WAKELIN
& ANDY HISEMAN**

17:00
SNOBS
HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

17:00
THE DUKE INN,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
ROY FORBES

18:30
NEW INN HARBORNE
**WALTER SMITTY
& THE UNVIABLES**

19:00
NOEL'S BAR &
RESTAURANT
THE DELTA ACES

19:00
OMNOM, JEWELLERY
QUARTER
**STACY MITCHHART
(U.S.A.)**

19:00
WINTERBOURNE
HOUSE & GARDEN
ALAN BARNES QUARTET
£20 plus concessions

19:30
BARBARA'S BIER HAUS
ROYAL BLUES

19:30
WEST BROMWICH
CENTRAL LIBRARY
TIPITINA

20:00
PLOUGH AND
HARROW HOTEL
JUMP, JIVE & WAIL

20:00
THE WELLINGTON
B.D.LENZ (USA)

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11:00
VIENI, JEWELLERY
QUARTER
HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

12:30
CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE
TIPITINA

12:30
HARVEY NORMAN,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
**JOHN HEMMING AND
THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

13:00
NOEL'S BAR &
RESTAURANT
WALTER SMITTY

13:00
BANTOCK HOUSE,
WOLVERHAMPTON
PLAYING DJANGO

13:45
OLD JOINT STOCK
SHEILA WATERFIELD

14:00
BOURNVILLE
GARDENS VILLAGE
JAKE LEG JUG BAND

14:00
EARLSDON PARK VILLAGE
ROY FORBES QUARTET

14:00
RED LION,
WEST BROMWICH
**HONEYBOY HICKLING
BLUES BAND**

14:00
HADEN HILL HOUSE
SLIDE BOY ROY



Rich Dickinson's Driving Force

14:00
COTE, SOLIHULL
TOM LINDSAY

14:30
BOTANICAL GARDENS
**RICH DICKINSON'S
DRIVING FORCE**
£10 plus concessions

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
THE SAX PISTOLS

15:00
SAINT PAUL'S MARKET,
JEWELLERY QUARTER
JUMP JIVE & WAIL

17:00
ALL BAR ONE
HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

18:00
O NEILL'S, BROAD STREET
TIPITINA

18:00
BAR ESTILO
TOM LINDSAY

20:00
SNOBS
JUMP JIVE & WAIL


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We'd love to see you at one of our locations during July and August, with music from:

Jake Leg Jug Band	Sun 26th Jul	14.00	Bournville Gardens Village
Roy Forbes Quartet	Sun 26th Jul	14.00	Earlsdon Park Village
Walter Smitty & The Unviabes	Thur 30th Jul	14.00	New Oscott Village
You're Never Alone With A Uke	Fri 31st Jul	14.00	New Oscott Village
Swing Café	Sun 2nd Aug	14.00	Longbridge Village

11:00
VICTORIAN TEA ROOMS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
WALTER SMITTY

12:30
WATER'S EDGE
BANDSTAND
BRAD HENSHAW

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

14:30
BOX, BRINDLEYPLACE
**YOU'RE NEVER
ALONE WITH A UKE**

16:30
DISHOOM
DJANGO CHUTNEY

19:30
GREAT BRIDGE LIBRARY
HIT PARADE HEROES

20:00
SNOBS
B.D. LENZ (USA)

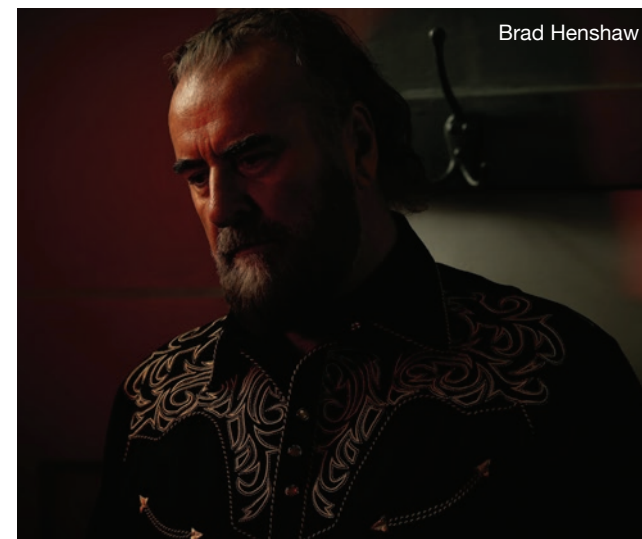
KEEP INFORMED

Send your email address to
festival@bigbearmusic
to go on the free e-bulletin.

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



B.D. Lenz



Brad Henshaw



Rockefellas TV is a rapidly expanding global music and entertainment television network broadcasting original programming to audiences in over 160 countries worldwide. With headquarters in **Los Angeles, California, USA**, and a major satellite television hub at **B1 Studios in the heart of Birmingham, U.K.**—the legendary birthplace of Heavy Metal—Rockefellas TV stands at the crossroads of heritage, culture, and cutting-edge entertainment.

Broadcasting across the **United States, Europe, and international territories**, RTV provides a powerful international media platform connecting artists, audiences, and cultures across continents.

Under the long-term vision of CEO Alex Garcia, Rockefellas TV is committed to redefining modern music broadcasting through an ambitious slate of **music, arts, entertainment, documentaries, live performances, exclusive interviews, and original television productions**. Championing both emerging talent and established global artists, RTV delivers compelling content designed to inspire, entertain, and connect audiences through the universal language of music and creativity.

From intimate acoustic sessions to major live events, behind-the-scenes access, artist storytelling, and cultural programming, **Rockefellas TV is more than a television network—it is a global movement celebrating music, creativity, and entertainment without borders.**

11:00
PLOUGH & HARROW HOTEL
PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP WITH MERLIN DALEMAN

12:30
WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND
JAMES OLIVER BAND

13:00
SCHOOL OF ART
CHICKENBONE JOHN & HARMONICA DAVE

13:00
CAFFE BOTANICO, FRASERS, SUTTON COLDFIELD
DJANGO CHUTNEY

14:00
SNOBS
SLIDE BOY ROY

17:00
SNOBS
JAMES OLIVER BAND

18:00
COW & SOW
WALTER SMITTY

18:00
SAMAI THAI
HIT PARADE HEROES

19:00
BOX, BRINDLEYPLACE
BIRMINGHAM: A CITY ROOTED IN TALENT

OUTSTANDING GENEROSITY

A special thank you to Mark Thomas for outstanding generosity.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION POINT

Snobs on Broad Street is the focal point for much of the activity during the Jazz and Blues 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.

19:00
HILTON GARDEN INN
DJANGO CHUTNEY

19:30
NOVOTEL
ANVIL CHORUS

19:30
WEDNESBURY LIBRARY
ANDRES ROOTS (ESTONIA)

19:30
RADISSON BLU
HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND

20:00
SNOBS
DIRT ROAD BAND

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Our Festival photographer MERLIN DALEMAN works for two Dutch daily newspapers and undertakes commissions worldwide. Twice winner of the Silver Camera Award for best documentary photographer in the Netherlands, his most recent venture is a large-format book examining the state of Britain since Brexit.

On the morning of Tuesday 28th June he will be conducting a free workshop available to all photographers and aspirant photographers of all levels.

BIRMINGHAM: A CITY ROOTED IN TALENT FILM BY D.G. TORRENS & MARTIN TRACEY

Birmingham: A City Rooted in Talent is a compelling, groundbreaking documentary series produced to spotlight the city's unparalleled diverse and creative heritage. Blending rare archival footage, exclusive interviews, and never-before-heard stories. The series features the trailblazers - musicians, broadcasters, people of sport, and cultural pioneers - who defined Birmingham's sound and soul placing the city onto the world stage with the likes of Black Sabbath, Duran Duran and so many more. Driven by the city's own talent, it's a landmark celebration.

THE GOODSYARD

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From dinner and drinks at Passing Fancies to laid-back evenings at Vieni, some of the Quarter's best food spots are right on your doorstep at The Goodsyard.

New homes available to rent now.
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12:30
WATER'S EDGE
BANDSTAND
JAKE LEG JUG BAND

12:30
MOSELEY ALL
SERVICES CLUB
BIRMINGHAM BIG BAND
with **SUZI WOODS**
£8.00

12:30
THE QUEEN'S HEAD,
STEELHOUSE LANE
DJANGO CHUTNEY

13:00
ALEXANDRA THEATRE
PIANO BAR
**THE SHAKEDOWN
BROTHERS**

13:00
THINKTANK
THE SAX PISTOLS
Included in general
admission price



13:00
MILITARY CHEF,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
PLAYING DJANGO

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
ART THEMEN QUARTET

18:00
VAGABOND
DJANGO CHUTNEY

19:30
THE THREE TUNS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
**RICH DICKINSON'S
DRIVING FORCE**

19:30
RED LION, WEST
BROMWICH
**ANDRES ROOTS
(ESTONIA)**

19:30
CRADLEY HEATH LIBRARY
THE SAX PISTOLS

20:00
SNOBS
ART THEMEN QUARTET

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.

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.

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BIRMINGHAM
CONSERVATOIRE

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guest artists and rising stars
of the scene, and soak up the
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only purpose-built jazz club*

For full listings scan here or visit
www.bcu.ac.uk/concerts

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Birmingham City University

Photo Credit:
Jim Simpson

Buddy Guy



12:00
MAILBOX (CANALSIDE)
RIP ROARING SUCCESS

12:30
WATER'S EDGE
BANDSTAND
DJANGO CHUTNEY

13:00
BLAKESLEY HALL
**SIMON SPILLETT
QUARTET**
£3.50

14:00
NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE
**WALTER SMITTY AND
THE UNVIABLES**

14:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
LET'S TALK BUDDY GUY

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
**JAMIE THYER &
THE WORRIED MEN**

17:00
HILTON GARDEN INN
**BILLY THOMPSON
GYPSY STYLE**

17:00
RPM ANALOGUE AUDIO
BUDDY GUY ON RECORD

18:00
LA BELLEZZA
ROY FORBES
Reservation required

18:00
BOX, BRINDLEYPLACE
BUDDY GUY ON FILM

18:30
NOVOTEL
**SIMON SPILLETT
QUARTET**

19:00
REGINA'S BAR &
RESTAURANT
RIP ROARING SUCCESS

19:30
GREAT BARR LIBRARY
DJANGO CHUTNEY

19:30
THE GATE, SUTTON
COLDFIELD
**JAMIE THYER &
THE WORRIED MEN**

20:00
JUNCTION
BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

20:00
SNOBS
**BILLY THOMPSON
GYPSY STYLE**

ROCKEFELLAS TV

Rockefellas TV is a global music and entertainment network dedicated to celebrating artists, venues, festivals, and the stories behind the music. From interviews and live features to original programming, Rockefellas TV gives emerging and established talent a platform to be seen, heard, and supported by music fans worldwide.

QUAY SPACE COWORKING

Quay Space is a bright, open coworking space with lovely views of **Broad Street** and Birmingham's canals, creating a calm and welcoming place to work. It's designed to bring people together, so businesses, charities, and freelancers can connect, collaborate, and grow as a community.



There are lots of flexible options, whether you need a private office just for you or a whole floor customized to your needs. Plus, with **24-hour access**, you can work whenever suits you best.

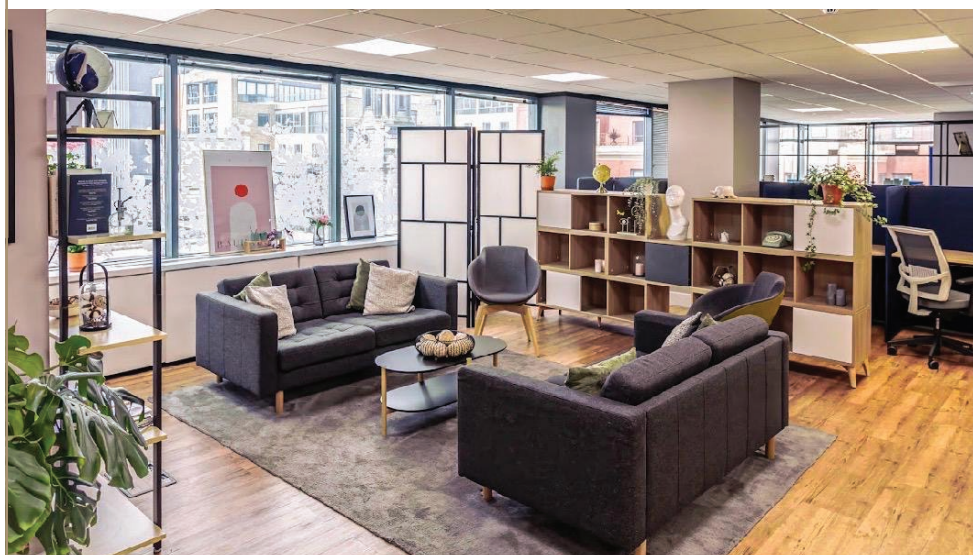
The space is all about making work easy and enjoyable. You'll find a friendly reception team ready to greet you, onsite management, and IT support to help with anything you need. There are also conference rooms and event spaces perfect for meetings, presentations, or workshops.

Other great perks include air-conditioned offices, **fast broadband (up to 100MB)**, and secure parking, so you can focus on your work in comfort and style.

Please feel free to pop in to have a chat, we would love to hear your story and your business aspirations.

You are very welcome.

Call Annie or Skye on 07938 123 028



12:30
CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE
BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

14:00
NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE
**YOU'RE NEVER
ALONE WITH A UKE**

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
THE TOO HOT TRIO

18:00
SNOBS
**OUT OF THE BLUE
BIG BAND**

18:30
THE COSY CLUB
THE TOO HOT TRIO

18:30
ASH, SUTTON COLDFIELD
JAKE LEG JUG BAND

19:00
BACCHUS BAR
**CHICKENBONE JOHN
& HARMONICA DAVE**

19:00
REGINA'S BAR
& RESTAURANT
JAKE HENRY TRIO

19:00
ASTON HALL
**HONEYBOY HICKLING
BLUES BAND
£12.00**

19:00
WEST BROMWICH
INDOOR MARKET
JUST DOIN' IT

19:00
DARTMOUTH
CENTRAL CLUB
SWING CAFÉ

19:30
BARBARA'S BIER HAUS
BRAD HENSHAW

19:30
IBIS BIRMINGHAM CENTRE
BACK ON THE ROAD

19:30
BROMWICH HALL
THE SAX PISTOLS

19:30
BLEAKHOUSE LIBRARY
**JOHN HEMMING &
THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS**

19:30
THE CORE THEATRE
**LADY SINGS THE BLUES
£20.00**

19:30
SUTTON COLDFIELD
TOWN HALL
**EDGAR MACIAS
PIQUERO QUINTET
£15**

20:00
PLOUGH AND
HARROW HOTEL
BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

20:00
WASHWORX
SLIDE BOY ROY

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM COLLECTION CENTRE

The Museum Collection Centre is the main store for Birmingham Museum Trust, holding over 80% of a collection of around a million items, many offering a real insight into life in Birmingham and the West Midlands over the centuries

With only a small percentage of collections on display at Birmingham Museums, or on loan to other organisations, it is the only place to see collection items not normally on display.



FESTIVAL HOTEL

The Festival is extremely grateful to the Best Western Plough and Harrow Hotel on Hagley Road, for serving as the Festival Hotel, accommodating musicians who are staying overnight. In addition the hotel stages four concerts during the Festival: Hit Parade Heroes (July 24), Jump Jive and Wail (25), Ben Toury (31) and Florence Joelle (August 1).

11:00
BIRMINGHAM
INDOOR MARKET
JAKE LEG JUG BAND

12:00
BROMWICH HALL
FLORENCE JOELLE

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

13:00
MILLENNIUM POINT
SHUFFLEPACK

13:00
SAREHOLE MILL
AL NICHOLLS QUARTET
£3.50

13:00
BULLRING RAG MARKET
BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

13:00
HEAVENLY DESSERTS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD
THE DELTA ACES

14:00
BIRMINGHAM MARKETS
CUSTOMER CENTRE
THE SAX PISTOLS

14:30
BANK RESTAURANT,
BAR, GRILL
SHEILA WATERFIELD

15:00
AC HOTEL
ROY FORBES QUARTET

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
BRUCE ADAMS QUARTET

15:00
MILLENNIUM POINT
**HONEYBOY HICKLING
BLUES BAND**

17:00
THE ALCHEMIST,
BRINDLEYPLACE
THE DELTA ACES

17:30
MILLENNIUM POINT
BRAD HENSHAW

17:30
NO 18 COFFEE HOUSE &
WINE BAR, TAMWORTH
THE SHUFFLEPACK

18:00
SNOBS
THE SAX PISTOLS

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.

19:00
NOEL'S BAR & RESTAURANT
SWING CAFE

19:00
RED LION, JEWELLERY
QUARTER
AL NICHOLLS QUARTET

19:30
WEST BROMWICH
CENTRAL LIBRARY
BRUCE ADAMS QUARTET

19:45
MILLENNIUM POINT
GET LOOSE

20:00
THE WELLINGTON
BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

20:00
PLOUGH AND
HARROW HOTEL
FLORENCE JOELLE

Bruce Adams



Photo Credit: Merlin Dalemán



Delta Aces

12:00
OAK HOUSE
STUART MAXWELL'S
BLUES RAIDERS

12:30
WEST PARK BANDSTAND,
WOLVERHAMPTON
RICH DICKINSON'S
DRIVING FORCE

13:00
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM
& ART GALLERY
BRUCE ADAMS
QUARTET

13:00
NOEL'S BAR &
RESTAURANT
SHEILA WATERFIELD

13:00
BANTOCK HOUSE,
WOLVERHAMPTON
JAKE LEG JUG BAND

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BLUES FESTIVAL, OR BY CARD, PHONE 0121 454 7020.

13:45
OLD JOINT STOCK
JAKE HENRY

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

14:00
LONGBRIDGE VILLAGE
SWING CAFÉ

15:00
THE BRASSHOUSE
AL NICHOLLS QUARTET

15:00
THE SCHOOL YARD AT
BOSTON TEA PARTY
CHICKENBONE
BLUES BAND

17:00
ALL BAR ONE
BRAD HENSHAW

18:00
O NEILL'S, BROAD STREET
STUART MAXWELL'S
BLUES RAIDERS

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.

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. www.genesisradiobirmingham.com

Stuart Maxwell's
Blues Raiders



Photo Credit:
Merlin Daleman

18:00
THE ALCHEMIST,
COLMORE ROW
SWING CAFE

18:00
LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

19:00
THE STATION, SUTTON
COLDFIELD
SLIDE BOY ROY

19:00
SANDWELL VALLEY
VISITOR CENTRE
SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN
BLUES BAND

19:00
THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY
AL NICHOLLS QUARTET

20:00
SNOBS
BRUCE ADAMS QUARTET

The Festival is pleased to announce the launch of Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival CIC, a new branch created to support the festival's ongoing outreach work. The CIC will help us continue to deliver free workshops, community events and outreach activity across the region, ensuring that live music and music-making experiences remain accessible to all.

KEEP INFORMED

Send your email address to festival@bigbearmusic.com to go on the free e-bulletin list.

MANY THANKS TO BIDS

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

1000 TRADES ON THE PARK
Lightwoods Park,
Bearwood, B67 5DP
0121 638 0451

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The Mailbox, B1 1RL
0121 643 9344

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, PIANO BAR
Suffolk Street Queensway,
B5 4DS
0333 009 6690

ALL BAR ONE
Brindleyplace, B1 2HL
0121 643 3157

ARCADIAN
Hurst Street, B5 4TD
0121 622 5348

ASH, SUTTON COLDFIELD
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

BANK RESTAURANT, BAR & GRILL
Brindleyplace, B1 2JB
0121 633 4466

BANTOCK HOUSE
Finchfield Road,
Wolverhampton WV3 9LQ
01902 552195

BAR ESTILO
The Mailbox, B1 1RF
0121 643 3443

BARBARA'S BIER HAUS
Broad Street, B15 1SU
0121 387 5675

BIRMINGHAM INDOOR MARKET
Edgbaston Street, B5 4RQ
0121 303 0208

**BIRMINGHAM MARKET
CUSTOMER CENTRE**
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0121 303 0250

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0121 348 8000

BLACKHEATH LIBRARY
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0121 569 4920

BLAKESLEY HALL
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0121 348 8000

BLEAKHOUSE LIBRARY
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0121 569 4923

BOTANICAL GARDENS
Westbourne Road, B15 3TR
0121 454 1860

BOURNVILLE GARDENS VILLAGE
Bristol Rd S, Bournville, B31 2FR
0121 227 9000

BOURNVILLE VILLAGE GREEN
Bournville, B30 1JT
07880 714716

BOX
Water's Edge, Brindleyplace B1 2HL
0121 269 5700

BRASSHOUSE
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 BOTANICO
Fraser's, Sutton Coldfield B72 1PB
0121 354 2904

CAFFE NERO
Brindleyplace, B1 2JB
0121 643 4572

CBSO CENTRE
Berkley St, Birmingham B1 2LF
0121 616 6500

CENTRAL SQUARE
Brindleyplace, B1 2JB
0121 454 7020

CHAMBERLAIN SQUARE
Paradise, B3 3AX
0121 780 3333

CORE THEATRE
Touchwood, Solihull B91 3RG
0121 704 6962

COSY CLUB
Brindleyplace, B1 2HL
0121 546 0438

CÔTE , SOLIHULL
High St, Solihull B91 3SX
0121 828 4848

COW & SOW
Paradise, B3 3AX
0121 798 2131

CRADLEY HEATH LIBRARY
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0121 569 4926

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0121 553 1927

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0121 452 1144

DISHOOM
Paradise B3 3AX
0121 809 5986

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CV5 6JQ
024 7771 8000

GREAT BARR LIBRARY
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B64 7JU
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HARVEY NORMAN
Gracechurch Shopping Centre,
Sutton Coldfield B72 1PD
0121 823 0590

HEAVENLY DESSERTS
Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield
B72 1QF
0121 537 0826

HILTON GARDEN INN
Brindleyplace, B1 2HW
0121 643 1003

IBIS BIRMINGHAM CENTRE
Ladywell Walk, B5 4ST
0121 622 6010

LA BELLEZZA
Paradise, B3 3AX
020 4578 4370

LIGHTWOODS HOUSE
Bearwood, B67 5DP
0121 569 4141

LONGBRIDGE VILLAGE
Austin Way, Rednal, B45 8TD
0121 272 4000

MAILBOX
B1 1RS
0121 632 1000

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
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0121 389 3766

MUSEUM COLLECTION CENTRE
Dollman St, Birmingham B7 4RQ
0121 348 8231

NEW INN
Harborne, B17 0DJ
0121 792 6027

NEW OSCOTT VILLAGE
Fosseway Drive, Chester Road
B23 5LD
0121 377 5000

NEW SQUARE
Cronehills Linkway,
West Bromwich B70 7PP
0121 647 7040

NO 18 COFFEE HOUSE & WINE BAR
Lichfield St, Tamworth B79 7QD
01827 64161

NOEL'S BAR & RESTAURANT
Waterfront Walk, B1 1SN
0121 389 3896

NOVOTEL
Broad Street, B1 2HT
0121 619 9002

O'NEILLS
Broad Street B1 2HG
0121 616 1623

OAK HOUSE
Oak Road, West Bromwich B70 8HJ
0121 553 0759

OLD JOINT STOCK
Temple Row, B2 5NY
0121 200 1892

OMNOM, JEWELLERY QUARTER
Fleet St, B3 1JH
07387 142842

PLOUGH & HARROW HOTEL
Hagley Rd, B16 8LS
0333 003 4274

QUEENS HEAD
28 Steelhouse Ln, B4 6BJ
0121 236 0345

RADISSON BLU
Holloway Circus B1 1BT
0121 654 6000

RED LION, JEWELLERY QUARTER
Warstone Lane, B18 6NG
0121 233 9144

RED LION, WEST BROMWICH
All Saints Way, B71 1RH
0121 588 2304

REGINA'S BAR & RESTAURANT
Newhall St, Birmingham B3 3NY
0121 392 2955

RPM ANALOGUE AUDIO
Bearwood Rd, Bearwood B66 4BE
07939 968588

**SAINT PAUL'S MARKET,
JEWELLERY QUARTER**
Mary Ann Street, B3 1RL
sarah@saintpaulsmarket.co.uk

SAMAI THAI, JEWELLERY QUARTER
Mary Ann St, Birmingham B3 1RL
0121 661 0347

SANDWELL VALLEY VISITORS CENTRE
Salters Lane, West Bromwich
B71 4BG
0121 569 3070

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Cole Bank Rd, B13 0BD
0121 348 8160

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Birmingham City University, Margaret
Street B3 3DX
07809 356411

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0121 748 6455

SNOBS
Broad Street, B15 1SU
0121 643 5551

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL
Upper Clifton Road, B73 6DA
0121 296 9543

THE ALCHEMIST
Brindleyplace, B1 2HL
0121 794 2164

THE ALCHEMIST
Colmore Row, B3 2BS
0121 200 2377

THE DUKE INN
Duke Street, Sutton Coldfield
B72 1RJ
0121 355 1767

THE EXCHANGE
Centenary Square, B1 2DR
07814 062 984

THE FIGHTING COCKS
St Mary's Row, Moseley B13 8HW
0121 449 0811

THE GATE
Mill St, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TJ
0121 272 5499

THE JUNCTION
High Street, Harborne B17 9PT0121
428 2635

THE SCHOOL YARD AT BOSTON TEA PARTY
High Street, Harborne B17 9NJ
0121 820 0099

THE STATION
Station Street, Sutton
Coldfield B73 6AT
0121 362 4961

THE THREE TUNS
High St, Sutton Coldfield.
B72 1XS
0121 355 2996

THE WELLINGTON
Bennetts Hill, B2 5SN
0121 269 4112

THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY
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B67 5RJ
0121 569 4943

THINKTANK
Millennium Point, B4 7XG
0121 348 8000

VAGABOND
Colmore Row, B3 3BD
020 8609 7842

**VICTORIAN TEA ROOMS,
SUTTON COLDFIELD**
Sutton Coldfield, B72 1PA
07399 718908

VIENI, JEWELLERY QUARTER
41 Pitsford St, B18 6LJ
0121 806 0080

WASHWORX
Hurst St, B5 6SE
0121 798 1383

WATER'S EDGE BANDSTAND
Brindleyplace, B1 2JB
0121 454 7020

WEDNESBURY LIBRARY
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0121 569 4945

WEDNESBURY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
Holyhead Road, WS10 7DF
0121 556 0683

WEST BROMWICH CENTRAL LIBRARY
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0121 569 4900

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High St, West Bromwich B70 7NN
0121 553 3074

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE MUSEUM
Steelhouse Lane, B4 6BJ
www.trybooking.com/uk/events/
landing/113801

**WEST PARK BANDSTAND,
WOLVERHAMPTON**
Wolverhampton WV1 4PN

WINTERBOURNE HOUSE & GARDEN
Edgbaston Park Road,
Edgbaston B15 2RT
0121 414 3003

Shoppers looking for a bargain – be it fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, meat, household goods, clothing or haberdashery – should take a visit to the city's landmark markets

BULL RING MARKETS



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

AL NICHOLLS

Al Nicholls is a swinging, warm toned tenor sax player in the free-blowing, booting style of the "Texas Tenors" of the 1940s and 50s - the likes of Illinois Jacquet, Arnett Cobb, Buddy Tate, et al. After graduating from Leeds College of Music Al served his time in a succession of swing-cum-jump jive bands such as The Big Town Playboys, King Pleasure and Ray Gelato. He now leads his own jazz quartet and quintet regularly performing at jazz clubs and jazz festivals the length and breadth of Britain. Al also hosts a twice monthly residency at Soho's Spice of Life Club featuring the finest of the UK's mainstream musicians, such as Art Themen, Rico Tomasso and Nigel Price. He frequently appears with TJ Johnson, The Stargazers, Aisha Khan and her Rajas, amongst others

'His tenor playing is firmly in the exuberant, big toned tradition of such 1940s and '50s swing to bop players as Illinois Jacquet and Charlie Ventura.' Jim Denham, *Just Jazz* magazine.

ALAN BARNES

Alan Barnes is a prolific international performer, composer, arranger, bandleader and soloist. He is best known for his work on clarinet, alto and baritone sax, where he combines a



formidable virtuosity with a musical expression and collaborative spirit that have few peers. His range and brilliance have made him a first call in jazz for studio and live work since his precocious arrival on the scene.

His recorded catalogue is immense. He has made over thirty albums as leader and co-leader alone, and the list of his session and side-man work includes, Charlie Watts, Bryan Ferry, Michel Legrand, Clare Teal, Jools Holland and Jamie Cullum. He has toured and played residencies with such

diverse and demanding figures as Ruby Braff, Freddie Hubbard, Scott Hamilton, Warren Vache, Ken Peplowski, Harry Allen and Conte Candoli.

In British jazz, first appearing with the Tommy Chase and the Jazz Renegades, he cemented his reputation with a long stint with the Humphrey Lyttelton Band. He is universally respected for his longstanding and fruitful collaborations with contemporaries such as David Newton, Bruce Adams, Mark Nightingale and Martin Taylor.

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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.

Alan is an indispensable part of Birmingham Festivals as a soloist and part of such bands as *Lady Sings the Blues*, but is also well known as a composer of themed jazz suites – and indeed for his own record label, Woodville Records. His musicianship and warm rapport with audiences have made him uniquely popular in British jazz. He has received over 30 British Jazz Awards in various categories and has twice been made BBC Jazz Musician of the Year. His most recent col-laboration has been with Noa Levy and Paul Edis on the music of Bill Evans.

in fluid acoustic blues and roots music' (RnR Magazine) and 'a hardcore reshaping of the blues' (Songlines) is celebrating his 30th year as a working musician in 2026 – along with his 50th birthday and the 20th anniversary of his first UK gigs.

Still based in Tartu, Estonia, Roots (his real name!) has nevertheless played everywhere from Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, Mississippi to the German parliament, the Bundestag in Berlin. His music has enjoyed

airplay on five continents, topped the charts in Estonia and earned comparisons with the heyday of Mississippi Delta Blues, Leo Kottke, and Davy Graham.

Roots' inaugural appearance at the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival was in 2024 and according to *Blues in Britain's* Norman Darwen, "the Estonian king of (mainly) acoustic blues instrumentals Andres Roots has re-established his following since Covid as a regular and welcome visitor to these shores."

His stylistic range is quite phenomenal... He has a wonderful capacity for suggesting a given style without actually imitating anyone

Dave Gelly

ANDRES ROOTS (ESTONIA)

The Estonian slide guitar wizard who 'sounds like a trio' (Blues-Finland.com) whilst offering 'a masterclass



Photo Credit: Merlin Dalemán

Andres Roots

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Art Themen



Photo Credit: Merlin Dalemán

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 its 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 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

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 from medicine 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 instruments at the age of 86. In this last year he has been active with his organ trio, sometimes supplemented by Denny

TUESDAY IS BLUESDAY

Year round, Tuesday is Blues Day at Henry's Blueshouse at Snobs in Broad Street. Once again the Festival is extending this by making it an all-day blues extravaganza. Kicking things off at 2 in the afternoon are Slide Boy Roy, followed by James Oliver and in the normal Henry's spot, the Dirt Road Band.

A regular feature at Snobs on Sundays is Birmingham Rocks, with Festival bookings featuring Jump Jive and Wail (July 26) and the Bruce Adams Quartet (August 2).

Meanwhile Henry's has ended its reach to Fridays at West Bromwich Markets, with the Sax Pistols (July 24) and Just Doin' It (31) during the Festival.

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**.



Ilett, and with Clark Tracey's Jazz Champions quintet, and has chalked up three separate appearances at Ronnie Scott's. David Lyons wrote of him, '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. Working mainly in the Midlands, the band have proved

particular favourites at Birmingham Rocks at Snobs.

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 TRIO (USA)

Even if you've never heard of American jazz guitarist B.D. Lenz, chances are you've heard his music—it's been featured on hundreds of TV shows around the world. With over a dozen releases to his name, Lenz delivers a distinctive blend of funky jazz that combines virtuoso musicianship with sharp, engaging songwriting. Joining him are James Rosocha on bass and Joe Falcey on drums. Together, the trio keeps audiences on their toes with an eclectic mix of jazz standards, original grooves, and reimagined pop classics.

Over the past few years the ever-popular trio has

made Birmingham one of the stopping points on an extended tour of Europe which this year began in Amsterdam in June, playing clubs and festivals.

BEN TOURY (FRANCE)

Pianist, harmonica player, singer and composer Ben Toury is a true whirlwind of modern boogie. A gifted self-taught musician, he first stepped on stage as a child alongside his bluesman father and recorded his first CD at the age of 13. That same year (1995) he opened for Bob Brozman at the Le Creusot Blues Festival, marking the beginning of an extraordinary musical journey.

In the years that followed he toured widely initially with his father, later with the Ben Toury Jazz Corporation. In 2018 he formed the Ben Toury Machine and the following year he toured the United States and released *Siberian Piano*, a more intimate album than his earlier *Wild Boogie Woogie* releases.

Post-COVID his concerts across Europe and the United States continued and it's at this time that he became a favourite at Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival. In 2026 he plans to release Volume 4 of *Wild Boogie Woogie*. His appeal is summed up as 'vibrant, funny, intense and always surprising'.

FREE JAZZ & BLUES EVENTS IN SANDWELL

Thursday 23 July	12:30pm	Wednesbury Library	Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band
Friday 24 July	7pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	West Bromwich Indoor Market Blackheath Library Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery	The Sax Pistols Alan Barnes Quartet Playing Django
Saturday 25 July	12 noon 1pm 7:30pm	Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre West Bromwich Central Library	Jump, Jive & Wail Alan Barnes Quartet Tipitina
Sunday 26 July	2pm 2pm	Haden Hill House, Cradley Heath Red Lion, West Bromwich	Slide Boy Roy Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band
Monday 27 July	1pm 7:30pm	New Square, West Bromwich Great Bridge Library	Jake Leg Jug Band Hit Parade Heroes
Tuesday 28 July	7:30pm	Wednesbury Library	Andres Roots (Estonia)
Wednesday 29 July	7:30pm 7:30pm	Cradley Heath Library Red Lion, West Bromwich	The Sax Pistols Andres Roots (Estonia)
Thursday 30 July	7:30pm	Great Barr Library	Django Chutney
Friday 31 July	7pm 7pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	West Bromwich Indoor Market Dartmouth Central Club Bromwich Hall, West Bromwich Bleakhouse Library, Oldbury	Just Doin' It Swing Café The Sax Pistols John Hemming & The Jazz Lobbyists
Saturday 1 August	12 noon 7:30pm	Bromwich Hall, West Bromwich West Bromwich Central Library	Florence Joelle Bruce Adams Quartet
Sunday 2 August	12 noon 2pm 6pm 7pm 7pm	Oak House, West Bromwich Red Lion, West Bromwich Lightwoods House, Bearwood Thimblemill Library, Smethwick Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre	Stuart Maxwell's Blues Raiders Ben Toury (France) Ben Toury (France) Al Nicholls Quartet Smokin' Ade Wakelin Blues Band (Free tickets available on TicketSource)

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 the latest details.

You can pre-book tickets to library concerts at www.ticketsource.com/sandwell-libraries-and-archives

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Lady Sings The Blues

part of Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival

A powerful live concert celebrating one of jazz's greatest voices - Billie Holiday - featuring award-winning vocalist Val Wiseman and six outstanding jazz musicians.

Friday 31 July, 7.30pm
The Core Theatre Solihull

Box Office: 0121 704 6962
www.thecoretheatresolihull.co.uk



BILLY THOMPSON GYPSY STYLE

Violin virtuoso Billy Thompson is bringing his immensely popular Gypsy Jazz style to the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival, promising an entertaining performance of high energy, soulful musicianship and panache. Billy, formerly Young Jazz Musician (twice) and a key member of Barbara Thompson's Paraphernalia, has also played alongside Gary Potter, John Etheridge, Martin Taylor and Howard Alden.

The music will be a mixture of Hot Club classics, fiery Hungarian tunes, some unusual covers and some original tunes all packed with lots of fun improvisation. Joining Billy (violin) will be Eryl Jones (guitar and mandolin) Sam Thompson (guitar) and Ken Marley (double bass).

BIRMINGHAM BIG BAND WITH SUZI WOODS

The Birmingham Big Band play a mixture of popular and contemporary big band jazz, 17 musicians negotiating classic charts under the leadership of John Ruddick, with Gary Allcock on drums. They play a quarterly gig at Moseley All Services Club, with distinguished guests – in the Festival the ever-popular SUZI WOODS.

BRAD HENSHAW

Brad Henshaw is a Birmingham-born singer-songwriter whose remarkable career has seen him collaborate with some of the most iconic names in music. His extensive résumé includes work alongside legends such as Whitney Houston, Buddy Guy, Blur, Richard Ashcroft, UB40, Rod Stewart, Roy Wood, Michael Bolton, Slade and Shirley Bassey, as well as performances

with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Widely respected within the industry, Henshaw has earned praise from a host of influential artists, reflecting both his versatility and enduring musical impact. Having spent significant time living in America, he has developed a distinctive sound rooted in the timeless spirit of Americana and Southern Rock.

Known for his strong, expressive voice, Henshaw performs with clarity and feeling. Blending soulful vocals with confident guitar work, his performances are engaging without being overworked, letting the quality of the songwriting and musicianship speak for itself.

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. After getting his first trumpet



Murder Mystery Night Jazz and Blues Theme



West Midlands Police Museum (The Victorian Lock-Up)
40 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham. B4 6BJ (opposite Birmingham Children's Hospital)

Thursday, 23 July, 6.15pm Start

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Can you determine who committed the murder and what their motive was?

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Edgar Macias Piquero
piano & vocals

Nestor Pedrales
congas, bongos & vocals

Tom Hill
bass & vocals

Miles Levin
drums

Ray Butcher
trumpet

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at the age of 11 in 1962, five months later he did his first gig and three years later appeared on *Opportunity Knocks*, sponsored by trumpet great Nat Gonella.

In the 1980s Bruce became a regular at Edinburgh Jazz Festival, playing with such American stars as Harry Edison, Warren Vache, Buddy Tate, Al Cohn, Bill Allred, Dick Hyman, Art Hodes and many others. Since then he has been first call for innumerable big bands as well as being a high-powered soloist in his own right. His association with Alan Barnes has lasted for over 30 years and he is also remembered in Birmingham for his dynamic high-note performances with Kenny Baker's Dozen. At this year's Festival Bruce is appearing with a quartet and as part of the line-up for *Lady Sings the Blues*.

THE BUSKATEERS

The Buskateers (Tim and Billy) perform with their friends Pete Wain, Bleak December, Alan Warden and Tony Edwards. Billy and Tim play old blues, jazz and mash ups of songs in a skiffle vein with washboard, kazoo, whistles and banjo accompaniment. Alan offers smooth jazz, smoky vocals and Wes Montgomery-style guitar. Pete plays his own compositions along with some rock and blues classics. Bleak December



bring a more contemporary feel with soaring vocals and heavy rhythms. Tony has the gravel pit voice suited to his hollering songs and slow blues guitar.

The Buskateers will be busking for charity, which is what they ordinarily do around the West Midlands. The charities they often support include Sandwell Visually Impaired, Teenage Hub Russell's Hall Hospital, Tough Enough to Care, MS Therapy Centre and Riverside House.

CHICKENBONE JOHN AND HARMONICA DAVE/CHICKENBONE BLUES BAND

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. He starred in the BBC documentary *Cigar Box Blues* and organises the annual Boxstock Festival.

He can be heard playing both cigar box and orthodox guitars during the Festival in the company of his long-time collaborator Harmonica Dave and leading his own Chickenbone Blues Band.

THE DELTA ACES

Best described as a timeless classic and vintage Blues act, The Delta Aces have been critically lauded as a great live Delta & Chicago Blues duo for their immersive heartfelt vocals, expert guitar work and soulful harmonica playing which has been crafted from over eight years of performing in intimate Jazz and Blues clubs, small theatres and large festival stages across the UK and abroad.

Their new album titled *Educated Man* recorded at Prism Recording Studios in Stoke-On-Trent has been critically praised for its vintage theme and authentic live sound. The duo have been likened to Sonny Terry and Brownie

THE BRASSHOUSE

At the heart of Birmingham's live music scene, The Brasshouse brings together history, atmosphere and outstanding live performance—proudly supporting the spirit of the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival and keeping the city's musical heritage alive all year round.

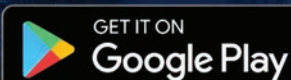


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McGhee and this year can be heard at the Great British Rhythm and Blues Festival.

"These two fellas are the real deal, an authentic take on classic blues I highly recommend!" - Haff

THE DIRT ROAD BAND

The Dirt Road Band are Steve Walwyn, guitar and vocals, Horace Panter, bass, and Ted Duggan, drums. They play hard, punchy blues-rock music that makes your heart beat faster.

Walwyn has played guitar for a living for the past 45 years, 32 of those as a member of Dr Feelgood. Panter was a founding member of The Specials. He's been doing this a while too, as has Duggan who has enjoyed spells with Banco de Gaia and more recently, Badfinger. Three highly proficient and time-served players doing what they do best.

DRB started as a side project some 5 years ago and has now taken centre stage.

Their critically acclaimed debut album *Righteous* was released in July 2024.

The creative process coming naturally with these players feeding off one another. 'We've started to develop that musical telepathy that makes a band more than the sum of its parts.'

DJANGO CHUTNEY

Brighton-based gypsy-jazz trio Django Chutney have been blowing away audiences since October 2021. A chance meeting of great minds and kindred spirits led to an instantaneous connection and a first gig that went on for over 6 hours (and only finished because it was closing time).

An infectious love of performing – whether its jazz, blues, folk or Black Sabbath – has helped propel this trio into a non-stop run of shows

around the festivals, pubs and jazz clubs of the UK. Their combination of three-part vocal harmonies, huge repertoire that draws from so many eras and genres of the 20th century, virtuosic guitar show-offery, and ridiculous sense of fun and musical adventure has helped them secure fans not only from the sometimes-staid jazz-world, but from across the spectrum – all ages, and all musical tastes will find something to enjoy in Django Chutney's hugely entertaining and energetic performances.

EDGAR MACIAS PIQUERO QUINTET

Venezuelan-born pianist and musical director Edgar Macías has established himself as one of the Midlands' leading figures in jazz, Latin jazz, Brazilian, Venezuelan music and salsa. Based in the UK for many years, Edgar is widely recognised for his dynamic performances, stylistic versatility and ability to bring together musicians from diverse musical backgrounds into exciting and original projects.

At the forefront of his current work is the Edgar Macías Piquero Quintet, featuring Chris Bowden on saxophones, Tom Hill on bass and vocals, Miles Levin on drums, and Néstor Pedrales on congas, bongos, percussion and vocals. Blending hard bop,

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funk, jazz, Brazilian music, salsa and Venezuelan influences, the quintet has recently gained acclaim for its vibrant reinterpretation of the iconic Buena Vista Social Club repertoire, specially arranged for the Latin Jazz Quintet format.

Before moving to the UK, Edgar enjoyed a distinguished musical career throughout Venezuela and Latin America. He performed with the Venezuelan Symphony Orchestra and the Moisés Moleiro Philharmonic Band under acclaimed conductors including Aldemaro Romero, Juan Carlos Núñez, Julian Bigg and Loren Schoenberg, accompanying leading Latin American artists such as Chucho Avellanet, Italo Pizzolante, Jesús Sevillano, Polito Ibañez, Kiara and Yordano Di Marzo. He also worked alongside leading Venezuelan jazz and Latin musicians including Víctor Cuíca, Ernesto 'Renán'

Uquillas, Freddy Roldán and Frank 'El Pavo' Hernández, further shaping the rich musical identity that defines his work today.

'Latin-based but firmly in modern jazz territory, with any one of the five liable to reel off dazzling solos, it's a truly great band that you'd be daft to miss'. - Stratford Jazz

FLORENCE JOELLE

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.

Joelle's latest releases feature a collaboration with modernist bluesmen Tiny Flaws. Their song *That Summer* was played on the BBC, Acid Jazz's Totally Wired radio station and many more. Her songs have been played on BBC Radio (*29 Bus Blues* and *When I Get Low I Get High* were 'song of the week' on BBC Introducing), Jazz Fm and digital and internet stations across the world.

A record collector from an early age, Florence also freelances for various catalogue AR record label consultant. She has reissued and compiled over a hundred titles, her most recent catalogue release being the Count Basie Best Of The Roulette Years, released on green vinyl.

'Left Bank cool, rock'n'roll and Gypsy jazz for a sound that is both sultry and feisty. - Fatea Magazine

GET LOOSE

Get Loose is a high energy Oxfordshire-based blues rock band, taking pride in original music and dynamic live performance.

Florence Joelle



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JULY

FRIDAY 24
Silver Tree Bakery - 12pm

SATURDAY 25
The Duke Inn - 5pm

SUNDAY 26
Harvey Norman - 12.30pm

MONDAY 27
The Victorian Tea Room - 11am

TUESDAY 28
Caffe Botanico, House of Fraser - 1pm

WEDNESDAY 29
Military Chef - 1pm
The Three Tuns - 7.30pm

THURSDAY 30
The Gate - 7.30pm

FRIDAY 31
Ash Restaurant - 6.30pm

AUGUST

SATURDAY 1
Heavenly Desserts - 1pm

SUNDAY 2
The Station - 7pm

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42ND BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL
JULY 24th TO AUGUST 2nd 2026



Photo Credit: Merlin Daleman

Featuring the blistering guitar work of Lee Castle and the unique talents of Paul Ashby on harmonica, Get Loose channel classic rock mixed with blues and fine melodies to bring the good times back to lovers of great music.

'What we have here is a different type of band....a melting pot of great lyrics

and a swagger that will have you playing it over and over – *Blues Matters*.

THE HIT PARADE HEROES

Guitarist/singer Warren James has long been compared to Lonnie Donegan and he is one of the heroes as Warren and his band celebrate the stars and the music of the 1950s and 1960s.

ALL-DAYER AT MILLENNIUM POINT

Millennium Point stages a Blues All-Dayer on Saturday August 1, commencing at 1300 with the Shufflepack, followed by Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band at 1500. At 1730 Brad Henshaw takes to the stage and the day comes to an end with Get Loose at 1930.

Tickets are free, but pre-booking is required.

At that time a new breed of music hero now dominated the British Hit Parade – with home grown talent such as Tommy Steele, Joe Brown, Adam Faith, Marty Wilde and, of course, Lonnie Donegan along with many other American stars such as Johnny Cash, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, The Everly Brothers and more.

Enjoy over 2 hours of musical nostalgia with Warren James and his Hit Parade Heroes – entertainment like it used to be.

HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND

This is rocking post-war Chicago-style blues of the highest calibre delivered by a top-class band of musicians with impeccable pedigrees. Harmonica player and singer Honeyboy Hickling toured with Steve Marriott and recorded with Bo Diddley, plus a great deal 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.

HOT CLUB OF HALIFAX

The Hot Club of Halifax are a highly acclaimed and charismatic band made up of some of the best Jazz & Swing musicians in England. Based in Halifax, they are much in demand throughout the North of England as well as being very popular returnees at Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival. Like Django himself in his later days, the band uses a clarinet in place of the more familiar violin in their mix of jazz manouche and swing standards. In addition to Christine Pickard on clarinet the band consists of Vernon Bigsby (lead guitar), Gerard Paul Camallari (rhythm guitar and vocals) and Grant Russell (bass).

JAKE HENRY

Jake Henry is a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter who will feature as pianist/vocalist at the Festival. He is heavily influenced by such as Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles and Bill Withers. He comes to the Festival from the Stand in the Light Festival.

JAKE LEG JUG BAND

The Jake Leg Jug Band bring the authentic sounds of 1920s and 20s America - jazz, blues, ragtime and gospel. Songs of murder, betrayal, gambling, liquor and redemption. They provide a live show that guarantees old-fashioned feel-good entertainment - transporting the audience back in time to the prohibition era, with a sound and look refined from 14 years on the road, performing nearly 800 gigs, releasing 10 albums and receiving airplay on BBC Radio 2 and Jazz FM.

Core members Duncan Wilcox (bass) and Warren James (banjo/guitar) keep their music fresh by bringing in guest musicians, giving the band a floating population of up to six players, not necessarily including a jug blower.

JAMES OLIVER/ NORMAN WATT ROY

2026 sees the pairing of the irrepressible guitar talent of Wales's very own James Oliver and the bass legend that is Norman Watt Roy (Ian

Dury and the Blockheads/ Wilko Johnson et al). Fresh from a killer show at the Half Moon in Putney in March, James and Norman alongside drummer, Mark Kemlo, will be fully unleashed to tour across the UK and beyond in 2026.

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, Billy Bremner, Geraint Watkins, and many others. In 2020 James won the UK Blues Awards Emerging Artist of the Year and has since been nominated three additional times. James Oliver released two studio albums and three live albums and his album *Twang* was #1 on Amazon Blues Charts for 3 weeks.

Norman Watt Roy kept busy with session work throughout the '70s, and appeared on such albums as Rachel Sweet's *Fool Around* and

Nick Lowe's *Jesus of Cool*, and Jona Lewie's number one single *You'll Always Find Me in the Kitchen at Parties*.

As a member of Ian Dury's Blockheads he hit the top of the charts in 1979 with *Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick*. His time with the Blockheads allowed him to cross paths with Dr. Feelgood's Wilko Johnson, which led to his joining Johnson's own group in the mid-'80s. During the 21st century, he has kept busy working with Nick Cave, in addition to his continued performances with Johnson.

JAMIE THYER AND THE WORRIED MEN

Jamie Thyer has long been regarded as a 'guitarist's guitarist'. With the critically acclaimed debut *Fear and Loathing of The Wunder Bar*, he took to the road alongside legendary names including Chicken Shack, Jefferson Starship, Robin Trower, Robert Cray, Peter Green, Johnny Winter and Walter Trout.

A true showstopper in the wild-man tradition of Guitar

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

For a chance to play detective, see the murder scene and interview the suspects – all with a jazz and blues theme – the West Midlands Police Museum (The Victorian Lock-up) is the place to go at 6.15 on July 23. The Museum is at 41 Steelhouse Lane, opposite Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Can you determine who committed the murder and what their motive was?

Tickets: £26 per person + booking fee.

Come on your own or with family or friends (over 18 only) – teams of up to six.

Tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GMIZ>

Slim and Buddy Guy, Jamie quickly established himself as a commanding live performer. With The Worried Men, he has headlined the main stage at Cambridge Rock Festival, played iconic venues such as The Marquee Club and Nottingham Rock City and recorded the album *Love You And Leave You* with Mott The Hoople's Verden Allen. Recent years have seen Jamie and the band continue to build on that legacy. In 2025, they were honoured to perform at Mott Fest 2025, celebrating the life and career of Mott The Hoople, an event that sold out in hours and received coverage from Midlands BBC.

Their latest album, *Excelsior*, has enjoyed widespread acclaim, earning Record of the Week status on several stations including the

prestigious Radio Caroline. With strong reviews and a loyal and expanding fanbase, the band are already hard at work on the follow-up release.

'British blues guitar men?' wrote *Blues Unlimited*. 'There's Eric Clapton, Peter Green... and Jamie Thyer!'

JOHN HEMMING AND THE JAZZ LOBBYISTS

John Hemming was best known for a productive and at times controversial 10 years as MP for Birmingham Yardley, but is developing a reputation for his research into the molecular biology behind many non-communicable diseases. 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.

JUKEBOX RHYTHM ORCHESTRA

The Jukebox Rhythm Orchestra is a 13-piece function band from Coventry under the direction of Mark Allison. The line-up of horns, rhythm and vocals swings through a musical journey from Benny Goodman and Ella Fitzgerald to Caro Emerald and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. The band plays mainstream hits from the 1920s to the present day.

JUMP, JIVE AND WAIL

Halifax-based Jump, Jive and Wail have consistently demonstrated their live performance credentials by raising the roof 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 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



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Roland

to Big Joe Turner and Fats Waller, this dynamic band create music for everyone.

JUST DOIN' IT

Just Doin' it dedicate themselves to playing and recreating the music of Status Quo. Formed in March 2023, the band have built up a repertoire of playing all the classic Quo hits from their 60 year career, while trying to capture the feel and essence of a live Quo Show.

Playing their debut show at Joe Joe Jim's Bar in Rednal, the band have since played as far as Weymouth Pavilion, South Wales and Lancashire as well as becoming a very popular act at Snobs Birmingham. Just Doin' It! are quickly becoming one of the most popular tribute bands on the circuit.

KING PLEASURE & THE BISCUIT BOYS

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys began life 40 years ago with an appearance at the

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 Jazz Festival – and now, 40 years later, they return to the Festival where they have become an institution with many memorable performances, including opening for the original Blues Brothers Band (the one from the movie) three years running.

With nearly 7000 performances across 27 countries under their belt in their 40 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 BB King, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, toured with the Blues Brothers Band, played on 36 radio shows and made 73 television appearances.

Rough, tough and always rocking, King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys have appeared at festivals, in concert and at clubs throughout the UK and Europe as well as in the USA – and Russia. Along the way, the band have recorded 11 albums for Big Bear Records, all distributed worldwide.

The band line up as King Pleasure (vocals and baritone saxophone), Boysey Battrum (alto and tenor saxophone), Bullmoose K Shirley (guitars), Mighty Matt Foundling (piano), Shark Van Schtoop (bass) and Gary 'The Enforcer' Barber (percussion).

Dazzling musicianship, riveting stage performances and 40 years of performances have established King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys as the unequivocal Kings of Swing!

'Superb, a stunning range of ability, smack dab in the style of Louis Jordan and Eddie Cleanhead Vinson' - *Now Dig This*

'Behind the fun and rollicking good times lies an outfit skilled enough for the horns to come on with the bite and precision of the Basie Band' - *The Guardian*



Photo Credit:
Merlin Daleman

King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys



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

'To those who say that swing is a musical form best left to the Americans, prepare to be proven wrong - this British combo is bullet-proof!' - *Atomic Magazine*, New York

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

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 that 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:

- Festival liaison
- Drivers
- Technical support
- Marketing and Social Media
- Site management
- Admin
- Other (e.g. photographer, fundraiser)

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doubt the finest interpreter of Billie Holiday songs.

This remarkable show has been on the road for 39 years, from an initial one-off concert at Birmingham Jazz Festival onwards - that's a full dozen more years than Billie Holiday herself managed! *Lady Sings the Blues* has been recorded

twice by Big Bear Records, the second one live at the Birmingham festival. 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.'

Over the years many of the great names in British jazz have appeared in *Lady Sings the Blues* (Kenny Baker, Brian Dee, Alan Barnes and Bobby Worth among others), plus occasional appearances by giants of American jazz Mundell Lowe and Nat Pierce.

Photo Credit: Merlin Daleman

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The line-up for the Festival includes Bruce Adams (trumpet), Ian Bateman (trombone), Dave Newton (piano) and Dave Green (bass) from last year's all-star line-up, plus Manchester-based saxophonist/clarinetist Mike Hall (after many years with Mike Garrick, now leading his own quartet and the octet Boplicity) and the subtle and versatile drummer Eric Ford who has played for *Lady Sings the Blues* for some years.

MIHO HAZAMA (JAPAN/USA)

Multi-Grammy-nominated composer, Miho Hazama, will be performing at the home of the CBSO for an electrifying evening of jazz, presented as part of Birmingham's annual Jazz & Blues Festival. Hazama joins forces with an ensemble of CBSO musicians and a stellar band, starring saxophonist and friend of the CBSO, Soweto Kinch, alongside Tom Farmer, Shane Forbes and Ivo Neame. From Hazama's original compositions to the works of jazz legends Herbie Hancock and Thelonious Monk, this performance takes audiences on a thrilling journey through jazz - past and present.

OUT OF THE BLUE BIG BAND

Out Of The Blue Big Band is an 18-piece Birmingham ensemble under the musical direction of Jo James,



Alan Barnes

Photo Credit:
Merlin Dalemán

combining the power and excitement of classic big-band jazz with an eclectic and imaginative repertoire. Alongside swing favourites, jazz standards, and Sinatra and Bublé classics, the band brings a distinctive big-band sound to music spanning Latin, soul, blues, rock, and pop — from Santana and Elton John to Oasis and Nirvana. With outstanding soloists, a featured male vocalist, and a rich brass-and-sax sound, Out Of The Blue delivers energy, versatility, and plenty of musical surprises.

PLAYING DJANGO

Birmingham-based, Playing Django are regulars at the Festival. Their music is based on that of the Quintet of the Hot Club of France and is inspired by the great Django Reinhardt.

RICH DICKINSON'S DRIVING FORCE

With a career spanning nearly three decades, guitarist and frontman Rich Dickinson has built a solid reputation

on the electric blues circuit. He has toured extensively across the UK, Europe and the U.S., sharing stages with the likes of Blackfoot, Frank Marino's Mahogany Rush, and Chicken Shack. He also played a part in launching the Hendrix Signature series Marshall amp, based on Jimi Hendrix's original which he once owned.

Formed over twenty years ago, Rich Dickinson's Driving Force delivers electric performances built on well-crafted originals alongside faithful takes on blues classics from artists such as Joe Bonamassa, Rory Gallagher, Gary Moore and ZZ Top. The line-up has evolved over the years, now featuring Rich (Dave) Sleep on bass and vocals and Ted (Thundersticks) Nawrot on drums, adding new depth to the band's sound while keeping its roots firmly in place.

At the centre of it all is Rich Dickinson himself, a self-styled Guitar Hooligan whose

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Friday 24 th July	12:30	Chamberlain Square
Saturday 25 th July	12:30	Chamberlain Square
Sunday 26 th July	12:30	Chamberlain Square
Monday 27 th July	16:30	Dishoom
Tuesday 28 th July	18:00	Cow and Sow
Wednesday 29 th July	12:30	Private Performance
Thursday 30 th July	18:00	La Bellezza*
Friday 31 st July	12:30	Chamberlain Square

*Table must be booked in advance.



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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.

playing mixes flair with a deep respect for the blues. Through Rich's wild and electric performance style, the band has built a reputation for exciting, high-energy performances. In 2025 alone they played 88 gigs, with a standout moment at the Riverside Stage at Upton Blues Festival, where a crowd stretched the length of the town and stayed put through torrential rain, hoods up and brollies out, still dancing.

THE RIP ROARING SUCCESS

The Rip Roaring Success are Wild Miss Lucille on double bass, Miss Jay on fiddle and hillbillysinger Rusty on guitar. They stylishly blend western swing, rockabilly and bluegrass – everything from Dolly Parton to Hank Williams to Elvis Presley - to delivers a performance of lively energetic string music with charm and charisma. Combining slap style double bass, swing fiddle, rhythmic guitar and Sweet harmonies, their skilled performance will make you think you're in an authentic Texas dance hall. Expect an interesting choice of covers as well as original

songs about honky-tonks, bygone pharmaceuticals and misplaced leisurewear.

ROY FORBES

An immaculate and stylish singer whose devotion to jazz began with Nat 'King' Cole and the jazz/funk acts of the 1970s and early 1980s, Roy Forbes has shared a stage with the likes of Scott Hamilton, Benny Waters, Al Casey, Sweets Edison and many more. He has starred at a whole range of festivals worldwide – Brecon, Greenwich, Milan, St. Lucia – in addition to Birmingham where he has a huge following.

ROYAL BLUES

Royal Blues came out of nowhere - no big rollout, no slow build - just straight into the noise

Their debut single *Everybody Knows* landed in summer 2024 and wasted no time turning heads, quickly getting picked up for placement in the Amazon/Apple TV documentary *Dogs Are People Too*.

At their core, Royal Blues deal in hard-hitting rock 'n' roll, but they don't play it straight. There are flashes of bluegrass grit, blues-soaked guitar lines, and a raw, unfiltered vocal style. Think dirty riffs, stomping rhythms, and just enough chaos to keep things interesting. Then come the immaculate three-part female harmonies - lifting the sound, cutting through the grit, and adding a sharp edge of soul and class.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Have you ever wondered whether there's a way to raise money for the Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival at no cost to yourself?

Well, there is. Just sign up for Easy Fund Raising and every purchase you make with some 800 retailers will result in a donation to the Festival. And this donation will be made by the retailer, not by you.

It's a simple process. Once you are signed up, all you need to do is to go on the Easy Fund Raising website, click on your chosen retailer (Tesco, Marks and Spencer, booking.com, whatever) and make your purchase in the ordinary way – and the pennies (or pounds) will come rolling in for the Festival.

For further details email lucy@bigbearmusic.com – or you can go direct to www.easyfundraising.org.uk.



On stage, those contrasts explode and they don't hold back. Royal Blues shows are loud, loose and possess the kind of energy that pulls a crowd in whether they are ready or not. It's the kind of set that turns casual listeners into believers by the second chorus.

New single, *Behind The Door*, mixed by Steve Evans (Robert Plant, Siouxsie Sioux, Goldfrapp) promises to push things further and hit even harder. Royal Blues aren't easing in. They're kicking the door open.

THE SAX PISTOLS

The Sax Pistols, born in the New Orleans marching band tradition but with a British twist. New Orleans Second line grooves meet British Ska. Expect to shake your hips to songs from Stevie Wonder, via Madness, to Miles Davis and everything in between. Always audience engaging and audience interactive, expect to sing along and make your heart smile.

And look out for their album *Never Mind The Baroque*s.

THE SHAKEDOWN BROTHERS

Dive into the raw, electrifying world of the Shakedown Brothers, a blues-rock powerhouse from the heart of the Midlands. Not just a band but a musical force, blending gritty originals and reimagined classics with the kind of energy that shakes the room. Think strong, soulful blues rock meets a live wire 'played with style, expertise and passion', as one promoter put it.

The Shakedown Brothers have been touring Blues Pubs and Clubs across England, from North London to the West Midlands and in the North east and beyond, wowning audiences with a mix of blues originals music, re-worked classics and lesser-known tunes by well-known artists, to great acclaim from audiences and promoters alike.

Together, they're more than musicians – they're

a brotherhood, raw and real, pouring their lives into every sound.

They've torn up stages across England, leaving crowds buzzing.

SHEILA WATERFIELD

Sheila is a UK based vocalist, composer and band leader with a style that draws upon jazz, blues, soul, folk 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 jazz venues, events and festivals throughout the Country. She regularly guests with many of the UK's top big bands whilst performing with her own band. She has appeared at London's Jazz Cafe, The Millennium Dome, CBS Arena, Ronnie Scott's and has been a regular favourite at the Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival. Sheila is an established name on the UK jazz scene and enjoys collaborations and performances with many of the UK's respected musicians.

2026 is proving to be a very creative and productive year. Sheila is looking forward to her forthcoming release. *Nothing Without Love*, an original composition which has been brilliantly arranged for Big Band by Miles Hancock of Jazz Colossus.



THE SHUFFLEPACK

The Shufflepack command a devoted audience in Birmingham, not only at the Festival, but at such venues as the Brasshouse and Henry's Blueshouse at Snobs. This year they return to the Festival with their infectious blend of swinging, shuffling blues and jive. Honking sax, wailing blues harp and those irresistible grooves that make you wanna jump and shout. Frontmen Stuart Maxwell and Tom Domagala deliver that fat brass punch, while Chris Lloyd and George Leslie Calvert get your pulse swinging. Barney Nikolic adds the authentic touch of stinging blues guitar. Not to be missed!

SIMON SPILLETT

"Straight-ahead, high energy jazz is his line and he does it with aplomb"
The Guardian

2026 marks a milestone anniversary for tenor saxophonist and bandleader Simon Spillett: 30 years on the UK jazz scene. Since his debut in the 1990s he has risen to become one of Britain's most prominent jazz figures. An instrumentalist with a powerful, straight-ahead style, drawing on the best of the jazz tradition and in particular the inspiration of an illustrious forebear, the late great Tubby Hayes, he is highly popular attraction playing sold out gigs at the best jazz clubs (Ronnie

MUSEUMS SHOWS

The Festival is delighted to welcome the Birmingham Museums Trust for a second year of participation. All the venues carry an admission charge with the exception of the Museum and Art Gallery where the Bruce Adams Quartet are playing on the final Sunday afternoon. Special access to the Museums Collections Centre for Brad Henshaw on July 24 costs £12, as does Aston Hall (members £9) for the Honeyboy Hickling Blues Band on July 31. These two concerts are in the evening; the remaining concerts are lunch-time sessions at Thinktank (29 – Sax Pistols – concert admission included in general admission), Blakesley Hall (30 – Simon Spillett Quartet – £3.50) and Sarehole Mill (August 1 – Al Nicholls Quartet – also £3.50).

Scott's) and at virtually every festival of consequence (including the EFG London Jazz Festival) with both his regular quartet and his star-studded big band.

As a recording artist he had released five well-regarded albums, with his big band debut CD, *Dear Tubby H.* (2023) garnering a much deserved five star award in *Jazzwise* magazine.



He's also picked up a clutch of awards; BBC Rising Star (2007), Album of the Year (*Jazz Journal*, 2008), Top Tenor Saxophone (British Jazz Awards 2011) and Services to British Jazz (2016).

A charismatic performer, gifted with a dry observational wit, he's never lost sight of the fact that jazz is entertainment as much as art and whether playing, writing or articulately holding forth on his favourite subject – UK jazz history – he's an infectiously passionate communicator.

SINGITBIG

The Singitbig choir is run by Debbie Jones of Tipitina and Karen Strickland who have collaborated on many occasions and share the same philosophy about music and attitudes to choral singing: everyone has the ability to sing together and singing in an ensemble should be a fun, positive experience.

The choir is a community choir from Chorley in Lancashire, with no audition process, and has a fantastic time rehearsing and performing its repertoire of mostly popular classics with some jazzy numbers. The choir mostly gives performances around Lancashire, playing at events from weddings to singing for the mayor and switching Christmas lights on.

SLIDE BOY ROY

Slide Boy Roy Band are one of the toughest boogie blues rock'n'roll roots band on the circuit today, with a history stretching back to 2005, originally performing under the name Little Big Band. Based in the West Midlands but performing nationwide, the group has become known for its infectious energy, musical excellence and ability to get audiences on their feet.

Over the years, Slide Boy Roy have shared the stage with an impressive roster of legendary artists, including Mungo Jerry, The Groundhogs,

Tony McPhee, Arthur Brown, Canned Heat, Notorious Brothers and Chicago Bites. They have appeared at many of the UK's leading blues festivals, among them the Audlem Music & Arts Festival and the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival, and have also spent 25 years touring across Europe, the USA and the UK.

Performing with passion, humour and a consistently high level of professionalism, Slide Boy Roy deliver a blend of Chicago, Delta, Texas, and British-invasion blues, alongside high-octane rock 'n' roll guaranteed to get the crowd moving.

THE SMOKIN' ADE WAKELIN BAND

The Smokin' Ade Wakelin Band play a mix of red-hot Texas and Chicago Blues Shuffles, together with cool Hammond Organ Grooves, Funk, Soul and Jazz.

Ade soon realised that the British blues players were just following what the likes of Muddy Waters, Elmore James, Buddy Guy and the Three Kings had already done. Other influences on his music include Johnny 'Guitar' Watson and T-Bone Walker, Jimmy Smith, Booker T Jones and, more recently Jimmy Vaughan and Ronnie Earl.

Playing both original material and great arrangements of classic numbers, the core of The Smokin' Ade

Wakelin Band's sound is an increasingly tight and assured funk groove — refined through regular live performance and characterised by precision, feel and musical depth. Audiences can expect strong rhythmic drive, expressive playing and a cohesive sound that continues to evolve.

A defining element of the live performance is the contribution of Joe Masterson on Hammond organ, whose playing brings rich tonal character and dynamic range, adding a distinctive voice to the band's overall sound.

Ade is also appearing in a duo with guitarist ANDY HISEMAN, well known for his work with the Barflys.

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 in Cincinnati, Ohio, he was early exposed to the sounds of jazz guitar legends such as Wes Montgomery and Johnny Smith. In his youth he 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 performed at major festivals worldwide such as the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival and the Kalamazoo Blues Festival. His talents have been recognised by several accolades including the Albert King Guitar Player Award and multiple awards from the Music City Blues Society.

STRICTLY JITTERBUG

By now a Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival institution, 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 of using dance in patients' rehabilitation.

STUART MAXWELL'S BLUES RAIDERS

Stuart Maxwell's Blues Raiders delivers hard-edged blues that is rooted in tradition but is still rocking and funky. It swings, it shuffles, it gets feet tapping, until you're out of your seat and dancing.

As well as harmonica and Hammond ace Stuart Maxwell (Mick Ralphs, Storm Warning, The Shufflepack), you have Matt Edwards on guitar (Alice Armstrong, Matt Edwards Band), Derek White on bass (Larry Miller, Bernie Marsden, Storm Warning, Cinelli Brothers) and Jason Reeve on drums (John Etheridge, Art Themen, Denny Llett, BBC Radio 2, BBC 6 Music).

You'll hear Muddy, Wolf and Junior Wells, alongside John Mayall, The Allman Brothers and Graham Bond, as well as plenty of original songs in the classic style.





Photo Credit:
Merlin Daleman

Tipitina

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 in a sound that keeps you on the sunny side of life.

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 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

An accomplished pianist, singer, bandleader and songwriter, Tom blends exciting musicianship with an easy charm. A performer whose enjoyment is plain for all to see, Tom's style and lyrical wit is as important as his smooth vocals and piano playing that honours the jazz greats.

Tom's debut album *Now's The Time* showcases celebrated jazz classics alongside many of Tom's own songs. His writing, arranging and orchestration show a deep appreciation of the legendary jazz composers, while some more modern influences help capture a fresh, feel-good energy that his audiences experience in live performance.

Tom's love affair with music began as he was found bashing piano keys at the age of three. He is now an experienced performer, playing all over the country with his own groups and the 18-piece State 51 Swing Orchestra. Highlights include jazz festivals in Montreux and Bologna, and a series of events for A-Listers including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Robert De Niro.

THE TOO HOT TRIO

The Too Hot Trio from Liverpool are Billy, Rusty and Helen on electric guitar, acoustic guitar and double bass. They play Western Swing and Rockabilly music from the likes of Bob Wills and Carl Perkins.

Their set is occasionally raucous, sometimes laconic, but always entertaining and guaranteed to get the joint jumping.

YOU'RE NEVER ALONE WITH A UKE

Perennial favourite You're Never Alone with a Uke returns to the festival again this year! The workshops are aimed at the complete beginner and those just interested in 'having a go!' During the session Jules will be taking players, on supplied instruments, from playing the open strings through to a full 12 bar Blues sequence! The ethos is fun and enjoyable with practical tips and teaching to advance your ukulele playing!

WALTER SMITTY AND THE UNVIABLES

Walter Smitty and the Unviabes are a popular band throughout the Midlands, playing an acoustic brand of Latin, jazz, blues and classic pop. They are joined by international singer SUZI WOODS whose career takes in performing for the Beckhams and Princess Caroline of Monaco, plus cruises on the *Freedom of the Seas*.

RHYTHM TEAMS

CHRIS LLOYD

Chris Lloyd is a blues drummer whose expertise has kept any number of bands on the strait and narrow. For many years the mainstay of the Nitecrawlers, he now occupies the chair

for the Shufflepack as well as joining the roster for Festival rhythm section.

CRAIG MILVERTON

'An extravagantly gifted pianist with an unrivalled swing.' – Dave Gelly

Craig Milverton is one of the country's finest jazz pianists, influenced particularly by Bill Evans and Oscar Peterson, but capable of performing in a wide range of styles, from Pete Allen's Dixieland-style Band to an Oscar Peterson tribute. He has been involved in many of Digby Fairweather's projects, including a long stint in Dig's Half Dozen. Perhaps Craig's oddest assignment was playing the first jazz concert in Albania with Julian Stringle – in a marble pyramid!

DAVE GREEN

Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival has always been noted for the superlative nature of its rhythm teams and 2026 is no exception.

So 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 has performed with many visiting Americans at Ronnie Scott's as well as spending many years in Humphrey Lyttelton's Band. Dave has

worked regularly with Stan Tracey and has led or co-led such fine groups as Fingers and the A,B,C&D of Boogie Woogie. This year he can be heard in the band for *Lady Sings the Blues* as well as playing in the rhythm teams throughout the Festival.

DAVE NEWTON

16 times winner of the British Jazz Awards, Dave Newton is everyone's idea of the complete jazz pianist. From swinging stride piano to meditative improvisations to beautifully supportive accompaniments to singers, he has it all. On 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 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 whom he joins for *Lady Sings the Blues* as well as performances elsewhere in the Festival.

JAMES OWSTON

A graduate of Birmingham Royal Conservatoire, James Owston has already built a reputation as one of the finest young bass players in the country. As well as his own trio and quartet, he plays in such bands as Down for the Count and Jay Phelps' Kind of Blue and is generally much in demand.

JOE MASTERSON

Pianist Joe Masterson originally trained in classical piano before discovering blues and jazz. At the age of 18 he was accepted at Leeds Conservatoire and a year later taught music at the prestigious French Woods Festival in New York State. He returned to Birmingham in 2020 and now has a regular gig at Fletcher's Bar and Eatery in Kings Heath.

JIM BASHFORD

Midlands-based drummer Jim Bashford is the epitome of a busy musician, playing in no fewer than 20 different ensembles. He began playing drums at the age of 10, initially self-taught, then under the guidance of Steve Palmer. After 14 years playing in various bands covering a wide range of genres, he studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire under such tutors as Tony Levin, Gene Calderazzo, Jeff Williams and Malcolm Garrett.

MALCOLM GARRETT

Malcolm Garrett is an outstandingly successful drum tutor at the Birmingham Conservatoire with many successful drummers such as Ian Palmer applauding his work with them. For many years Malcolm worked with Jim Chapin, legendary drum tutor and father of Harry. Malcolm's skills as a drummer are in the fields of jazz, symphonic and shows (he was Ken Dodd's favourite drummer!). In jazz terms he plays with the likes of Ben Holder and Jamie Brownfield and is one of the mainstays of the Festival's rhythm teams.

MILES LEVIN

Son of a famous father, Tony Levin, Miles has become a much-in-demand drummer on the jazz circuit. He is a regular at the Birmingham Jazz and Blues Festival and is particularly known for his work with Paul Dunmall and Butcher's Brew.

TIM AMANN

Pianist/composer Tim Amann is a Cambridge graduate who, early in his career, worked with such American greats as Art Farmer, David Murray, Scott Hamilton, Hal Singer and Gene Connors. He has had a highly successful career with his X-tet, playing two tours of Russia.

In addition he plays in a variety of local bands and has joined Ray Butcher in a variety of projects.

TOBY WILSON

Toby Wilson is part of blues and jazz aristocracy, being the son of legendary Birmingham guitarist Bob Wilson. As well as being part of the Festival's rhythm teams, he is a member of the exciting six-piece band, Metz Jnr.

TOM HILL

Tom Hill is Birmingham's favourite import from Northern California. He left the States in 1993 and since then has become a key part of the Birmingham jazz scene. He spent four years as part of the house trio at Ronnie Scott's Birmingham, playing with the likes of Art Farmer, Tal Farlow and Teddy Edwards. As well as being one of the first names on the list for the rhythm teams, he is an accomplished voice artist, famous as the voice of Tony the Tiger!

**43RD BIRMINGHAM
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FESTIVAL
JULY 30TH TO AUGUST 8TH 2027**



FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
11.45AM - 1PM JOHN SETTLE'S VIBE-OLOGY	11.45AM - 1PM BENET MCLEAN QUINTET	12.30PM - 1.45PM BRYAN CORBETT PRESENTS THE INSTRUMENTAL GROOVE UNIT
1.30PM - 2.45PM ORCHARD	1.30PM - 2.45PM BRIGITTE BERAHA WITH ALAN BARNES AND BARRY GREEN	2.15PM - 3.30PM ALINA BZHEZHINSKA - HIPHARPCOLLECTIVE FEATURING TONY KOFI
3.15PM - 4.30PM BARRY GREEN'S EXPANSION: MCCOY TYNER PROJECT	3.15PM - 4.30PM XHOSA COLE QUARTET	4PM - 5.15PM IAN SHAW AND LIANE CARROLL
TEA BREAK 4.30PM - 6PM	TEA BREAK 4.30PM - 6PM	TEA BREAK 5.15PM - 7PM
6PM - 7.15PM SHIRLEY SMART SEXTET	6PM - 7.15PM DARK SIDE OF THE BIG BAND: PINK FLOYD REWORKED	7PM - 8.15PM 3D JAZZ TRIO
7.45PM - 9PM DAVID NEWTON TRIO	7.45PM - 9PM RORY INGHAM'S TROMBONE ASSEMBLY	8.45PM - 10PM ALAN BARNES + 11
9.30PM - 10.45PM LEVITATION ORCHESTRA	9.30PM - 10.45PM SOFT MACHINE	2027 SJF DATES: 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2027

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