



May | June | July 2025

B:Music

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

**SOPHIE
ELLIS-BEXTOR**

**OTI MABUSE | TIM MINCHIN
THE WIGGLES & LOTS more!**

B:Enchanted by **Vitamin String Quartet**
of Bridgerton fame

She:Music: How B:Music is enabling
Birmingham women to start a career in music

bmusic.co.uk

AT A GLANCE MAY

CBSO: Kazuki Conducts Joy

Skipinnish

Poetry Jam Live!

Andy Bell

Phil 'The Power' Taylor

Lukas Sternath

Go West with the Southbank Sinfonia

Sounds Of The 60's Live

Tangerine Dream

Daniel O'Donnell

Jeff Arcuri

Steven Wilson

From the Jam

Choir! Choir! Choir!

Ready to Shine

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern

Jukebox

Lunchtime Organ Concerts

The Wiggles

Philippine Philharmonic

Orchestra

An Evening With Martin Fry

Omid Djalili

The Waterboys

Clearwater Creedence Revival

Sax in the City

Gaelynn Lea

Zakir Khan

Robin Trower

Vitamin String Quartet

Daryl Hall

Al Murray

ADHD Unmasked

Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwals

Aljaz & Janette

Ellie Taylor

Midday Mantra

CBSO: Video Games In Concert

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

Wolf Hall In Concert

The Twang



JUNE

Mmm-Bop! Family Silent Disco

Aled Jones

Sophie Ellis-Bextor

Marvel Studios' Infinity Saga

Concert Experience

Rhys Darby

Holly Johnson

Miss Americana: A Tribute to

Taylor Swift

National Open Youth Orchestra

Tim Minchin

Primary School Assembly Bangers

Live!

The Robert Cray Band

Ashley Allen & Friends

Bing's Birthday

The Music of Zimmer vs Williams

Kid Creole and The Coconuts

Oti Mabuse Viva Carnival

Motown's Greatest Hits

Brandi Carlile

New Worlds: Bill Murray & Jan

Vogler

John Wilson & Sinfonia of London

Mnozil Brass: Jubilee

Macy Gray

JULY

The Grade Cricketer

Dianne and Vito

Take Me To The River

Pop Voices

CBSO & The Orchestral Qawwali Project

Nashville Sounds In The Round

Anton & Giovanni



For full
listings & up to
date info visit
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Image: Town Hall looking FINE. Paul Dixon Photography

WELCOME

Welcome to the spring season at B:Music.

In this new brochure format you can find everything that is going on in Town Hall and Symphony Hall alongside a look behind the scenes at the people that make the music happen and the stars of tomorrow that B:Music is supporting.

In the coming months we welcome musicians from around the world, Hollywood stars, comedy legends and family favourites in a programme that ranges from intimate gigs in the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space to spectacular productions on the Symphony Hall stage.

At B:Music we are passionate about making music accessible to everyone and there are plenty of free gigs, discounts and offers to get young people interested in live music. For those looking to play music, our talent development programmes create first musical experiences in schools, nurture young talent, and create opportunities to develop a career in music. As a music charity this is what makes us tick – please think about donating when you buy your tickets or just drop into B:Eats for a coffee or a Brummie Bacon Cake – it all supports our charitable mission.

On behalf of the B:Music team, we look forward to welcoming you.

Nick Reed
B:Music CEO



OUR MISSION

WE INSPIRE A

LOVE OF LIVE MUSIC

THROUGH PERFORMANCE,
PARTICIPATION AND LEARNING
ACROSS BIRMINGHAM & BEYOND

We believe that music is essential to everyone and has the power to transform and change lives, to entertain and uplift, to create shared experiences and to educate.

Image: Suede killin' it at Symphony Hall. Chris Proctor



READ ON...

REINTRODUCING: B:MUSIC

For many years we were known as Town Hall Symphony Hall (THSH), a name that resonated with both local audiences and international performers alike. Some of you may know us by that name, while others might be hearing of us for the first time. In 2021, we rebranded to B:Music to reflect the exciting changes and growth within our organisation. Now, we're proud to reintroduce ourselves and share our story with you.

B:Music is a Birmingham-based music charity, born from a passion for music and live entertainment with a commitment to enriching cultural life. We operate some of the city's most

iconic venues, the world-renowned Symphony Hall and the vibrant Town Hall. Our venues serve as cultural hubs, offering diverse performances that range from classical and jazz to contemporary and community-driven events. We've consistently aimed to bring people together, whether they're seasoned concertgoers or newcomers, to experience the transformative power of live music and entertainment.

Our mission is to inspire a love of live music, through performance, participation, and learning across Birmingham and beyond.

We are committed to supporting

local talent, showcasing artists from around the world, and preserving and enhancing the venues that have become an integral part of Birmingham's cultural landscape.

Income from ticket sales, venue hire, and our hospitality offering is reinvested into our venues and the B:Music programme ensuring that we can continue to deliver world-class performances, nurture local talent, and maintain our historic buildings for future generations.

When you purchase a ticket, watch a show, or visit our venues, you are not only helping our mission but you are supporting a local charity in this great city of Birmingham.

IMPACT 2024

850+
SHOWS

120+
FREE EVENTS

103
EVENTS FOR
LOCAL TALENT

177
TALENT
DEVELOPMENT
PARTICIPANTS

500K
AUDIENCE
MEMBERS

"The first real venue I ever played was the Symphony Hall in Birmingham ... it has a very big place in my heart."

Anton Du Beke

"I can safely say it's been one of the most incredible musical experiences of her life. She's met so many inspirational people, it really was a special week!"

Summer School Participant Parent

"Symphony Hall is a truly spectacular venue. Our experience there was superb from start to finish. Right from the extremely personable happy chap who showed me to the stage door when I arrived, through to the guy who was organising us for our after show meet and greet. Fabulous thank you!"

Tour Manager

"I am eternally grateful to everyone at B:Music. I have only been involved for a year but the opportunities I have been able to experience through ensemble playing and performance, have been truly unforgettable"

B:and Together Member

"I thank God for the team at B:Music. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here right now. I wouldn't have had this opportunity."

Scholarship Recipient

"The way you encouraged the young people to take part, express their creativity on that huge stage and overcome their barriers, literally moved me to tears."

Parent of Participant

Image: B:Music team | Ibi Keita

NEWS



TIM MINCHIN: NEW DATE

Emo comedy king Tim Minchin was so popular when he went on sale earlier this year, selling out within minutes, that he's booked in another TWO dates!

Expect an evening packed with unforgettable songs and stories as Tim looks back on how a Perth cabaret pianist ended up building one of the most eclectic and extraordinary careers in entertainment.

Tickets are selling fast so grab yours from the B:Music website now!

FROM STEWARD TO STAGE

When B:Music steward, Oli Parker, asked if he could record his new Flugelhorn release on the Symphony Hall stage we were delighted to oblige!

This wasn't Oli's first time on the Symphony Hall stage, he first played the venue with the National Children's Orchestra before going on to study at the prestigious Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. And he's bit of a social media sensation on the side, with over 400k followers!

Filmed by Grant Harper Productions in February, the end result is simply stunning. From the musical talent to the artistic vision, the video showcases Oli playing on an empty stage, beautifully lit, with the focus on his extraordinary mastery of his instrument.



We strongly recommend you make a cup of tea, scan the QR code or go to Oli's profile, [youtube.com/@oliparker](https://www.youtube.com/@oliparker), to watch the full 5 minute film.



Image: Oli Parker filming on an empty SH stage. Ibi Keita

B:MUSIC WIN GREATER BIRMINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARD FOR 'EXCELLENCE IN CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY'

With just 12 awards celebrating the very best in Greater Birmingham business up for grabs, to be nominated in 2 categories was a true mark of recognition of our work with the local community, from outreach in primary schools to supporting unpaid carers. We were overjoyed to win against strong competition.

Thank you to all our patrons & supporters, as well as our team members and partners, who make this vital work, inspiring a love of live music through performance, participation and learning, possible.



Chair of Board Anita Bhalla OBE DL, CEO Nick Reed, Head of Development & Impact Rachel Cranny

BBC & B:MUSIC

B:Music was delighted to welcome 28 BBC Broadcasting apprentices to spend a morning at Symphony Hall, learning the logistics of live event broadcasting.

From cable holes built into the walls to how Front of House manage a live event, understanding how the BBC operation aligns with the B:Music live audience experience was really useful for their training, and working with our knowledgeable and friendly Production and Technical teams gave them lots of confidence.

We can't wait to see them progress in their careers!

RECORD NUMBER OF B:MUSIC YOUTH B:OARD APPLICANTS

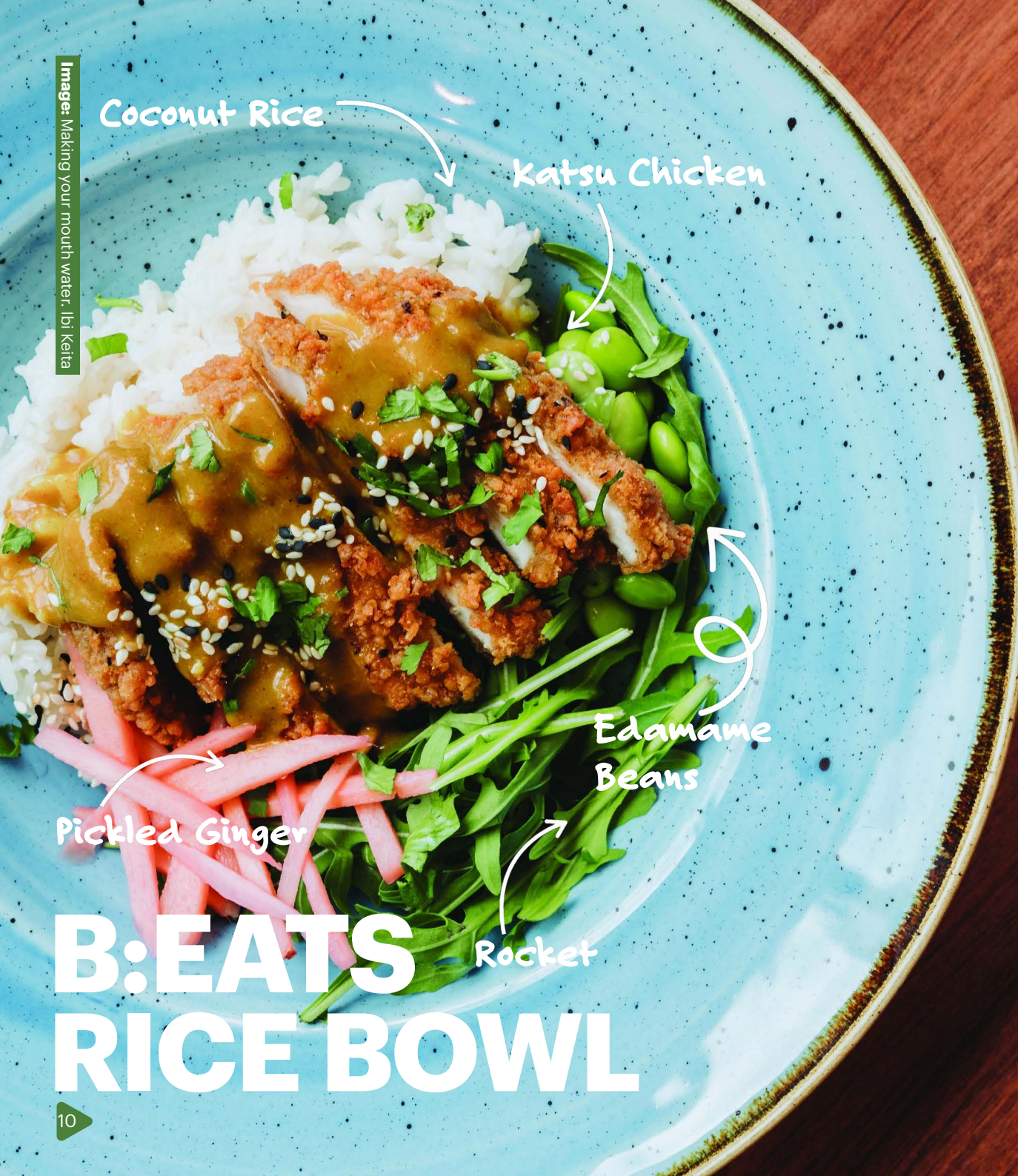
54 16-23 year olds applied to be part of the B:Music 25/26 Youth B:oard. The 10 successful applicants will work with our team to connect, develop, and influence the programme, engagement, and impact of B:Music for young people. Our Youth B:oard are a vital part of our commitment to remove barriers and provide spaces that enable and encourage young people to feel and express themselves through a shared love of music.



SPOTLIGHT ON: Customer Feedback

I would just like to send a heartfelt thank you. From the Box Office sorting our tickets to the security guard who helped push the wheelchair up one of the ramps from the disabled bathroom. This was my very first experience out in my wheelchair and it was excellent.

STOP PRESS ** B:Music is a partner of **Serendipity Arts Festival** 23-26 May with events taking place across Symphony Hall ** 09-15 June is **Carers Week** look out for special events**



B:EATS RICE BOWL

B:Eats at Symphony Hall

If you haven't popped into B:Eats recently you'll want to make space in your schedule to try the new Spring/Summer Menu

The daytime menu of classic dishes with a contemporary twist keeps some familiar favourites: The Godfather (battered cod, house tartare sauce, shredded iceberg lettuce & Swiss cheese on toasted ciabatta with house fries) makes a welcome return, alongside Birmingham Soup (hearty beef & vegetable broth with a Brummie Bacon Cake and salted butter) and Chorizo Harissa Benedict (toasted ciabatta, sauteed spinach, chorizo, mushroom, diced tomato, poached eggs & harissa hollandaise) - with a wealth of new seasonal dishes.

The new B:Eats Rice Bowl (pictured) can be topped with your choice of Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry, Butter Chicken Curry, Katsu Chicken or Tempura Battered Tofu. Or for a lighter bite there's a selection of bagels including tomato paté, smoked salmon & cream cheese or sausage, bacon & egg.

The Chicken Tikka Flatbread is sure to become a firm lunchtime favourite, as will the Roasted Red Pepper & Pesto Sandwich and Brummie Breakfasts.

If you're looking to extend your night at Symphony Hall with a bite to eat, our pre show menu offers traditional dishes made in-house with fresh, seasonal ingredients. Try the Steak & Ale Pie, Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry or Hand Battered Fish & Chips if you're starvin' marvin, or there's a selection of sandwiches, jacket potatoes & cakes if you prefer a quick munch.

With plenty of veggie, vegan and gluten-free options there really is something everyone can enjoy!



Opening Hours:

Mon-Sat 11am-4pm & pre show

See the full menu:

bmusic.co.uk/beats

SHE:MUSIC

Launched on International Women's Day in March, She:Music is a B:Music Talent Development project focused on shaping the future of music and empowering women to carve out lasting careers in a field that's long been disproportionately dominated by men.

We sat down with Talent Development & Education Manager, Lucy-Ellen Parker, to hear more about She:Music and her thoughts on why this year's International Women's Day theme of 'accelerating action' aligns with this female-led project.

She introduces the project "over the next three years, we will work with Women from across Birmingham and the wider West Midlands, specifically targeting those in underrepresented areas within music such as the Heavy Metal, Rock and Jazz genres,

plus within Technical Production. She:Music will include a series of workshops, drop-in sessions, career advice, and round tables with industry professionals and our partners."

In keeping with B:Music's mission statement, which is to inspire a love of live music, through performance, participation and learning, Lucy explains "part of what our team does is look after youth engagement projects including Jazz and Gospel ensembles, and other talent development initiatives.



Lucy introducing She:Music at Women In Jazz, Free Jazz Friday takeover in March. Ibi Keita

We're proud to be able to work with young and early career musicians, musicians who often then go on to work with us professionally, and we hope that She:Music creates long lasting relationships in the same way". Building on the legacy of the successful Rise Up project for female artists, it is projects such as this that help us to achieve our charitable aim of breaking down barriers.

"The first year of the project is really focusing on building a network of women", around 150 participants will be chosen via an application process, and will then benefit from the focused discussion and advice that She:Music aims to provide. "These sessions are free for participants to attend, they'll have access to career advice too, things you might not usually be taught. Not only that, we'll signpost relevant

Applications to take part in the first year of She:Music are open until 28 April.

For more information on how to be involved go to bmusic.co.uk/she-music

HELP US SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL TALENT

This work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our members & donors.



To donate or find out more please scan or visit bmusic.co.uk/support-us

activity within the West Midlands, even nationally, our plan is to help as much as we can."

The aim is clear - "why in 2025 are these areas of music in particular so underrepresented and what can we do? In the context of International Women's Day, we're excited to accelerate action by helping to enable women to feel more confident to start a career in music and give them a network to grow their careers and advocate for change within the industry."

Project partners include **Girl Grind UK** and **Women in Jazz**, and the three year programme is generously supported in its first year by **PRS Foundation**, **William A Cadbury Trust**, and **Rowley Trust**. Lucy shares "we're so lucky to be partnered with these amazing industry professionals who are creating massive waves in Birmingham and the West Midlands and beyond. We're confident in the potential of this project to create an amazing, supportive community."

Interview: Ellie, B:Music



Artwork: Ibi Keita

New Worlds:

Bill Murray, Jan Vogler & Friends

Vanessa Perez & Mira Wang

25 Jun 2025 | Symphony Hall | 7.30pm

Join us for an extra special evening showcasing the best of American literature and music as the quartet celebrate some of the artists that have influenced generations of Americans: Twain, Hemingway, Whitman, Cooper, Bernstein, Gershwin and Foster.

With live music and readings, this will be an unforgettable night combining Hollywood star Bill Murray's love for classical music and the art of language with Jan Vogler's musical artistry.



B:FIRST IN THE QUEUE

B:Music members get exclusive pre sales & advance notice on select events going on sale, plus a host of other benefits for just £35 per year.

And you can get a warm fuzzy feeling from helping B:Music, a local music charity, preserve the heritage of iconic Brummie venues Town Hall and Symphony Hall, provide stages for grassroots music and support the next generation of Birmingham artists!

Image: Transatlantic Sessions rockin' Symphony Hall. Johnathan Williams



Scan or visit
bmusic.co.uk/join
to sign up now!



Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox

12 May 2025 | SH | 7.30pm

Step into a musical time machine with Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox, where today's chart-topping hits are reimagined through the golden sounds of 1920s jazz, swing, doo-wop, and Motown. This sensational live show brings together a world-class cast of singers, dancers, and musicians to create an unforgettable experience.

Imagine The Great Gatsby meets Sinatra at the Sands, with a dash of Back to the Future flair! From modern-day pop anthems to classic standards, Postmodern Jukebox redefines the musical landscape, blending past and present into a thrilling, one-of-a-kind performance. Don't miss your chance to experience this genre-bending spectacle, where timeless classics meet contemporary hits in a spectacular celebration of music and nostalgia.

FREE JAZZ FRIDAYS

B:Music FREE Jazz Fridays are legendary evenings showcasing the best of local talent and touring stars.

No tickets, just turn up and start your weekend with a cool gig, live at 5, in the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space at Symphony Hall.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

THE ALEX POLACK QUARTET: 09.05

RILEY PLAYS STEVIE: 23.05

RBC JAZZ & SALSA ORCHESTRAS: 06.06

B:MUSIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT SHOWCASE: 20.06

WARRIORS RISE: MADDY COOMBS: 04.07

TOMORROW'S WARRIORS JUNIOR BAND & MUSIC 4 YOUTH

TAKEOVER: 11.07

SPEAK!: 18.07

Free Jazz
Fridays are
generously
supported
by PPL



Full season:

bmusic.co.uk/free-jazz-fridays



Image: Melts the Band meltin' JBPS. Garry Corbett

GIGS

Sophie Ellis-Bextor

02 Jun | SH

Sophie Ellis-Bextor's iconic hit 'Murder on the Dancefloor' has made a stunning comeback, thanks to its feature in the film *Saltburn*, charting at #2 in the UK and #58 in the Billboard Top 100, with over 11 billion streams globally! Join Sophie for an electrifying live show, packed with timeless hits from her career, including 'Groovejet (If This Ain't Love)', 'Take Me Home,' and her latest single, 'Freedom of the Night.'

This is an unforgettable night of dance-pop anthems and pure energy you won't want to miss!

For full listings & up to date info visit bmusic.co.uk



Andy Bell

02 May | SH

Erasure's Andy Bell celebrates his new solo album, *Ten Crowns*, with electrifying performances of new tracks, solo hits, and Erasure classics, backed by GRAMMY-winning producer Dave Audé and a live band!



Tangerine Dream: Celebrating 50 Years of Phaedra

08 May | TH

Celebrate 50 years of the iconic *Phaedra* with a live performance of the groundbreaking album, alongside fan favourites, by the legendary band's current lineup. Experience the pioneering sound that shaped electronic music!



The Waterboys

16 May | SH

Expect drama, improvisation, musical fireworks and Waterboys classics at this not-to-be-missed night rocking to songs from their whole career. From their early roots inspired era to the later modern blues and all the other genres of music they love to play.



Daryl Hall & special guest Glenn Tilbrook

21 May | SH

Join legendary Daryl Hall, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, alongside special guest Glenn Tilbrook for an unforgettable night of soulful hits and classic performances! Experience the magic of Daryl's timeless sound and vibrant energy.



The Twang

31 May | TH

Catch The Twang live at Town Hall on their acoustic tour! Blending Brit-pop's big guitars with a danceable groove, the band brings their chart-topping hits and electrifying energy for a unique musical experience.

AND

SKIPINNISH: 02.05 TH **GO WEST: PERFORMING LIVE WITH THE SOUTHBANK SINFONIA:** 04.05 SH **SOUNDS OF THE 60'S LIVE: HOSTED BY TONY BLACKBURN OBE:** 07.05 SH **DANIEL O'DONNELL:** 08.05 SH **STEVEN WILSON:** 09.05 SH **FROM THE JAM: 'SETTING SONS' 45TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR:** 10.5 TH **CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!:** 11.05 TH **SCOTT BRADLEE'S POSTMODERN JUKEBOX:** 12.05 | SH **CLEARWATER CREEDENCE REVIVAL: HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE RAIN' 55TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR:** 17.05 TH **ROBIN TROWER:** 18.05 TH **RIZWAN-MUAZZAM QAWWALS:** 23.05 TH

GIGS

For full
listings & up to
date info visit
bmusic.co.uk



Brandi Carlile 23 Jun | SH

Brandi Carlile, an 11-time GRAMMY winner and acclaimed singer-songwriter, has collaborated with music legends like Elton John and Dolly Parton. A trailblazer and philanthropist, she continues to captivate with her powerful voice and impactful music.



Mnozil Brass: Jubilee 28 Jun | SH

Celebrate 30 years of Mnozil Brass, the legendary brass ensemble that transitioned from classical music students to global entertainment icons! Join them for a spectacular anniversary show filled with playful energy, passion, and unforgettable brass music.



Take Me To The River 11 Jul | TH

Join Take Me To The River for an unforgettable night of iconic Memphis hits! Featuring soul legend Carla Thomas, the legendary Hi Rhythm Section, vocalist Jerome Chism, and GRAMMY winners Boo Mitchell and Martin Shore. This high-energy show will have you dancing all night long!

AND

HOLLY JOHNSON: 06.06 SH **MISS AMERICANA: A TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR SWIFT** 06.06 TH **THE ROBERT CRAY BAND:** 11.06 TH **KID CREOLE AND THE COCONUTS: THE CREOLIAN BYE BYE BIRDY TOUR:** 18.06 TH **MOTOWN'S GREATEST HITS: HOW SWEET IT IS** 21.06 TH

Macy Gray

28 Jun | TH

Macy Gray, the dynamic R&B/soul singer-songwriter and musician, is renowned for her ability to create deeply resonant, candid music that connects with listeners on a personal level. With her unmistakable, vivacious voice and an unshakable grip on soul, she brings a unique energy to every performance. Gray's funky spirit and innovative sound set her apart from her contemporaries, establishing her as one of the most distinctive voices in modern music.

Whether delivering heartfelt ballads or bold anthems, Macy Gray captivates audiences with her unmatched style and emotional depth.

Don't miss the chance to see this extraordinary artist live, as she continues to wield the power of music in ways few can match.



COMEDY

For full
listings & up to
date info visit
bmusic.co.uk

Tim Minchin: **Songs The World Will Never Hear** 09 Jun, 09 & 10 July | SH

Tim Minchin, the multi-talented singer-songwriter, comedian, and musical genius, is celebrating 20 years since his UK comedy debut with a spectacular new show at Symphony Hall. Get ready for an evening of unforgettable songs, stories, and sharp wit, as Minchin takes you on a journey through his eclectic career. From uproarious comedy classics to poignant Christmas tunes, and from witty musings on life to mind-bending musical virtuosity, this is a night like no other.

With his signature blend of humour, honesty, and musical brilliance, Tim Minchin delivers a one-of-a-kind performance you won't want to miss!



Jeff Arcuri: Worldwide 09 May | TH
Jeff Arcuri, hailed by The Chicago Tribune as “a joke machine,” brings his sharp wit to the stage! Catch him live after appearances on The Late Show and Comedy Central at Town Hall this May.



Omid Djalili: Namaste 16 May | TH | 16+
Don't miss Omid Djalili's critically acclaimed new show Namaste, where he hilariously channels his inner anger to unleash a storm of comedic fury on the world's chaos. A night of unrelenting laughs!



Zakir Khan: Papa Yaar 18 May | SH
Join Zakir Khan in Papa Yaar, a heartwarming comedy show celebrating the special bond between father and son. With his poetic storytelling, Zakir brings relatable, emotional anecdotes that will have you laughing and reflecting. Bring your Papa along for an unforgettable experience!
Please note, this show will be performed in Hindi



Al Murray: Guv Island 22 May | SH
The people have spoken! The Pub Landlord is back for another round of 'Guv Island' in 2025 with freshly brewed material on the menu! Get ready for hilarious rants on life, politics, and everything in between.



Ellie Taylor: Palavering 24 May | TH
Ellie Taylor, star of Ted Lasso and Bake Off The Professionals, returns with a hilarious new stand-up show! From marriage tips to motherhood and her time on Strictly, Ellie's comedy will leave you in stitches!



Rhys Darby: The Legend Returns 05 Jun | TH | 16+
Kiwi comedy legend Rhys Darby returns with a brand new 2025 stand-up show! In a world of AI and robots, can a dad in tight jeans stay relevant? Rhys proves that human silliness is more vital than ever!

B: HIND THE SCENES

An interview with Diomedes Saraza Jr, Concertmaster of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) arrive on British shores in May, making their Symphony Hall debut as part of their very first UK tour, and violinist Diomedes Saraza Jr can't wait!

"I am very excited!" he says, "I've never been to the UK, and I am looking forward to performing in the beautiful halls and meeting people in different cities of the UK."

And we're very much looking forward to welcoming them too for what is sure to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening of well-known classical music.

Diomedes is the PPO's newly-appointed concertmaster (or

leader) but, in this concert, he's also the solo violinist in Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*. This hugely popular piece regularly takes the No 1 slot in Classic FM's annual Hall of Fame.

"Of course, *The Lark Ascending* is a classic, and I have fallen in love with it since I started working on it. The beautiful lines of melodies and folk tunes that are in the music are stunning. The piece brings a lot of hope and nostalgia."

The PPO's Music Director and Principal Conductor Grzegorz Nowak is well known to British audiences through his 15-year association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and his relationship with the PPO is no less rewarding.

"Maestro Nowak is



truly a gem for us in the PPO," says Diomedes. "The degree of respect, passion and seriousness he gives in each rehearsal and performance is inspiring. So far, I've performed with him both as soloist and concertmaster. The connection I have with him in music making is unbelievable and I feel free in the moment when he's the one conducting."

"I am very excited! I've never been to the UK, and I am looking forward to performing in the beautiful halls and meeting people in different cities of the UK."

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra is the country's leading orchestra and one of the top musical ensembles in the Asia-Pacific region. It made history in 2016 as the first Philippine orchestra to perform at New York's legendary Carnegie Hall. Based in the capital, Manila, it also plays a role promoting classical music through outreach in schools and underserved communities.

"The classical music scene is quite rich in the Philippines. The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the PPO always produce valuable content in terms of repertoire, and have made classical concerts accessible for students, first timers and seasoned concert attendees."

Their Symphony Hall concert is also perfect for first timers and regular classical attendees. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony creates a thrilling and impactful climax in a programme that's full of exciting and popular music that includes Bizet's sultry *Carmen* and Tchaikovsky's

Rococo Variations for cello and orchestra.

"We'll also perform Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* suite, another classic in the orchestral repertoire, and I'm sure the audience will enjoy hearing familiar themes and melodies from the ballet."

Come and join us in welcoming the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra to Symphony Hall for the first time.

Interview: Fiona, B:Music

Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra
Beethoven 5

Thu 15 May | Symphony Hall | 7:30PM

Artists
Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra
Grzegorz Nowak conductor
Diomedes Saraza Jr violin
Wen-Sinn Yang cello

Programme
Bizet *Carmen Suite*
Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*
Tchaikovsky *Swan Lake Suite*
Tchaikovsky *Rococo Variations*
Beethoven *Symphony No 5*
Jeffrey Ching *Il maestro di capella*

Top ticket price just **£38.50!**

Don't forget, Kids Go Free and £5 tickets for 16-30s, students & those on eligible benefits!

Full details:
bmusic.co.uk/bclassical

BIRMINGHAM CLASSICAL

A specially curated season of the best classical orchestras, soloists & rising stars from around the world, live at B:Music venues.

BBC National Orchestra of Wales 29 May | SH

Mahler's Fifth Symphony

The radiant and heart-stopping Adagietto is the defining movement of Mahler's Fifth, but there's so much more in this work that spans a raging sea of sound to whirling dance, profound serenity to joyful finale. Before that, hugely popular soloist **James Ehnes** is the perfect interpreter of Bartók's First Violin Concerto, with the orchestra's award-winning Principal Conductor **Ryan Bancroft**.



ETHN
RISING STARS

Lukas Sternath 04 May | JBPS

Lukas Sternath travelled the world with the famous Vienna Boys' Choir before achieving sensational success as a pianist at the 71st International ARD Music Competition. Mentored by Igor Levit, he won not only First Prize but seven special prizes including the audience prize too. Find out why, when he plays Liszt's famous Sonata and Schumann's 'Ghost Variations' in this Sunday morning concert. Enjoy coffee/tea and cake beforehand, included in your ticket.



Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra 15 May | SH

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony creates a thrilling and impactful climax to a concert full of exciting and popular music. Be lured by the temptress Carmen in music of passion, betrayal and murder, and enchanted by the fairytale magic of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake ballet music. Dreamy summer days are evoked in The Lark Ascending, which regularly features as No 1 in Classic FM's annual Hall of Fame, while the Rococo Variations for cello and orchestra hark back to the classical era but with a Tchaikovskian spin.



We think everyone should be able to enjoy world class music.

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B:ENCHANTED

Vitamin String Quartet's Derek Stein on classical crossovers, 'Bridgerton' and their upcoming performance at Town Hall

You might have heard of them and their classical covers of contemporary songs in three seasons of Netflix's 'Bridgerton'. Now they're set to take over the stage at Town Hall!

Vitamin String Quartet (VSQ) is a collective of performers, arrangers and producers who make beautiful quartet arrangements of rock and pop music, appearing in high-profile TV shows such as HBO's 'Westworld', ABC's 'Modern Family', CW's 'Vampire Diaries' and 'Gossip Girl' and Netflix's hit series 'Bridgerton'. Long before pioneering a new wave in the music industry and cementing their place as leaders of the classical crossover genre in the TV and film world, VSQ's members relationship with music started at a young age.

"I was born into music," says Derek Stein, cellist for VSQ, ahead of their performance at Town Hall on 21 May. Described by the Los

Angeles Times as "compellingly, vehemently virtuosic", Derek's energetic and distinctive performing style and flair for rock and pop styles can be heard in his work as both cellist and arranger with the string quartet. "My mother and father were both music educators. One of my earliest memories is falling asleep

hearing my father practice cello in the living room of my childhood home in Salina, Kansas." B:Music aims to inspire a love of live music and support the next generation of artists. It's always amazing to hear how early memories shaped the musical journey of artists and what led them to perform on the stages of Symphony Hall and Town Hall. "I idolised my father and wanted to be like him. He began teaching me cello at the young age of four years old. I remember deciding I wanted to dedicate my life to music and cello when I was around ten years old."

From Cardi B to Björk, Studio Ghibli to goth metal, VSQ approaches their renditions with respect and care, breathing new life into music they

already love. "When 'Bridgerton' was thinking through their own creative blend of time periods and genres, they approached us about using a few of our tracks for their first season," says Derek. "And

the rest is history!"

When asked what it is about hearing contemporary pop music played in a classical style by a string quartet that particularly fascinates listeners, Derek

says: "String instruments are very versatile and, in the hands of the right players, are capable of mimicking any sounds one may hear in rock and pop music. So much of that music fits very easily into the context of a string quartet. Each instrument can play a variety of roles within a particular song, and the movement of those roles within the different instruments in the quartet is one of the things that makes our arrangements so special."

VSQ's performance promises "reimagined arrangements of Taylor Swift's chart-toppers as well as covers of popular track by artists such as Daft Punk, Billie Eilish, BTS and The Weeknd, alongside music from 'Bridgerton'.

"The average music listener is probably not very likely to be familiar

with the more traditional string quartet repertoire, but hearing some of their favourite songs being performed in an unfamiliar setting can be very enjoyable and very intriguing."

Since its inception, VSQ has redefined classical music for contemporary audiences, earning a reputation as one of the most-streamed string ensembles in the world. Their dedication to creating beautiful, atmospheric covers of modern pop hits has made classical music relevant for new generations.

Even the evening's song list is a surprise to Derek. He adds: "But I always love rocking out to our arrangement of 'Everlong' by Foo Fighters!"

"The fans lucky enough to attend our performance at Birmingham's Town Hall can expect a raucous, high-energy performance that will be an experience to remember."

Interview: Lerah, B:Music



Vitamin String Quartet: The Music of Taylor Swift, Bridgerton & Beyond

21 May | TH

CLASSICAL



CBSO 2024/25: Kazuki Conducts Joy 01 May | SH
You'll have a hard time keeping to your seat in this programme of dances and fantastical scenes led by Kazuki Yamada. After capering at the Roman Carnival with Berlioz, pause for breath in Fauré's stunning Elegy, featuring the mesmerising Kian Soltani, before the cello has a major workout in Saint-Saëns's blazing Cello Concerto.



The Music of Zimmer Vs Williams 15 Jun | SH
London Concert Orchestra and conductor Anthony Inglis showcase an epic night celebrating the best scores from legendary composers! Featuring iconic music from E.T., Gladiator, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Star Wars, and more.



Vitamin String Quartet: The Music of Taylor Swift, Bridgerton, & Beyond 21 May | TH
Vitamin String Quartet are coming to Town Hall for a night of stunning classical adaptations! Experience beautiful renditions of hits by Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, BTS, and more in this captivating crossover performance.



John Wilson & Sinfonia of London: Rodgers & Hammerstein's Greatest Hits 27 Jun | SH
John Wilson and Sinfonia of London return to Symphony Hall for an enchanting evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein classics. Featuring iconic songs from South Pacific, The Sound of Music, Oklahoma!, with soloists Louise Dearman, Nathaniel Hackmann, and Scarlett Strallen.

AND

CBSO 2024/25 VIDEO GAMES IN CONCERT: 25.05 SH **WOLF HALL IN CONCERT:** 30.05 TH **NATIONAL OPEN YOUTH ORCHESTRA: RING OUT! NO MORE BARRIERS, JUST GREAT MUSIC:** 08.06 TH

CBSO 2024/25

The CBSO & The Orchestral Qawwali Project

19 July | SH

Experience a mesmerizing fusion of Sufi poetry, Indian Classical dance, and symphonic mastery in The Orchestral Qawwali Project. Written and directed by acclaimed composer Rushil Ranjan, this breathtaking performance features the soaring vocals of Abi Sampa, combined with rich orchestral arrangements from the CBSO. Designed to transport audiences to spiritual rapture, the performance captures the essence of qawwali in its purest form.

Following a sold-out performance in 2023, the Project returns to Symphony Hall with new compositions, conductor Melvin Tay, and the added brilliance of the CBSO Chorus.

Don't miss this unforgettable celebration of music, culture, and spirituality!



For full listings & up to date info visit bmusic.co.uk

Burn The Floor Presents:

Dianne & Vito - Red Hot & Ready 04 Jul | SH

Red Hot and Ready is an electrifying new dance show featuring Strictly stars Dianne and Vito, alongside Burn the Floor's global cast. Expect jaw-dropping choreography, heart-pounding music, and an unforgettable celebration of dance!

DANCE



Aljaz & Janette: A Night To Remember 23 May | SH

Aljaz & Janette bring unforgettable dancing, live music with boogie-woogie legend Tom Seals, and stunning routines set to iconic hits from the Great American Songbook to modern classics.



Oti Mabuse: Viva Carnival 20 Jun | SH

Oti brings the party to Birmingham! The Queen of the Tango joins the Queen of the Samba as Strictly legend Flavia joins forces with Oti as a Special Guest Star in a powerhouse performance you won't want to miss! Gather your friends for this summer's hottest event!



Anton & Giovanni: Together Again 28 Jul | SH

Anton & Giovanni: Together Again brings more fun, dance, and song than ever before! Experience breathtaking routines, stunning choreography, and the duo's irresistible chemistry in this unforgettable mix of Ballroom, Latin, and Musical Theatre.

For full listings & up to date info visit bmusic.co.uk

TALKS & CONVERSATIONS



An Evening with Phil 'The Power' Taylor 03 May | TH
Watch 16x world darts champion Phil Taylor take on a special guest in an exhibition match before stories and anecdotes from his glittering career, from memorable matches to behind-the-scenes tales, player rivalries, the pressure of winning, and staying at the top of his game...



A Lexicon of Life:
An Intimate Evening with Martin Fry 15 May | TH
Join Martin Fry of ABC for an evening of music and conversation, celebrating the timeless hits that defined pop history, from Poison Arrow to The Look of Love. Experience the art and glamour behind The Lexicon of Life, live at Town Hall.



ADHD Unmasked 22 May | TH
ADHD expert Hester Grainger leads an honest evening of conversation, laughter and self-discovery. Explore life with ADHD, embrace your strengths, and connect with others in this interactive, empowering show.



Aled Jones: Full Circle 01 Jun | TH
Aled Jones returns for an unforgettable evening at Birmingham Town Hall, celebrating 40 years of music and storytelling. With special guest Pop Voices, Aled reflects on his remarkable career whilst he performs classic hits.



The Grade Cricketer with Jimmy Anderson 03 Jul | TH
Pez, Higgos, and cricket legend Jimmy Anderson take to the stage for The Grade Cricketer's biggest live shows yet! Witness an epic showdown between England and India, exploring the game's power, rivalry, and an unforgettable summer of cricket.



For full listings & up to date info visit bmusic.co.uk

FILM

Marvel Studios' Infinity Saga Concert Experience

05 Jun | SH

The Novello Orchestra bring an epic journey through the Marvel Cinematic Universe in the Infinity Saga Concert Experience! Relive the most thrilling moments, from the Tesseract's concealment by the Asgardians to Tony Stark's heroic sacrifice. Experience the origins of Iron Man, Captain America, and Thor, each with their iconic music and visuals on the big screen. Feel the excitement as Earth's mightiest heroes unite for the first time, setting the stage for the Avengers' legendary team-ups.

This one-of-a-kind live concert blends unforgettable music, spectacular visuals, and the adventure of the Infinity Saga, creating an immersive experience that will transport you straight into the heart of the Marvel universe!

INTIMATE GIGS

JENNIFER BLACKWELL PERFORMANCE SPACE

Ashley Allen & Friends play *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin*

Ft Casey Bailey, Lumi HD, Francis Mott, BIMM Gospel Choir,
B:and Together Gospel & Town Hall Gospel Choir 12 Jun

Join Ashley Allen & Friends for a powerful live performance celebrating the 25th anniversary of one of gospel's most iconic albums with a fresh, Birmingham twist. *The Rebirth of Kirk Franklin* catapulted Franklin into a GRAMMY-winning solo career and reshaped contemporary gospel music.

Experience the anthemic 'Hosanna' and uplifting 'He Reigns,' brought to life by an incredible ensemble of musicians and vocalists from Birmingham and the West Midlands, led by musical director Ashley Allen.

Expect a night full of infectious rhythms, soul-stirring harmonies, and unforgettable energy - clap, sing, and reflect on the transformative power of contemporary gospel.



Artwork: Ibi Kelta

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The Jennifer Blackwell Stage at Symphony Hall is the perfect setting to enjoy live music in a more intimate experience.

The venue may be smaller than our iconic halls, but the talent is not. Discover this hidden secret in the heart of Birmingham for some of the best times of your life.



Gaelynn Lea 18 May

Violinist, singer, and songwriter Gaelynn Lea returns to Birmingham for a captivating evening of haunting original songs and traditional fiddle tunes. Featuring special guests Elle Chante & Green Matthews, Gaelynn will showcase her new soundtrack album and fan favorites.



Nashville Sounds in the Round 21 May | 26 Jul

Nashville Sounds in the Round is hosted by multi award winning Gasoline & Matches. Enjoy intimate, Bluebird Café style sessions where artists share the stories behind their songs, live and unplugged.



Midday Mantra Various Dates

Midday Mantra is a journey into the soul-stirring melodies that define South Asian music. The series invites audiences to immerse themselves in the rich sounds of traditional ragas and contemporary compositions. Bringing together top-tier musicians from across the world, Sampad contributes to the preservation and evolution of South Asian musical heritage.



Sax in the City with The Notebenders Various Dates

Ladywood based community Big Band are here to uplift and entertain with their signature mix of jazz and calypso music.

For full listings & up to date info visit
bmusic.co.uk

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LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

Lunchtime Organ Concerts

Birmingham City Organist since 1983, **Thomas Trotter** is one of the world's top-ranking virtuoso organists and was awarded the 2020 Queen's Medal for Music.

His fortnightly lunchtime concerts last around an hour and showcase the organ's sublime delicacy and awesome power – as well as his own technical wizardry – in some of the most inventive programmes you're ever likely to hear.

Lunchtime Organ Concerts | 1pm | TH

Thomas Trotter: 12.05

With Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Choir: 02.06

Lunchtime Organ Summer Requests: 16.06

Full season: bmusic.co.uk/lunchtime-organ-concerts



Image: Town Hall Pipes, Paul Dixon Photography

Primary School Assembly Bangers Live!

10 Jun 2025 | JBPS | 7.30pm

These evenings of joyous nostalgia are quickly becoming infamous! Step back in time for singalong tunes to take you back to your Primary School days. You won't have to sit cross legged on the school hall floor, but you will be encouraged to sing along! As well as assembly bangers, there will be other musical surprises, throwback mashups and comic reflections on growing up in the 90s.



FAMILY FUN



The Wiggles 14 May | SH

Get ready for an unforgettable live experience with The Wiggles in an interactive, high-energy musical extravaganza! Join all 8 Wiggles including OG Blue Wiggle Anthony to sing, dance, and wiggle to your favourite tunes alongside beloved Wiggly friends like Dorothy the Dinosaur, Wags the Dog, Henry the Octopus, Captain Feathersword, and TikTok sensation The Tree of Wisdom!

Bing's Birthday 14 - 15 Jun | TH

Celebrate Bing's special day in Bing's Birthday! Join Bing, Sula, Pando, Coco, Amma, and Flop for a fun-filled live show where birthday surprises, laughter, and a few mishaps make for an unforgettable adventure!

For full listings & up to date info visit bmusic.co.uk

SNEAK PEEK

Looking further ahead? Check out some of our top picks for shows coming further down the line...



Domination: The Fall & Rise of an Empire with Alice Roberts

04 Sept | SH



B:Music presents: A Night of Ska

20 Sep | TH



Boomtown Rats

11 Oct | SH



London Symphonic Rock Orchestra

12 Oct | SH



Rumer: Seasons Of My Soul

13 Oct | TH



Jim Henson's Labyrinth in Concert

24 Nov | SH

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Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays except when there is an event, where we will open 2 hours before the start of a main hall performance.

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How to find us:

Symphony Hall is located in Centenary Square, Birmingham, B1 2EA

Town Hall is located in Victoria Square, Birmingham, B3 3DQ

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bmusic.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility-information

Access Booking Line: 0121 289 6343

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Brochure Design: Eva, B:Music
Cover & additional artwork: Ibi, B:Music

Jason Mraz

07 Oct 2025 | Symphony Hall | 7.30pm

A portrait of Jason Mraz wearing a black fedora and a black tank top. He has a tattoo on his right shoulder that says "beginner". The background is a wall with large, abstract brushstrokes in green and blue. A diagonal green banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

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