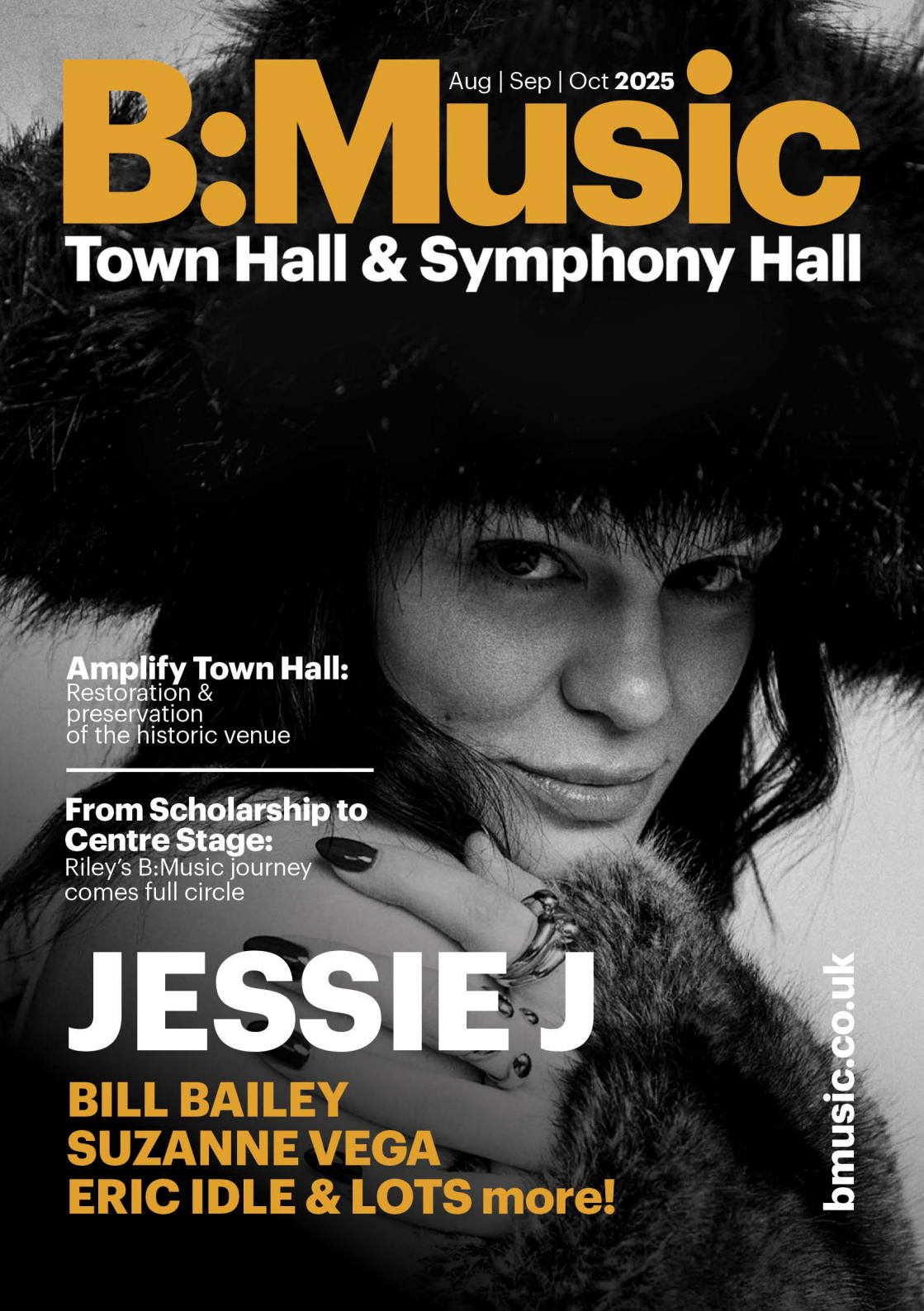




B:Music

Aug | Sep | Oct 2025

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

Amplify Town Hall:

Restoration &
preservation
of the historic venue

From Scholarship to Centre Stage:

Riley's B:Music journey
comes full circle

JESSIE J

**BILL BAILEY
SUZANNE VEGA
ERIC IDLE & LOTS more!**

bmusic.co.uk

AT A GLANCE AUGUST

National Youth Orchestra
The National Scout & Guide
Orchestra & Concert Band
Pakistani Music & Media Awards
Bill Bailey
Whitney: Queen Of The Night

A Night of Ska
Midday Mantra
Lunchtime Organ Concert
James Morrison
The Crane Wives
An Evening of Francis Rossi's Songs
Mika Häkkinen & David Coulthard
Björn Again
Lindisfarne
The Billy Joel Songbook
Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwals

OCTOBER

CBSO: Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony
The James Brown Experience
Roy Harper
Level 42
Maximum Rhythm & Blues
Geoff Norcott
Diana Krall
Nashville Sounds In The Round
Maat Saxophone Quartet
Kane Brown
The Return of the Legends
Sandi Toksvig: Friends of Dorothy
Lulu: If Only You Knew
Trigger Happy TV: Live!
Jason Mraz
Elis & John: That Feels Significant
Three Bean Salad Podcast
Classically Black with Laura Mvula
& CBSO
Henning Wehn
Jason Byrne
Boomtown Rats
London Symphonic Rock Orchestra
Dr Louise Newson
Graham Nash
Rumer
Brno Philharmonic
The Simon & Garfunkel Story
Wet Wet Wet

SEPTEMBER

Professor Alice Roberts
Man in the Mirror
British Brass Band Open Championships
Brass Gala 2025
Have A Go Brass
National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain
Eric Idle
Engelbert Humperdinck
Rob Lamberti Presents Perfectly George
Austentatious
Classic Albums Live
Ismo Woohoo
The Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines
Brad Kella
Myra DuBois
CBSO: Symphonic Queen

Jessie J
Ex Cathedra
The Australian Pink Floyd
Rick Wakeman
Georgie Carroll
Star Wars: Original Trilogy in Concert
Fin Vs History Live!
The ELO Show
Kidz Bop Live Certified BOP Tour
The Terminator Live
Sara Pascoe
Paul Merton & Suki Webster
Suzanne Vega

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

CONTENTS

- 2: At A Glance
- 4: Welcome: Joan Armatrading
- 6: News
- 8: What's New at B:Eats?
- 10: Amplify Town Hall
- 13: B:Inspired: Garry Corbett
- 14: Talent Takeover
- 16: A Night of Ska
- 18: What's On: Gigs
- 22: What's On: Comedy
- 24: What's On: B:Classical 24/25
- 26: What's On: Symphony Hall Tours
- 28: What's On: Classical
- 30: What's On: Entertainment
- 31: What's On: Inspired By
- 32: What's On: Talks & Conversations
- 33: What's On: Podcasts
- 34: What's On: Film
- 36: What's On: Brass
- 37: What's On: Free Jazz Fridays
- 38: Sneak Peek: B:Festive
- 40: Meet the Team: Programme
- 42: Thank You
- 43: How To Book

Image: Symphony Hall in all its glory. Paul Dixon Photography

WELCOME

From Town Hall Amplifier **Joan Armatrading**

Hello and welcome to the new B:Music What's On Guide that covers August through to October plus some sneak festive peeks...

As someone who grew up in Birmingham from the age of seven, I've always felt a deep connection to this city and its people. It's where I first picked up a guitar, where I wrote my earliest songs, and where I played one of my most memorable gigs, at Town Hall Birmingham in September 2018. That night, the energy in the room was electric, and the welcome I received was nothing short of roof-shaking. It truly felt like coming home.

Local music venues like Town Hall are the lifeblood of our music culture. They're where artists find their voice, where communities gather, and where unforgettable memories are made. These spaces are more than just stages: they're incubators of creativity, places where new talent is nurtured and where music lovers can experience something real, raw, and intimate.

And they're vital for supporting the next generation of musicians, providing a gateway from pubs and clubs to bigger stages. Championing young artists is my passion. That's why I launched the Joan Armatrading Scholarship at BIMM Birmingham last year to help young creatives from

underrepresented backgrounds pursue their dreams, it's why I am a Trustee of The King's Trust, mentoring young creatives, and why throughout my career I have created opportunities for upcoming artists to forge their own paths.

Music needs fresh voices, and those voices need places to be heard.

And now, you can help protect one of those vital places. B:Music is a local music charity that supports new talent as well as being responsible for two of the most iconic music venues in Birmingham. Last month B:Music announced Amplify Town Hall: a new project celebrating the rich legacy of this historic venue while raising funds for essential upgrades to ensure its future. I'm delighted to be an Amplifier for the project, helping to preserve the historic past and creating a sustainable future for generations of artists and audiences to enjoy.

Whether you have a memory to share, a photo to contribute, or a donation to give, your support can help amplify the past, present and future of Town Hall. See p24 to see how you can B:Involved.

With love and affection,
Joan Armatrading



**MUSIC NEEDS
FRESH VOICES
& THOSE VOICES
NEED PLACES
TO BE HEARD**

NEWS

READY TO WORK

Students from Herewood College, BIMM & Bristnall Hall Academy joined us for Work Experience to learn about all aspects of running a live music venue. After taking part in workshops with our Production & Programme teams and shadowing Front of House, they had the opportunity to put together a plan for an event which was presented to the Marketing team. Their idea for a Wes Anderson Film Festival included themed food, fancy dress options and was considered right down to comfort breaks. (Note to Programming: PLEASE make this happen!!!)

Suffice to say the future of our industry is in very safe creative hands!

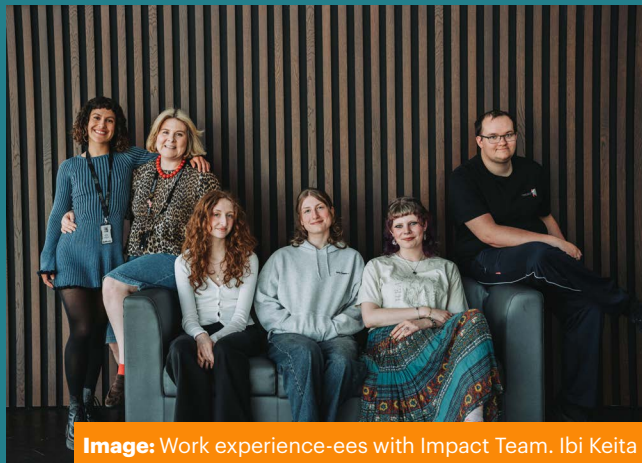


Image: Work experience-ees with Impact Team. Ibi Keita

STOP PRESS

We're delighted to announce Shiv Singh as Creative Director of B:Music Summer School 2025! Shiv will work with 65 11-19 year olds for a week of music workshops and performances alongside a team of professional musician tutors and aspiring music leaders at Symphony Hall this August. We can't wait to hear the music they create together!

WE SPEAK IN BLUE

Sometimes the stars align...

Young creative Roo Sergent filmed part of a 20 minute documentary about jazz musician Alexander Polack in our Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, before realising Alex was due to perform there 48 hours before his course deadline!

Some quick diary and storyboard shuffling later and the result is a beautifully shot atmospheric and tender film about the young jazz musician coming through the London, Birmingham and Trinity Laban scenes.

Through Alex's story, Roo captures the importance of jazz and its community for young musicians who are starting out on their own creative path.

Take time out to watch We Speak In Blue, it'll be time well spent: [youtube.com/@roodrums](https://www.youtube.com/@roodrums)



Roo Sergent

B:MARRIED WITH B:MUSIC!



First Wedded Selfie!

April saw the first wedding reception take place in the new Jane How & Justham Family rooms at Symphony Hall. Kelsey & Guy got married at Birmingham Registry Office before travelling to Symphony Hall in a rickshaw for their reception.

Guests enjoyed a wedding breakfast and speeches before dancing the night away with a live band and DJ whilst being looked after by the B:Music Food & Beverage team.

This was an extra special event for us as the groom is our own Development Manager! Congratulations Kelsey & Guy. We hope you'll B: very happy!

Looking for a city centre location with beautiful views and stunning service for a wedding or event? Contact events@bmusic.co.uk to find out more.

WOMEN IN MUSIC

Elise Evans (BBC Radio WM) kicked off the first She:Music brunch in June, hosting a guest panel of local women in music to discuss networks, support systems, and the gaps, that shape the journeys of women in music today. Javina Greene, Namaywa, Rebecca Wing, Nyah Ifell & Sally Rea Marks joined the panel and sparked insightful conversations between the attendees before a relaxed opportunity to network and collaborate.

Keep an eye on the B:Music website for more opportunities coming up.



Image: She:Music Panel building connections. Ibi Keita

SPOTLIGHT ON: Customer Feedback



To the two members of staff who helped my wife. They went above and beyond when she had a massive panic attack. A big big thank you to you and all your staff, what could have been a failure was made into a great night.

B:Eats

at Symphony Hall

**In the city centre and fancy
a lunchtime treat?**

B:Eats not only serves a delicious daytime menu but is host to FREE lunchtime gigs where you can enjoy a tasty meal while supporting some of the best local up and coming artists.

Look out for Madi Saskia (27 Aug) emerging RnB artist spreading messages of love and authenticity, producer, singer, songwriter & multi-instrumentalist Credo Kampeta (21 Oct) who's striking & emotional tunes are sure to strike a chord. Bhangra Tots (31 Oct) is a fun interactive family music and dance session while Pop Voices, as seen on the latest season of Britain's Got Talent will entertain on 07 October!

See the full lineup
bmusic.co.uk/beats-symphony-hall

With a menu featuring plenty of veggie, vegan and gluten-free options there really is something everyone can enjoy at B:Eats!

Opening Hours:
Mon-Sat 11am-4pm & pre show

See the full menu:
bmusic.co.uk/beats

Chicken Tikka Flatbread

Toasted
Flatbread

Marinated
Chicken Thigh

Pickled Chilli
Pineapple

Mint Yoghurt

Red Onion
& Coriander

Served with
House Fries

AMPLIFY TOWN HALL

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Join B:Music in uncovering the hidden stories of Town Hall, celebrating its rich legacy, and supporting vital upgrades to secure the future of this iconic venue. We are delighted to launch Amplify Town Hall, where you can be part of this exciting project celebrating and preserving one of Birmingham's most historical landmarks.

First opened in 1834, Town Hall has hosted countless legendary artists and momentous events during its 191-year history. Moments in history have been marked within its walls, with Queen Victoria and leading suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst both having taken to the stage. The first ever public reading of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens was performed in 1853 and the venue has showcased musical icons such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Nina Simone and David Bowie to name just a few.

This summer, B:Music will embark upon a refurbishment and archive project to uncover stories and memories from the Hall and make much-needed upgrades to this acclaimed venue to improve its accessibility and make it as sustainable as possible. With the help of heritage specialists **Birmingham Music Archive** and a group of passionate

volunteers, we are inviting music fans from across the city and beyond to share their memories and items of memorabilia related to Town Hall. Items may include old tickets, photographs and programmes, or even stories to be recorded.

This will culminate in a permanent on-site exhibition and the creation of a fully accessible digital archive, making the history of Town Hall available to a national and worldwide audience for the first time.

We're delighted to have been awarded a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund to support this work, however as a charity, to make this project a reality, we are launching a public fundraising appeal to raise £200,000 and have many ways in which you can support this cause.

Turn the page to see how you can B:Involved!



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Birmingham
Anti-Slavery
Committee
Meetings

1834

Opening Concert (The first brick was laid in 1832 but the building wasn't actually completed until 1851!)

1830's



Mendelssohn attended the Triennial Musical Festival where he played the organ & conducted

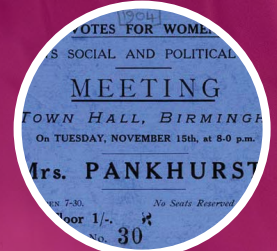
1837

1853

First public reading of **A Christmas Carol** by **Charles Dickens** himself!

1858

Visit from **HRH Queen Victoria**



1904

Emmeline Pankhurst Votes for Women Meeting

1950's

Duke Ellington, Count Basie & Buddy Holly graced the Town Hall Stage

1960's

Rolling Stones, The Beatles & Bob Dylan

1970's

Global home-grown talent took to the stage with gigs from **Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, ELO & UB40**

2007-
2025+

B:Music take responsibility for the venue after its refurb and reopening, programming gigs from **ABC** to **The Zombies**!

Image: Vitamin String Quartet at Town Hall. Paul Dixon Photography

AMPLIFY TOWN HALL B:INVOLVED

Preserve the Heritage

Help tell the story of Town Hall!

Was your first gig at Town Hall? Did you see Black Sabbath or The Beatles on the Town Hall stage? Do you have old concert tickets, photos, autographs or tour memorabilia from events at Town Hall? Have a Town Hall story or memory that makes you smile? Help us build a digital archive to preserve the history of historic Town Hall!

Create a Sustainable Future

Help us raise £200,000

Donate to our public fundraising appeal to improve accessibility for audiences and artists, upgrade facilities and protect Town Hall for generations of future Brummies to enjoy!

Image: Getting up close with The Editors at Town Hall. Jason Sheldon



To donate or find out more about how you can contribute to the archive please scan or visit bmusic.co.uk/amplify-town-hall



B:INSPIRED

with photographer **Garry Corbett**

We love seeing the evocative images local photographers have created in our venues, so much so we've added a new exhibition space into the main Symphony Hall entrance via B:Eats where we'll be showcasing a different artist four times a year.

Garry Corbett AKA Bluejazzbuddha is our first exhibit. You may recognise his striking black and white jazz imagery from B:Music promotions as Garry generously sends us images from B:Music events which he allows us to use for promotion.

Please pop in to enjoy his work through to January or explore more of Garry's work [@bluejazzbuddha](https://www.instagram.com/bluejazzbuddha)



'Over the years I've made thousands of photographs at the Friday Jazz sessions.

I've photographed young musicians just starting their careers who are now middle aged and well established. I've got to know a lot of musicians personally.

The real bonus to doing what I do has been meeting and connecting with fellow jazz fans. I've made a lot of friends through my connection with Friday Jazz. A group of us currently meet up socially every Friday whether or not there's music on. We have a Facebook group through which we share photos and information that might be of interest.

Over the years I've seen subtle changes in the audience demographic which has been a very positive thing. Likewise a change in the sweep of the music covered by the event. Jazz is what brought us together as an audience. Long may it continue to do so.'

Garry Corbett



TALENT TAKEOVER

A very special Free Jazz Friday lifted the roof of the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space in May. If you missed Riley Plays Stevie you missed a real treat. Riley was the first recipient of the B:Music scholarship, awarded to young musicians who have shown raw and exceptional talent on their instrument, but who may not have the financial means to develop their skills and achieve their potential, who knew that within a year he would be booked for a gig at our standing room only Free Jazz Friday season!



Riley was introduced to B:Music when he attended our Summer School in 2023 at the age of 16. His family had just moved from Zimbabwe and, coming from a musical community, he was already an extremely proficient self-taught bass player. Since then he's joined our Gospel and Jazz B:and Together sessions as one of our bursary recipients, while his scholarship funded his lessons with a variety of bass teachers, new equipment and tickets to events on our stages so he could be immersed in music from all genres and cultures.

'Thank you B:Music for giving me the opportunity to showcase my talent. The Free Jazz Friday show has changed my life and the way I viewed my music career. Thank you so much for the opportunity, words cannot describe how grateful I am!'
Riley

Having gone from strength to strength - and now officially an adult - Head of Programme Chris suggested his band to perform at a Free Jazz Friday. The performance was a full circle moment; from his Dad, Riley's mentor and biggest fan, getting up to sing a

traditional Zimbabwean song with him, to the maxed out audience giving a standing ovation at the end of the gig.

From the audience, to Riley's family, to the B:Music team and our talent development tutors it was a very special moment for all involved.

Just four weeks later B:and Together took over the coveted Free Jazz Friday slot in a riotous joy-filled showcase of young talent. Alongside our weekend Jazz and Gospel B:ands Nishkam after school B:and lifted the roof with 'Teen Spirit' on sitars and tablahs, students from Herewood College performed songs they had written and produced themselves and Lordswood school B:and entertained with some classic jazz.

The same week Generation Birmingham participants from local primary schools, in collaboration with Celebrating Sanctuary & Services for Education, came together to showcase their skills in the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space.

'Together, we created something truly special. A space filled with creativity, collaboration and connection, where young people's voices were celebrated and uplifted through music.'
Lucy: B:Music Impact Team

From the energetic performances and inspiring workshops, to the moments of reflection and celebration, the atmosphere across both days was electric.

All the young people brought enthusiasm, talent, and heart to their performances. Their engagement was a reminder of the transformative power of music, and how important it is that we create opportunities like this for them to connect, create and grow.

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



B:Music
Presents...

20 Sep 2025
Town Hall
7:30pm

A Night of SKA

Hosted by
DJ Mazzy Snape

• **Bad Manners**
• **The Beat**
Featuring Rankin Jnr
• **Lobster**



Originally brought to life in Jamaica during the '50s, and with a rich and longstanding history, Ska has transcended time and arrives in the heart of Birmingham for a night of live music, DJ sets & dancing this September.

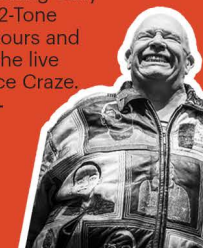
DJ Mazzy Snape Host

Mazzy Snape is a vinyl DJ specialising in mod, ska and soul who has warmed up for Terry Hall, Russ Winstanley and many more. Promoter of The Night Owl and Birmingham International Ska & Reggae Festival We look forward to welcoming Mazzy as host for this special event.



Bad Manners

Bad Manners were one of the many bands to take their inspiration from The Specials and the Ska revival movement in England in the late 1970s. They quickly became the novelty favourites of the fad through their frontman's silly on-stage antics, earning early exposure through 2-Tone Records package tours and an appearance in the live documentary Dance Craze.



Lobster

Lobster are a six-piece reggae and hip-hop influenced punk band from Birmingham formed in 2009. Rarely sticking to one genre for too long, they go from melodic roots reggae to downright dirty, dubby punk and all the way back through soulful hip-hop and upbeat Ska.



The Beat Featuring Rankin Jnr

The Beat crossed over fluidly between soul, reggae, pop and punk, and from these disparate pieces, created an infectious dance rhythm. Along with their contemporaries The Specials, The Selecter, and Madness, the band became one of the most popular and influential bands of the British Ska movement. **The Beat featuring Rankin Jnr** continue to perform all the classic hits in their dynamic live shows.



Artwork: Ibi Keita

GIGS

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

The Crane Wives

25 Sep | TH

Born of the 2010's folk boom and now comfortably stationed in their rock and roll era, The Crane Wives epitomize the evolving landscape of indie folk. Their high-energy performances have been described as "charged with emotion and technical skill" (Blurred Culture LA), while their harmony-dense melodies support deeply resonant lyrics, exploring the vulnerable and the ugly sides of the human condition.

The band explores both vulnerability and grit, connecting deeply with audiences worldwide. The Crane Wives have built a passionate global following spanning the US, UK, Australia, Germany, Brazil, Poland, Mexico, and the Philippines. Experience their unforgettable live performance at Town Hall — a night of stirring storytelling through music that you won't want to miss.



Engelbert Humperdinck 11 Sep | SH

One golden voice, 50 iconic years. Engelbert boasts a long career with sales in excess of 140 million records, including 65 gold albums and 35 platinum, four GRAMMY nominations, and a Golden Globe.



Classic Albums Live performs The Beatles

White Album 15 Sep | SH

Classic Albums Live recreates legendary rock albums note for note, cut for cut - no costumes, no gimmicks. A modern day orchestra of top musicians delivers an authentic, studio accurate experience for true music lovers



James Morrison 23 Sep | SH

Join BRIT Award winner James Morrison in celebration of his new album, Fight Another Day. It's an album that presents all the heightened emotions and struggles that James has experienced, then captured within his songwriting.



Lindisfarne 27 Sep | TH

Legendary 70s folk-rock pioneers Lindisfarne return to form with a classic five-piece lineup of long-time members, fronted by original founder-member Rod Clements on vocals, mandolin, fiddle, and slide guitar.

AND

B:MUSIC PRESENTS A NIGHT OF SKA FT THE BEAT FT RANKIN JNR: 20.09 TH **MIDDAY MANTRA** 20.09 JBPS **AN EVENING OF FRANCIS ROSSI'S SONGS FROM THE STATUS QUO SONGBOOK & MORE:** 26.09 TH

GIGS

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

Suzanne Vega

31 Oct | SH

Returning to the UK for the first time since her sold-out and critically acclaimed 2023 tour, Suzanne Vega will perform a career-spanning show including favorites like Tom's Diner, Luka, and many more, plus new material from her new album 'Flying with Angels'. Suzanne's set will be proceeded by special guest, Katherine Priddy.

Since the release of her self-titled, critically acclaimed 1985 debut album, she has given sold-out concerts in many of the world's best-known venues. Known for performances that convey deep emotion, Vega's distinctive, "clear, unwavering voice" (Rolling Stone) has been described as "a cool, dry sandpaper-brushed near-whisper" by The Washington Post, with NPR Music noting that she "has been making vital, inventive music" throughout the course of her decades-long career.



Jason Mraz

07 Oct | SH

Join Jason Mraz at Symphony Hall, candidly sharing stories behind his most famous hits as well as introducing new songs. Fellow San Diego troubadour Gregory Page will join Mraz as a special guest.



Boomtown Rats 'Happy Birthday Boomtown: Celebrating 50 Rat Years 1975-2025'

11 Oct | SH

14+ - u16s to be accompanied by an adult
Join the Boomtown Rats at Symphony Hall for a 50 year celebration, featuring an exclusive documentary screening and a powerful live performance. Relive their legacy and share the experience with fellow fans.



Graham Nash: More Evenings of Songs & Stories

13 Oct | SH

Graham Nash, two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee and GRAMMY award winner, will perform songs spanning his sixty-year career from The Hollies to Crosby, Stills and Nash, to CSNY and his beloved solo career. With special guest Peter Asher.



Rumer: Seasons Of My Soul

13 Oct | TH

Rumer, one of the UK's most beloved and soulful voices, is returning to Town Hall to celebrate the 15th anniversary of her groundbreaking debut album Seasons of My Soul.



Jessie J

18 Oct | SH

An acoustic night with Jessie J which will give fans the first chance to experience her new music live, alongside a selection of other favourites.

AND

ROY HARPER: 02.10 SH **LEVEL 42:** 03.10 SH **MAXIMUM RHYTHM & BLUES WITH THE MANFREDs:** 03.10 TH **NASHVILLE SOUNDS IN THE ROUND:** 04.10 JBPS **DIANA KRALL:** 04.10 SH **LONDON SYMPHONIC ROCK ORCHESTRA:** 12.10 SH **WET WET WET:** 17.10 SH **THE AUSTRALIAN PINK FLOYD:** 20.10 SH **RICK WAKEMAN:** 21.10 SH **THE ELO SHOW 2025:** 25.10 TH **JUSTIN HAYWARD:** 29.10 TH

COMEDY

Sara Pascoe: I Am A Strange Gloop

30 Oct | TH | 14+

Have you ever been awake in the middle of the night and thought something so smart and astute that you couldn't wait for the world to wake up so you could tell them? This show is that thought! In that it doesn't make much sense and is a bit weird on reflection.

British comedian, writer, and presenter Sara Pascoe brings her sharp wit and surreal storytelling to the stage in her latest show, exploring the chaos of parenting, sleepless nights, and modern life. With hilarious honesty and unexpected insights, she turns everyday struggles into brilliant comedy. A must-see evening of laughter, relatability, and offbeat brilliance.



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



Bill Bailey: Thoughtifier 27 Aug | SH

A magical, musical mystery tour of the human mind, along with some other pressing matters about whales, biophilia and unrequited love. Amplified With Music. Welcome to Thoughtifier!



Eric Idle: Always Look on the Bright Side of Life, Live! 10 Sep | SH

Eric Idle, star of stage, screen and crossword puzzle, has been in showbusiness since 1961. His nostalgic one man musical contains everything including Comedy, Music, Philosophy... and one fart joke.



Kane Brown 05 Oct | TH | 16+

Fearlessly hilarious delivery combined with honesty and sincerity. Kane Brown can be seen on Man Like Mobeen (Netflix), Deepfake (Channel 4), and She's the One (Amazon), and heard on his hit Podcast, Rated 18.



Trigger Happy TV: Live! 07 Oct | TH

Celebrate a quarter-century of chaos! Dom Joly is bringing his most iconic characters and sketches to the stage. Expect beloved moments from the show including The Giant Snail, The Scout, THAT Big Mobile Phone and more.



Georgie Carroll: Infectious 23 Oct | SH | 14+

Nurse turned comedian, Georgie Carroll is brilliantly funny in her brand-new show. An undeniable live comedy powerhouse and a natural storyteller, she's razor sharp and riotous.

AND

ISMO WOOHOO: 16.09 TH (14+) **MYRA DuBOIS: COSMIC EMPATH:** 19.09 TH **GEOFF NORCOTT: BASIC BLOKE 2:** 04.10 TH (16+) **JASON BYRNE: HEAD IN THE CLOUDS:** 10.10 TH **HENNING WEHN: ACID WEHN** 11.10 TH **PAUL MERTON & SUKI WEBSTER'S IMPROV SHOW:** 31.10 TH

BIRMINGHAM CLASSICAL

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

Brno Philharmonic with Freddy Kempf 15 Oct | SH

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**.

Enjoy our shorter daytime concerts!



RISING STARS

Maat Saxophone Quartet

05 Oct | JBPS

This Sunday morning concert is a bold, genre-spanning celebration of female creativity, freedom, and history. Coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.



Lunchtime Organ

Concerts Various Dates | TH

Birmingham City Organist Thomas Trotter showcases the organ's sublime delicacy and awesome power with his fortnightly lunchtime concerts. The upcoming programme offers highlights including a behind-the-scenes look at the instrument's mechanics and Viennese Whirls, a joyful celebration of 'The Waltz King', Johann Strauss II.

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

That's why 16-30 year olds, students & eligible benefit recipients can get tickets to any of our B:Classical concerts for just **£5**, AND **Kids Go FREE!**

Full details and line up at bmusic.co.uk/bclassical

SYMPHONY HALL TOURS

Image: A rare silent Symphony Hall... Paul Dixon Photography

FIND OUT:

What a reverberation chamber is and how it works

Why all our techs have to have a head for heights and learn to abseil...

How many pipes make up the organ (hint, it's thousands)

'What a wonderful tour we have been on today with Shep & Fred, They are so enthusiastic about the job roles they have at Symphony Hall, full of character and charisma. Such a wonderful tour of a fantastic venue.'

Said to be one of the best concert halls in the world, Symphony Hall is an architectural and acoustic marvel.

Join us to discover the design and operating secrets that make this beloved venue a true icon.

Book Now: bmusic.co.uk/symphony-hall-tours

Make it EXTRA

Image: Champagne with your best mate before a gig. Good times. Paul Dixon Photography

Make your night extra special by booking our Champagne Experience. Located in the Jane How Room, looking out over Centenary Square, enjoy a 1/2 bottle of champagne per person with savoury nibbles whilst watching the world go by...

Available on select shows. Check event page for details.

CLASSICAL



Brad Kella 18 Sep | TH

Brad Kella's journey from foster care to rising music star is both moving and inspiring. With raw talent, heartfelt storytelling, and an authentic sound, 2025 promises to be a breakthrough year for this self-taught artist.



The Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines: Live in Concert 18 Sep | SH

Experience the world-renowned Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines live, showcasing military classics, film scores, and stunning solos. With precision, pageantry, and pride, this unforgettable concert celebrates one of the world's finest military ensembles.



CBSO: Symphonic Queen 20 Sep | SH

Join CBSO for this symphonic spectacular which pays tribute to one of the UK's greatest-ever rock bands! Expect Don't Stop Me Now, We Will Rock You, Bohemian Rhapsody and many more.



CBSO: Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony 01 Oct | SH

"A Soviet artist's response to just criticism" was how Shostakovich described his Fifth Symphony – but then, in Stalin's Russia, he didn't have much choice. Music never lies, though, and today this defiant masterpiece is brought to life by Gemma New.



Ex Cathedra: Duruflé Requiem 19 Oct | TH

Join guest conductor James Burton to enjoy music of awe and wonder. The luminous beauty and serenity of Duruflé's Requiem is preceded by the ecstatic mysticism and playfulness of Britten's much-loved Rejoice in the Lamb.



Image: Laura Mvula in the pink. Ben Robb

Classically Black with Laura Mvula & CBSO

10 Oct | SH

Black Lives in Music brings a taste of their celebrated classical music festival to Birmingham.

Award-winning singer-songwriter Laura Mvula returns to her hometown, taking centre stage at Symphony Hall alongside the CBSO, with her signature blend of rich harmonies and soulstirring vocals. Classically Black, now in its second year, celebrates the depth and brilliance of Black composers and musicians - past, present, and future - reimagining classical music through the powerful lens of culture, experience and creativity. Experience an evening of spellbinding music that pushes boundaries and inspires.

CBSO are an Associate Artist of B:Music and Resident Orchestra at Symphony Hall. Their full programme can be found at bmusic.co.uk.

ENTERTAINMENT



The Return of the Legends 05 Oct | SH

Prepare for a night of Latin, ballroom, tango, rumba and so much more with Strictly legends Brendan, James, Pasha, Vincent and Ian, with lots of laughs and stories along the way.



Kidz Bop Live Certified BOP Tour 28 Oct | SH

Kidz Bop is the number one music brand for kids, featuring today's biggest hits, 'sung by kids for kids'. With 14 billion streams and recordings in five languages, it's the ultimate pop concert for kids (and grown-ups)!

Austentatious: An Improvised Jane Austen Novel 13 Sep | SH

Join us for a delightful evening, during which the all-star Austentatious cast will improvise a hilarious new Jane Austen novel, inspired entirely by a title from the audience. Performed in period costume with live musical accompaniment, it's a riotous, razor-sharp show where swooning is guaranteed.

The revolving Austentatious cast include numerous, award-winning TV and radio starring performers, including Cariad Lloyd (QI, Inside No.9, Griefcast, The Witchfinder), Joseph Morpurgo (Radio 4, Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee), Rachel Parris (The Mash Report, Live at the Apollo), Graham Dickson (After Life, The Witchfinder) and more.



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

INSPIRED BY...

Whether you were born in the wrong era to see your musical hero live or prefer hearing the songs you love in a more intimate setting, a tribute act can be a great way to recreate the excitement and atmosphere of magical moments missed.

Inspired by your favourite stars direct to the B:Music stages at Town Hall & Symphony Hall.



Whitney: Queen Of The Night

30 Aug | SH



Man in the Mirror

05 Sep | SH



Rob Lamberti Presents Perfectly George

12 Sep | SH



Björn Again

27 Sep | SH



The Billy Joel Songbook

28 Sep | SH



The James Brown Experience

02 Oct | TH



The Simon & Garfunkel Story

17 Oct | TH

TALKS & CONVERSATIONS



Domination: The Fall & Rise of An Empire with Alice Roberts 04 Sep | SH

Celebrate Professor Alice Roberts's new book *Domination*, a gripping journey through archaeology, empire, and faith as she uncovers how Christianity rose amid the Roman Empire's collapse and enduring legacy.



Mika Häkkinen & David Coulthard 26 Sep | SH

Experience an electrifying reunion as F1 legends Mika Häkkinen and David Coulthard share an unfiltered conversation about rivalry, teamwork, and the 2025 season, revisiting the highs, tensions, and lasting friendship forged at McLaren.



Sandi Toksvig: Friends of Dorothy 06 Oct | SH

Marking the paperback publication of her Sunday Times Bestselling novel, come and join the comedian, broadcaster, campaigner (and tiny Danish beacon of hope) for an evening celebrating her love and passion for writers and books.



Lulu: If Only You Knew 06 Oct | TH

GRAMMY-nominated icon Lulu, now 76, shares her unfiltered life story in *If Only You Knew*, blending songs, stories, rare footage, and candid reflections in an intimate celebration of her extraordinary career and reinvention.



An Evening with Dr Louise Newson 12 Oct | TH

Join Dr Louise Newson for a special event during World Menopause Month. Hear expert advice, myth-busting facts and empowering insights on hormones, HRT and women's health, plus your chance to ask questions directly.

PODCASTS



Elis & John: That Feels Significant Live! 08 Oct | TH | 12+
Britain's youngest, most relevant podcast-first broadcasters are hitting the road, and they're bringing Dave Masterman! Expect *Made Up Games*, *Cymru Connections*, *Mad Dads* and three digital firebrands let loose from Billy Balance!



Three Bean Salad Podcast 09 Oct | TH | 16+
Join Henry Paker, Benjamin Partridge, and Mike Wozniak for live illustration, lukewarm banter, a real banjo, and chaotic banter that you can help shape.



Fin Vs History Live! 24 Oct | TH | 16+

The show for people who like history but don't care what actually happened. Join Fin Taylor and Horatio Gould on their trademark disgusting sofa, as they bring a live version of their podcast to Town Hall.

BIG SCREEN LIVE SOUND

Experience your favourite films like you've never experienced them before...

Famously you can hear a pin dropped anywhere on the Symphony Hall stage in every single seat thanks to the meticulously designed acoustics. So sit back and watch on the big screen as a live orchestra performs the epic score live to film.

The Terminator Live

29 Oct | SH | Film Rating 15

Experience the ground-breaking, cult classic, The Terminator, on a vast HD screen while Brad Fiedel's signature synthesizer-led, percussive score is performed live by The Avex Ensemble in-sync with the 1984 motion picture.

The US box-office smash-hit, The Terminator sees Arnold Schwarzenegger star as the most uncompromising killing machine ever to threaten the survival of mankind. This epic sci-fi thriller from director, James Cameron, delivers an arsenal of action and heart-stopping suspense right to the end.

STAR WARS LIVE IN CONCERT accompanied by **CBSO**

Feel the Force (yes, we went there) of John Williams' legendary score as it's brought to life by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. They'll accompany the original Star Wars trilogy LIVE as you watch on the big screen in the sumptuous surroundings of Symphony Hall. Luke, I am your...



A New Hope

24 Oct | SH
Film Rating U



The Empire Strikes Back

25 Oct | SH
Film rating PG



Return of the Jedi

26 Oct | SH
Film rating PG

Book more & save more on Star Wars trilogy!

Book 2 events: **10% off**

Book 3 events: **15% off**

See website for full details



BRASS



The 171st British Open Brass Band Championship

06 Sep | SH

Join 18 of the world's finest brass bands as they compete to see who will be crowned the 171st British Open Champion: the oldest and most prestigious major contest accolade in the global banding movement.

BRASS IN A DAY

Great day out for the whole family!



Brass Gala 07 Sep | SH

Join us at Symphony Hall for the annual Brass Gala featuring Cory Band and Black Dyke Band, culminating in a powerful massed performance with youth ensembles, conducted by Philip Harper and Nick Childs. Over 100 musicians unite!



FREE: Have A Go Brass 07 Sep | B:Eats SH

Discover how brass instruments work in this fun, family-friendly session at B:Eats, Symphony Hall. Enjoy interactive demos, try instruments yourself and just maybe discover a hidden musical genius!



FREE: National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain: Children's Band 07 Sep | JBPS

Hear top young musicians from across the UK showcase their incredible brass talents.

Image: The Blue Notes bringing the soul to JBPS. Garry Corbett

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

SHE:MUSIC: Poppy Daniels 26.09

WARRIORS RISE: Alexa Nava 10.10

EJN TAKEOVER: Marco Centasso UmWelt 24.10

Full season: bmusic.co.uk/free-jazz-fridays

Free Jazz
Fridays are
generously
supported
by PPL

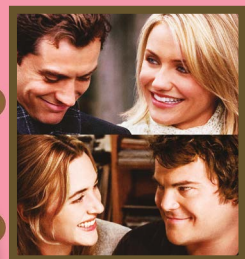


B*Festive

Create magical memories with family and friends this Christmas! Here's a sneak peek of some of the exciting seasonal shows on sale now at Town Hall and Symphony Hall...

Christmas Films with Live Orchestra x

The Muppet Christmas
Carol 08.12
Love Actually 12.12
The Holiday 13.12
Home Alone 22.12



Rob Brydon 26.11



Jools Holland 29 & 30.11



Toscana Strings 06.12



Anna Lapwood 09.12



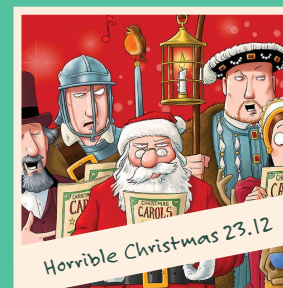
Sam Campbell 10.12



Anton Du Beke 11.12



Big Xmas Assembly 17.12



Horrible Christmas 23.12



The Music of Zimmer vs
Williams 27.12



MEET THE TEAM: PROGRAMME

From First Conversation to Final Encore:
The Story Behind the Stage at B:Music

At Town Hall and Symphony Hall Birmingham, every performance begins long before the first note is played. It starts with a conversation. A call from a promoter, a new artist discovered at a local gig, or an idea sparked over coffee. From there, the B:Music Programming Team takes that spark and turns it into something extraordinary.

Chris, Head of Programme, is often the first point of contact. With overall responsibility for the public-facing events across both venues, Chris leads the vision for series like Birmingham Classical, Free Jazz Fridays and Lunchtime Organ Concerts, as well as our work with the CBSO. A saxophonist and Motown fan, Chris brings not just industry knowledge but real musical instinct to the role. He also represents B:Music on international platforms such as the European Concert Hall Organisation and the Concert Promoters Association.

Once an idea takes root, Sally, Senior Programme Producer, begins shaping the commercial programme. She manages everything from on-sales and contracts to sourcing new events and promoters. Whether it is a chart-topping podcast, a legendary band or a new name making waves, Sally ensures each booking is the right fit for the stage, the audience and the city. She knows both sides of the curtain: as a singer-songwriter and co-lead of Gasoline & Matches, she is also a performer and

promoter in her own right.

Aaron, Programme Producer, is the driving force behind events in our Front of House spaces, including Celebrating Sanctuary, Midday Mantra and Live at B:Eats. He works closely with Chris on the classical and CBSO calendars, juggling diary logistics with artistic programming. Outside of B:Music Aaron plays a key role in artist liaison and management, working across major music festivals including Glastonbury, BBC events, and Rewind and supporting 80s icon Toyah Willcox.

And completing the team is Nina, Programming and Events Assistant. Nina ensures our scheduling systems are kept up to date, avoids clashes between spaces and acts as a vital link between Programming and Contracting. A DJ agency founder and devoted Swiftie!

Together, this tight-knit team brings care, creativity and collaboration to every part of the process. They scout new talent, analyse trends, attend gigs, talk to agents and listen to audiences, always with one goal: to make Town Hall and Symphony Hall the most exciting and welcoming stages in the UK.

Because when the lights go down and the music begins, it is not just a show. It is the result of months of conversation, planning and passion, started by a team who believe in the power of live music to move, unite and inspire.

THANK YOU

We can only inspire the next generation of artists, shine a spotlight on local talent and preserve our historic venues with the help of our supporters. Thank You.

Business Partners

Q-Park
West Midlands Growth Company
Browne Jacobson
Solihull College and University Centre
The Grand Hotel

Corporate Patrons: Silver

Colmore Partners
Colour Cubed Creative Communications

Corporate Patrons: Bronze

Malmaison
Hotel du Vin

Project Sponsors

Cross Country Trains
Pareto
Hortons Social Purpose Committee

Makers Circle

Mr P Ashen, Toby Blackwell, Jayne Cadbury MBE, Paul Carter, Paul & Dee Cocking, W. Peter Dunne, G. Cm. & Fionuala A. Dunne, Roger G. Guest, Dr Brian Gwynn, P & J Hall, Vivianne Hollinshead, Peter How, Dr C G Johnston, The Justham Family, Lynn Lawrenson, James & Meg Martineau, Ian McAlpine, Ian C Norton, Jenna & Jeremy Plewes, Ald. Mike Poulter MBE & Mrs K Poulter, Pat Poynton, Mr I & Mrs G Reaves, Nick & Carole Reed, Graham Russell & Gloria Bates, Helen Russell, John & Pat Rutter, Gillian Shaw, Bryan Smith, Tony Smith, David & Lucy Stanley, Isabel Stewart, Mr A Taylor, Robert & Julia Verrion, Howard

& Judy Vero, Dr D & Mr P Wardley, Alan Woodfield & other anonymous donors

Our Patrons

John Barlow, June & Graham Bentley, Anita Bhalla OBE, Paul & Heather Buckingham, Paul & Dee Cocking, Marcus & Linda Daly, Peter How, Mr & Mrs Martyn R Hale, Dr Johnston, Julia & Peter Maskell, Ian McAlpine, Chloe Morton, Mrs Kathy Norman, Graham Russell, Janette Rutter, Ann Skidmore Associates Ltd, Keith Stokes-Smith, Mr & Mrs Verrion, Mr P & Mrs D Wardley, Lois Watson, Max Woolf, Paul C Wynn and anonymous supporters

Legacy Donors

Estate of Mr William Jones
Ros Jackson & Jean Maudsley

Trusts & Foundations

Alan Woodfield Trust
Arts Council England
Baron Davenport's Charity
Birmingham City Council
Brian Shaw Memorial Trust
Cole Charitable Trust
Dumbreck Charity
Eveson Charitable Trust
GJW Turner Trust
Golsoncott Foundation
Gowling WLG (UK) Charitable Trust
Grantham Yorke Trust
Grimmitt Trust
LG Harris Trust
Lillie Johnson Charitable Trust
Limoges Trust
Lord Austin Trust
Michael Marsh Charitable Trust

National Lottery Heritage Fund
Oakley Charitable Trust
PPL
PRS Foundation
Patrick Trust
Richard Cadbury Charitable Trust
Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust
Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation
Roughley Trust
Rowlands Trust
Rowley Trust
Sabina Sutherland Charitable Trust
Saintbury Trust
Thistle Trust
Thompson Family Charitable Trust
Uncle Bill Trust
WED Charitable Trust
William A Cadbury Trust



Birmingham City Council



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Registered with
FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

IMPORTANT INFO

Online: bmusic.co.uk

By phone: 0121 780 3333
Monday to Saturday, 10am – 4pm

In person:

Symphony Hall's Box Office is open Monday to Saturday, 11am – 4pm (Please check the website for full details as these are subject to change). 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.

Town Hall's Box Office is open 1 hour 30 minutes before the start of a performance except for all family and organ concerts, where we will open 1 hour before the start of a performance. (Please check the website for full details as these timings are subject to change).

How to find us:

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

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



Once you've enjoyed reading this brochure, please recycle. You can find out more about what B:Music is doing to B:Green at:
bmusic.co.uk/bggreen

Accessibility

Everyone is welcome at Town Hall and Symphony Hall, and we will do whatever we can to ensure that you have an enjoyable visit.
bmusic.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility-information

Access Booking Line: 0121 289 6343

Data protection

We may collect personal data from you when you buy a ticket in person, over the phone or via bmusic.co.uk. We may collect data when you join or renew a membership with B:Music, ask us to send you information, make a donation, pledge a legacy, attend an event, visit our premises, or participate in a project or group. From time to time we may contact you by post, email, or phone to inform you about relevant concerts, events, services or activities we believe will be of interest, as well as opportunities to support our work. You have the option to change any of your contact preferences at any time by logging into your B:Music online account or by contacting unsubscribe@bmusic.co.uk. Our full Privacy Policy can be found at bmusic.co.uk

Disclaimer

Information in this guide was correct at the time of going to press and published in good faith. Unforeseen circumstances, however, may result in changes to the published programme or names of artists: please check the event page on bmusic.co.uk for latest updates both before booking and attending.

Ticket Commissions

*Some events may carry a £3 – £5 ticket commission; charged per ticket. This is charged when you book through B:Music's Box Office – online, by phone or in person. Any advertised prices will include any per-ticket fee that may apply. E-tickets will be sent free of charge. Customers do have an option for postage at a cost of £3 per order. These fees are waived for B:Music Patrons.

Age Guidance

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult 18+ unless otherwise stated.

SH: Symphony Hall

TH: Town Hall
JBPS: Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space at Symphony Hall

Lovingly produced by the B:Music Marketing Team

Brochure design: **Eva** | Cover & additional artwork: **Ibi**

Copy & support: **Kath, Ellie & Lerah**

Thank you to all the incredible photographers whose work is highlighted in these pages.

Jen Brister: Reactive

B:Music
Town Hall & Symphony Hall

22 Nov 2025 & 27 Mar 2026
Town Hall | 7.30pm | 18+

A photograph of Jen Brister sitting on a light-colored wooden block. She is wearing a bright orange long-sleeved shirt, black trousers, and white sneakers. She is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a solid yellow color.

SELLING FAST

B:Music: The Birmingham music charity responsible for Town Hall & Symphony Hall

B:Music ©2025. Registered Charity No. 1053937, Registered England No. 3169600