

# B:Music

May | Jun | Jul 2026

Town Hall  
Symphony Hall



# THE PIANO

## THE FINAL CONCERT

09 Jun 2026  
Symphony Hall

[bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

JAMES ACASTER | AROOJ AFTAB | EMMYLOU HARRIS & MORE

# MAY JUNE

- 01** **Aardman in Concert**  
The Rocky Horror Picture Show
- 01, 08 & 22** **Free Jazz Friday**
- 01 - 03 The 104th Spring Festival
- 02** **Ludovico Einaudi**
- 03 Jethro Tull
- 05** **Sue, Matt & Phil: The Reunion**
- 05 The Receipts Podcast
- 06** **Kate Rusby**
- 07 Paul Carrack
- 07** **Cowboy Junkies**
- 07 Poetry Jam
- 08** **Alfie Boe**
- 08 Jarlath Regan
- 09** **Katherine Priddy**
- 11 Lunchtime Organ Concert
- 12** **Midge Ure**
- 13 Emmylou Harris
- 14** **Celebrating Meat Loaf**
- 14 Seth Lakeman
- 15 & 16** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Professionals**
- 15 Tom Smith
- 17** **Trio Concept**
- 17 Warsaw Philharmonic
- 18** **Max Cooper**
- 19 Christopher Cross
- 20** **Nashville Sounds in the Round**
- 21 David The Medium
- 22** **Scott Bennett**
- 23 Midday Mantra
- 26** **Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox**
- 29 CBSO
- 30** **Shoot From The Hip**
- 30 Sax In the City with The Notebenders

- 01** **Dirty Dancing in Concert**  
Lunchtime Organ Concert
- 01, 15 & 29
- 02** **Ray LaMontagne**
- 04 Indiana Jones & the Raiders of the Lost Ark
- 04** **Poetry Jam**
- 05 Dropout Improv
- 05** **Space Station Earth**
- 06 BAFTA Games in Concert
- 07** **Joe Webb Trio**
- 08 William Dalrymple
- 09** **The Piano: The Final Concert**
- 09 Aldous Harding
- 10** **Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit**
- 11 80s Classical
- 12 & 26** **Free Jazz Friday**
- 13 Elvis Costello & The Imposters
- 13** **Sufi Qawwali Night with Fanna-Fi-Allah**
- 14 The Best of John Williams
- 14** **Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra**
- 16 Arooj Aftab with London Contemporary Orchestra
- 17** **ISMO**
- 18 CBSO
- 18** **Lady Maisery & Jimmy & Sid**
- 19 The Music of Stranger Things
- 20** **Fireman Sam**
- 20 National Youth Jazz Orchestra
- 21** **Sir Karl Jenkins**
- 22 Sounds of The 60s
- 27** **Sax In The City with The Notebenders**
- 29 4Ward: A Cantata for Greater Birmingham
- 30** **Rumours of Fleetwood Mac**



# JULY

- 01** **Rumours of Fleetwood Mac**  
David Sedaris
- 02** **Poetry Jam**
- 03 Blacksabbathmode & Bigheadmode
- 03** **Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin II**
- 04 Nashville Sounds in the Round
- 10** **Free Jazz Friday**
- 17 Lenny Pearce Toddler Rave
- 18** **Pop Voices**
- 18 Midday Mantra
- 20-22** **James Acaster**
- 23 Bootleg Beatles & Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra



For full listings & up to date info visit [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

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# WELCOME

From B:Music CEO Nick Reed

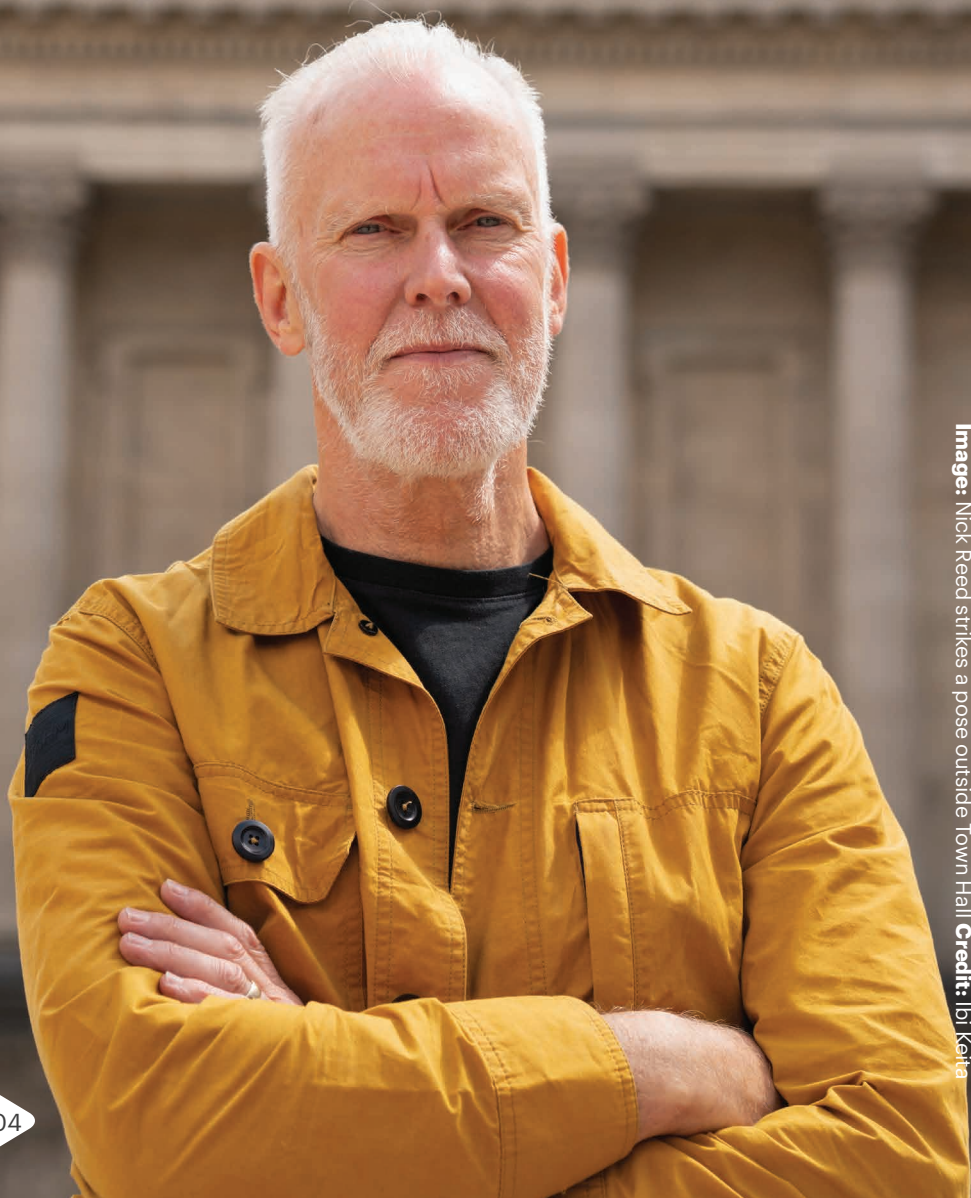


Image: Nick Reed strikes a pose outside Town Hall Credit: Ibi Ketia

## Welcome to the Spring Season at B:Music.

I'm delighted that our stages host some of the biggest names in music, but I know that there are also amazing artists with less exposure who deserve to play in our iconic venues and be seen by audiences who love live music in all its myriad of genres and forms. That's why I am proud that B:Music is partnered with Music Beyond Mainstream (MBM), a collaboration between some of the UK's leading venues, united by musical curiosity and a will to work together to present audiences with great artists who work outside the mainstream norm.

MBM celebrates 25 years of extraordinary music in 2026.

B:Music has been there from the start, so it is fitting that we are hosting four exceptional concerts presented under the Music Beyond Mainstream banner this year: Max Cooper, Arooj Aftab, African Soul Rebels and Ben Folds. Read more about these extraordinary musicians in our feature on P10.

In the coming months we welcome musical icons from Emmylou Harris to Elvis Costello in a programme that takes in jazz, classical, folk, rock, qawwali, americana, comedy, film, spoken word and much more. You can find the whole season at a glance at the front of this brochure

and some more detailed inspiration grouped by genre further on. As well as our main stages, check out the gigs in our intimate Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space at Symphony Hall too for a real up close and personal experience. The JBPS is home to our Free Jazz Fridays and the perfect rendezvous in the city to launch your weekend. Whether it's a household name or a first performance from a talented local teen, you can be assured that the B:Music team will

work together to make every single gig a magical experience for both audience and artist,

**“MBM celebrates 25 years of extraordinary music in 2026. B:Music has been there from the start, so it is fitting that we are hosting four exceptional concerts presented under the Music Beyond Mainstream banner this year.”**

Nick Reed

Alongside the live programme you can meet some of our team, find out about our youth board and catch up with the B:Music news.

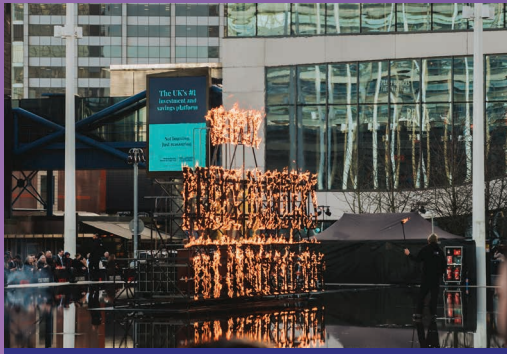
If you've been inspired by the

work that we do supporting young musicians in Birmingham, or any of our wider work as a music charity, our Development Team would love to hear from you. You can support B:Music by becoming a Member or a Patron, funding a bursary, naming a seat, leaving a legacy or simply making a donation. Find out more on our website or contact our team: [development@bmusic.co.uk](mailto:development@bmusic.co.uk).

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

**Nick Reed**  
CEO: B:Music

# NEWS



The Immortal Man premiere lit up Symphony Hall in March: Ibi Keita

## BY ORDER OF THE PEAKY BLINDERS

Netflix rolled out the red carpet at Symphony Hall for the premiere of Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man, bringing Birmingham's own Tommy Shelby and the next chapter of this iconic story to the big screen!

Crowds turned up in flat caps to soak up the atmosphere as the city celebrated this world-class film event, set right here in Birmingham.

## THOUGH SHE BE BUT LITTLE, SHE IS FIERCE

We were delighted to host Chair of the B:Music Board of Trustees, Anita Bhalla, to launch her memoir, 'Though She Be But Little, She Is Fierce', on the Symphony Hall stage with Reeta Chakrabarti & Prof. Diane Kemp in March.

Anita's memoir traces her journey from arriving in 1960s Birmingham as a young girl from Kenya, to becoming one of the first Asian presenters on British television, leading the creation of the BBC's Asian Network, and shaping civic and cultural life across the West Midlands. Her story is one of courage, conviction and leadership, which B:Music is delighted to benefit from.



Prof Diane Kemp, Anita Bhalla & Reeta Chakrabarti: Ibi Keita



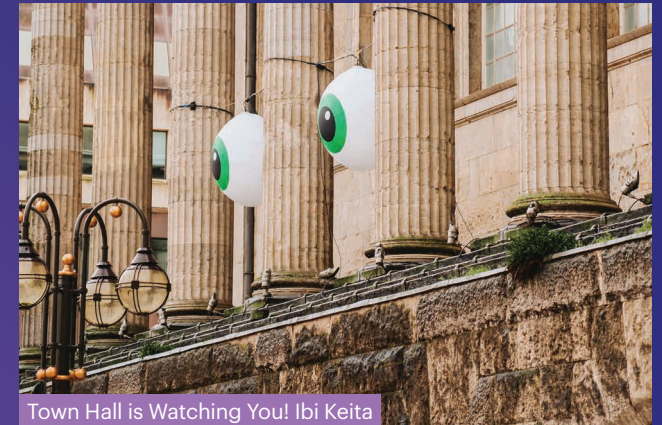
## SPOTLIGHT ON: Artist Feedback

From top to bottom your team have been fantastic: so responsive, enthusiastic, encouraging and helpful. You're all totally making dreams happen - and we're so grateful for the opportunities you've given us. Still pinching ourselves...

## ALL EYES ON TOWN HALL

Town Hall 'looked' a bit different as B:Music participated in The Look of Love at Birmingham Light Festival in February.

This playful piece by Designs in Air brought a curious, larger-than-life gaze over Town Hall, adding a little magic to evening wanders during the dark evenings.



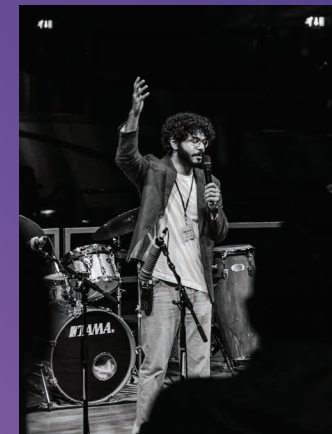
Town Hall is Watching You! Ibi Keita

## SUMMER (SCHOOL) OF SHIV

We're delighted that following his success as Creative Director for B:Music Summer School 2025, Shiv Singh has once again been selected to lead Summer School 2026 this August.

An extra special moment for B:Music as Shiv came up through our talent development programme having participated in our B:and Together ensembles, becoming a peer mentor, support tutor, lead tutor and now Creative Director, alongside studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and gigging round the UK.

An exceptional Birmingham based double and electric bass player, we're excited to see how this year's Summer School theme of 'Self:Expression' inspires and motivates the young musicians joining us for a week of immersive learning and playing on the Symphony Hall stage.



B:Music Summer School Creative Director Shiv Singh: Ibi Keita

## BRITPOP CLASSICS: CLASSICAL EDITION

Alex James & the Britpop Classical crew had 'The Life of Riley' at Symphony Hall in March! Nearly 2k 'Girls & Boys' felt 'The Connection' and were 'Ready To Go'. It felt like 'Disco 2000' all over again!

Accompanied by the London Concert Orchestra with guests Simon Fowler (Ocean Colour Scene), Saffron (Republica) & Gary Stringer (Reef) it was clear Britpop will 'Live Forever'.



Alex James thrilled at Symphony Hall with a night of Britpop classics accompanied by orchestra: Kate Green Photography



# B:Eats

## at Symphony Hall

**The Spring/Summer seasonal menu has landed at B:Eats and we're VERY excited!**

Joining the daytime ensemble are Steak Frites and B:Eats Risotto with Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables, Wild Mushroom & Blue Cheese, Garlic & Chilli Prawns or Pulled Beef Brisket Ragù.

The unmistakable star of the show is the new Desi Breakfast, chef Nikhil's first contribution to the lineup. A nod to Birmingham's curry obsession, the Desi Breakfast has a spiced, stuffed potato paratha with onion & coriander, served with a masala omelette, spicy pickle & natural yoghurt.

The ever popular B:Eats grilled cheese

sandwiches have had a glow-up, now on sliced brioche loaf and all served with house fries and vegan cheese on request (they're all good, but the caramelised onion or blue cheese and portobello mushroom are <chef's kiss> - Marketing)

And if you're enjoying a B:ite pre-show, you can now opt for a Brummie Biryani or Pulled Beef Lasagne alongside our favourite classics Hand Battered Fish & Chips, Jacket Potatoes, Baguettes & Burgers.

Of course our signature Brummie Bacon Cakes are always available whatever time you visit! Perfect for a quick snack or evening pick-me-up, choose from 5 flavours including a vegan option.

**Opening Hours:**

Mon-Sat 11am-4pm & pre show

**See the full menu:**

[bmusic.co.uk/beats](http://bmusic.co.uk/beats)

Catch FREE live music at lunchtimes in B:Eats. Check out the dates and line up: [bmusic.co.uk/beats-symphony-hall](http://bmusic.co.uk/beats-symphony-hall)

Image: The Desi Breakfast in all its glorious glory. Ibi Keita

# B:Eats Presents: The DESI BREAKFAST

# MUSIC BEYOND MAINSTREAM

Music Beyond Mainstream (MBM) is an initiative by some of the UK's most ambitious music programming venues, including B:Music, to bring events beyond the mainstream norm to local audiences.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, MBM has unveiled a bold and dynamic touring programme. Showcasing a rich spectrum of boundary-pushing artistry, the season features immersive electronic pioneer Max Cooper, the luminous Arooj Aftab performing with the London Contemporary Orchestra, the electrifying African Soul Rebels bringing together Amazonas d'Afrique and Gasper Nali, and acclaimed singer-songwriter Ben Folds. Together, these artists promise a landmark year of innovative, genre-defying performances and unforgettable musical moments.

Founded in 2001, Music Beyond Mainstream (MBM) is the network of 11 of the UK's leading concert halls, dedicated to showcasing diverse artists, voices, and experiences on stage. For 25 years, MBM has inspired audiences and provided local communities with access to world-class culture right on their doorsteps. Over the past two decades, the network has welcomed acclaimed artists including Anoushka Shankar, John Grant, Richard Hawley, Jerry Dammers, Tony Allen, and Paloma Faith, creating unforgettable performances that celebrate innovation, diversity, and excellence in music.

Join us at Town Hall & Symphony Hall as we **GO BEYOND THE MAINSTREAM...**



## MBM INTRODUCES: MAX COOPER

### Where Science and Sound Converge

In a constantly shifting electronic music landscape, Max Cooper stands out as an artist who consistently expands the boundaries of the genre. A composer, multi-disciplinary artist, label founder and former scientist, Cooper has spent over 15 years merging the emotional intensity of electronic music with the analytical curiosity of his background in computational biology. His work is equal parts precise and poetic, cinematic and cerebral.

Cooper's scientific roots remain central to his creative process. Before emerging as a leading figure in experimental electronic music, he earned a PhD studying complex systems, an approach that continues to shape his meticulous yet emotive sound. He was the first modern electronic artist to perform at the ancient Acropolis Theatre and an early innovator in treating Dolby Atmos as a fully immersive compositional medium.

### 'LE JACKSON POLLOCK DE LA MUSIQUE' LA LIBRE

Cooper explores projects that dissolve traditional boundaries, spanning algorithmic visuals, multi-sensory installations, architecture and digital art. Collaborations with Zaha Hadid Architects, L-Acoustics, 4DSOUND showcase his drive to explore how ideas feel when expressed through sound and space.

For Cooper, blending art and science isn't a concept, it's a lived practice. His work invites audiences into expansive, emotionally resonant worlds where technology and imagination intertwine.

**MAX COOPER LIVE:  
FEELING IS STRUCTURE**  
18 May | SH



# MBM INTRODUCES: AROOJ AFTAB

## Rewriting the Edges of Global Music:

Arooj Aftab is a rare kind of quiet revolutionary, an artist who renders genre boundaries irrelevant simply by moving through them. A GRAMMY-winning vocalist, composer and producer, she operates in a fluid sonic world where Sufi poetry, jazz minimalism and avant-pop coexist in a shimmering, borderless blend. Her sound feels both ancient and ultramodern, intimate yet expansively global.

Aftab first came to international attention with Vulture Prince, a luminous meditation on loss whose standout track “Mohabbat” earned her a GRAMMY. But rather than follow the momentum with a predictable next step, she leaned further into experimentation. Love in Exile (2023), created with Vijay Iyer and Shahzad Ismaili, was praised as a spacious, improvised masterpiece. Her 2024 album Night Reign continued this evolution, earning GRAMMY nominations for its hypnotic blend of nocturnal mood and slow-burn groove.

**‘THE COOLEST  
ROCK-STAR IN THE  
WORLD RIGHT NOW’  
UNCUT**

Born in Riyadh, raised in Lahore and now based in the U.S., Aftab carries a lived sense of in-between spaces that shapes her emotionally rich, quietly intense delivery. Whether collaborating with Beck or composing for film and

television, she gravitates toward artists who defy convention.

For listeners seeking something genuinely new, Aftab offers a world where boundaries dissolve and where every note glows with dark, effortless cool.

**AROOJ AFTAB WITH LONDON  
CONTEMPORARY ORCHESTRA  
CONDUCTED BY ROBERT AMES  
16 JUN | SH**



# MBM INTRODUCES: AFRICAN SOUL REBELS

**African Soul Rebels burst onto the UK touring scene with a mission to dismantle boundaries around African creativity.** Now, the movement returns with renewed urgency, a reminder that African music has always been a source of innovation, resistance and unrestrained joy.

Leading this new chapter are the extraordinary Les Amazones d’Afrique, the Pan-African feminist supergroup whose influence spans from the Glastonbury Pyramid Stage to President Obama’s playlist. Formed in Bamako in 2014 by Malian icons Mamani Keïta, Oumou Sangaré and Mariam Doumbia, the collective now includes voices from across the continent and diaspora. Their work bridges activism and artistry, confronting gender inequality and the silencing of women through music that is vibrant, melodic and defiantly modern.

Their latest album Musow Danse, produced by Jacknife Lee, pushes their sound further into futuristic terrain, blending Pan-African styles with pop, electronic production and hip-hop textures, a true celebration of sonic rebellion.

**‘A ROUSING AND  
DEFIANTLY  
MODERN REVOLUTION  
IN SOUND’  
Q MAGAZINE**

Joining them on the Town Hall stage is Malawian innovator Gasper Nali, whose homemade one-string babatoni bass

and rolling dance rhythms create a raw, infectious energy all his own.

Together, these artists embody the spirit of African Soul Rebels: reshaping heritage, challenging convention and carving bold new futures.

This isn’t just a concert, it’s the revival of a movement.

**AFRICAN SOUL REBELS FT LES  
AMAZONES D’AFRIQUE, GASPER  
NALI + SUPPORT  
08 Oct | TH**



# B:ATTLE OF THE B:ANDS

The B:Music Youth Board, our advisory board of local young people interested in the future of live music and the preservation of arts culture in the West Midlands, put on an exciting evening showcasing the talent of emerging local bands.

Four exciting young bands from across the West Midlands battled it out in a fullscale-high energy showcase in the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space at Symphony Hall. They brought unique sounds, creativity and original music to a crowd ready to discover new music, accompanied by professional sound & big-stage lighting from the B:Music technical team.

Prizes included an exclusive band photoshoot with a professional music photographer, a solo performance opportunity and a free recording session at Birmingham based Sansom Studios.

The competition was judged by representatives from B:Music and Supersonic Festival who were impressed both with the professionalism of the event and the talent on stage.

A thrilling night of diverse live performances across genres was the result, but in the end there could only be one winner...

**'IT'S GREAT TO SEE BRUM'S MUSICAL LEGACY IS BEING PASSED DOWN TO SAFE HANDS'**  
 JUDGE EVA: B:MUSIC MARKETING MANAGER

**'JUST WOW! SO MUCH TALENT IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT!'**  
 JUDGE ROSIE: SUPERSONIC FESTIVAL

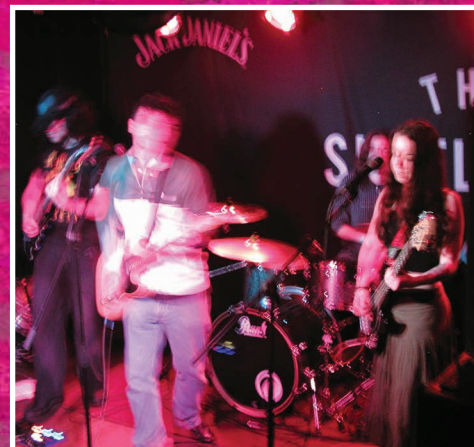


**GEORGE DILLON**  
 This atmospheric lofi rock band impressed judges with their original songs, musicality and professional performance.

**'I WAS BLOWN AWAY BY THE STANDARD OF TALENT IN THIS COMPETITION'**  
 JUDGE KATY: B:MUSIC PROJECT OFFICER



**RADIANT**  
 A Radiohead inspired quartet, Radiant were the newest band on the line-up, delivering a polished performance with soulful lyrics and a distinctive sound.



**MAC WOOD**  
 Nostalgic indie rock; our judges were bopping along to the catchy tunes and would be quite happy if they rocked up to a gig where these guys were performing!

**WINNER:**  
**SKUM**



This grunge/alt rock band impressed with the range of their musical styles and on stage chemistry, masters of their instruments they displayed a showmanship rare in such young performers. Look out for them, they're a real musical treat.

**HELP US SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL TALENT**

We rely on the support of people like you, who understand the joy and power of live music to make our talent development work possible.



To donate or find out more please scan or visit [bmusic.co.uk/support-us](https://bmusic.co.uk/support-us)

# CAN YOU TURN UP THE VOLUME ON LOCAL ARTISTS

Become a B:Music Patron & help make some noise about the city's musical talent.



Join our Patron scheme from just £9 per month to support B:Music's mission to inspire a love of live music through performance, participation and learning, while enjoying a range of fantastic benefits including:

- Behind-the-scenes access
- Exclusive events
- No commission when booking tickets

Find out more:  
[bmusic.co.uk/join](https://bmusic.co.uk/join)

# THE PIANO: The Final Concert

09 Jun | SH

The final concert of Series 4 of The Piano is coming to Symphony Hall.

Hosted by Claudia Winkleman, and featuring performances from Mika, the season finalists and a soon to be announced guest artist, this will be a celebration of the nation's favourite instrument.



# TOWN HALL: AMPLIFIED

**Birmingham's historic Town Hall is stepping into a new chapter as the Amplify Town Hall project draws to a close.**

Following the award of a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, B:Music launched the Amplify Town Hall project last summer, an ambitious refurbishment and archiving initiative designed to capture and showcase the venue's heritage while ensuring the 191 year old building remains accessible and sustainable for generations to come. The physical improvements included replacing the ageing passenger lifts, adding a new accessible ramp and backstage lift, installing improved insulation, and converting the building to LED lighting. Around 2,000 square metres of carpet were replaced throughout public and backstage areas, and all 416 circle level seats were fully reupholstered.



Alongside the renovation work, B:Music partnered with Birmingham Music Archive and a dedicated and passionate group of volunteers to create a comprehensive new archive preserving the Town Hall's remarkable legacy. Following a public call-out, more than 2,900 treasured items and memories were contributed by music lovers across the city and beyond. In total, combined with previously unseen collections, 3,759 items have now been digitised, safeguarding programmes, tickets, posters, and photographs that might otherwise have been lost.

Highlights include materials from milestone moments such as Black Sabbath's debut performance at Town Hall in April 1970, and a 1949 poster signed by civil rights activist Paul Robeson.

Members of the public also contributed to the archive with their stories of Town Hall – many of which showcase the venue as a place bursting with memories:

**"Myself and my mates had just become mods - we came to the Town Hall and we were surrounded by a complete audience of 1,500 teddy boys and rockers singing Be-Bop-a-Lula. And we sat on the cheap seats behind the huge organ and the main act was Little Richard. This is probably the greatest live performance I've ever seen in my life. He was staggering, his energy, his tremendous piano, his epic**

Images: Kate Green Photography



**showmanship, and the crowd were in a frenzy."** Martin V

For the first time, all archive material held across the city, along with public submissions, have been brought together into a publicly accessible digital archive for anyone to explore. This work was made possible thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund. With the support of National Lottery players, B:Music has been able to collate and share the extraordinary history of Town Hall, protecting these important items and stories for future generations.

A selection of these materials are now also part of a permanent installation inside Town Hall's lower bar. Together with the digital archive, developed in partnership with Birmingham Open Media, nearly two centuries of history are now accessible worldwide for the first time.

**"We are delighted with the response to Amplify Town Hall, which demonstrates the deep and warm connection between Town Hall and the people of Birmingham. We are very grateful to all the partners, donors and volunteers that have supported us in sharing the story and impact of one of the city's most iconic buildings."**  
Nick Reed: B:Music CEO

Earlier this year, the project concluded with a specially curated outdoor exhibition outside Town Hall, offering the public a first glimpse of key elements from the archive installation. For many who have never stepped inside the Grade I-listed building, it provided a new opportunity to engage with highlights from its extraordinary story.

**"The project has brought to light the leading role that Town Hall has played in our cultural, social and political history. We are immensely proud to be custodians of this incredible building, and thanks to the generous support of our funders, donors and audiences, it is now a more accessible and sustainable venue, ready to continue welcoming artists and audiences for many years to come."** Rachel Cranny: B:Music Head of Development and Impact

Amplify Town Hall would not have been possible without the support of the wider B:Music team, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Jez Collins and the Birmingham Music Archive, the Library of Birmingham, our Amplifiers Joan Armatrading, Joe Lycett, Roger Taylor of Duran Duran, Lee Child, Jasper Carrott, Katherine Priddy and Toyah Willcox, all the funders and individual donors who generously supported our appeal and the audiences who continue to support this much loved venue in the heart of Birmingham.

Stop by the Amplify Town Hall Installation in the lower bar on your next visit to the venue.

Go to [bmusic.co.uk/town-hall-archive](https://bmusic.co.uk/town-hall-archive)



or scan to visit the  
Town Hall Digital  
Archive



# GIGS

For full listings & up to date info visit [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)



## Jethro Tull 03 May | SH

One of the most unique and groundbreaking progressive rock bands of all time, Jethro Tull, returns to Symphony Hall, weaving their way through seven decades of boundary-pushing music.



## Paul Carrack 07 May | SH

Often called "The Man with the Golden Voice", Paul Carrack is recognised for his soulful vocals and contributions to rock, pop, and soul music. This tour will see him and his renowned band perform an emotionally resonant show blending Carrack's unparalleled catalogue with fresh takes from his country collection.

## Kate Rusby: Springshine

06 May | TH

As spring awakens, Kate Rusby returns with Springshine, a radiant new tour celebrating renewal, song, and connection. Joined by her supremely talented Singy Songy Session Band, Kate brings an intimate, stripped-back sound that highlights her unmistakable, angelic voice.

"Kate Rusby's voice remains one of the most beautiful in British folk – tender, pure, and utterly distinctive."  
The Guardian



## Cowboy Junkies 07 May | TH

An evening with Cowboy Junkies promises a career-spanning show, including songs from their album, 'Such Ferocious Beauty', which was released in 2023, to universal critical acclaim



## Alfie Boe 08 May | SH

One of Britain's most celebrated and best-loved tenors Alfie Boe, OBE, is coming to Symphony Hall celebrating his most iconic hits, fan-favourite classics, and powerful new material from his new album, 'Face Myself'.



## Katherine Priddy 09 May | TH

Katherine Priddy returns to Town Hall for a very special homecoming show, wrapping up her UK tour in support of her forthcoming album These Frightening Machines (Cooking Vinyl). This will be her biggest hometown performance to date, marking a milestone in her fast-rising career.



## Midge Ure: Man of Two Worlds 12 May | SH

A Man Of Two Worlds, a bold new tour blending his classic hits with cinematic instrumentals in a seamless, emotionally resonant journey. Ure now offers something unique: a curated live experience that reimagines his career as one flowing narrative.



## Emmylou Harris: European Farewell Tour 13 May | SH

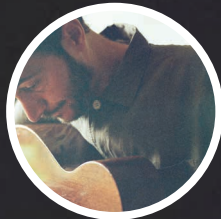
Celebrating a remarkable career across folk, country, and Americana, Emmylou Harris presents an intimate, beautiful evening of songs and stories. Don't miss this final opportunity to experience a legend live in concert.



## Seth Lakeman 14 May | TH

Known for his rhythmic, captivating brand of indie-folk song writing, Seth Lakeman celebrates the 20th anniversary of the original release of gold-selling album Freedom Fields at Town Hall.

# GIGS



## **Tom Smith** 15 May | TH

Tom Smith is the singer, guitarist, and main songwriter for Editors, known for his rich baritone and brooding stage presence. He returns to Town Hall for a unique night of music in this not-to-be-missed homecoming gig.



## **Christopher Cross** 19 May | SH

One of the most distinctive voices in American music, Christopher Cross will perform iconic hits from a remarkable career spanning over four decades including timeless classics like 'Sailing', 'Ride Like the Wind', and 'Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)'. Special Guest: Chris Difford (Squeeze).

## **Ray LaMontagne**

02 Jun | SH

With a vast catalogue spanning nine full length records, chart topping radio singles and a GRAMMY win, Ray LaMontagne will be celebrating his first full length album, *Trouble*, as well as play songs from across his catalogue.



## **Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox: The Future is Vintage** 26 May | SH

The acclaimed troupe of singers, dancers and instrumentalists will be performing a brand-new show in the group's signature time-twisting style – putting a retro spin on everything from 70s rock classics and 80s Britpop hits, to current chart toppers, movie and video game soundtracks.



## **Aldous Harding** 09 Jun | TH

A defining voice of the indie folk scene, Aldous Harding blends traditional songwriting with a modern gothic edge and elements of psychedelic pop.



## **Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit** 10 Jun | SH

Six-time GRAMMY Award-winning singer/songwriter Jason Isbell is one of the most respected and celebrated artists of his generation, possessing an incredible penchant for identifying and articulating some of the deepest, yet simplest, human emotions, and turning them into beautiful poetry through song.



## **80s Classical: With Nik Kershaw, Johnny Hates Jazz & Jaki Graham** 11 Jun | SH

Step back into the decade of big hits, big hair and even bigger anthems! 80s Classical brings together the most iconic voices and songs of the 80s in stunning, full orchestral glory performed live by the original artists and the spectacular Orchestra of Opera North.



## **Elvis Costello & The Imposters with Charlie Sexton** 13 Jun | SH

Don't miss Elvis Costello & The Imposters at Symphony Hall! The show will feature numbers drawn from record releases from *My Aim Is True* in 1977 to *Blood & Chocolate* in 1986, along with other surprises.



## **Music of the Mystics: Sufi Qawwali Night with Fanna-Fi-Allah** 13 Jun | TH

Experience the timeless tradition of Sufi Qawwali – live in concert. Led by Tahir Qawwal and supported by a masterful ensemble of tabla, harmonium, and choral vocals, the group stays rooted in the classical Qawwali tradition, without fusion, electronics, or pop crossover.

# COMEDY



## **Jarlath Regan: Gas Man** 08 May | TH

Jarlath first burst into the public consciousness in 2023 when his Instagram and TikTok videos took the world by storm. Patrick Kielty dubbed him “A comedy master at work”. The Irish Times refers to him as a “comedy genius”. Audiences can’t get enough.



## **Scott Bennett** 22 May | TH | 16+

As a society we love stuff, it’s a statement about who we are and who we want to be. But apparently, this message is at odds with the looming environmental crisis. We’re now struggling to balance these worlds. Award-winning comedian and product designer, Scott Bennett is desperately trying to cleanse his life of stuff but is this even possible anymore.



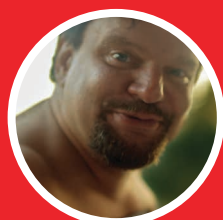
## **Shoot from the Hip** 30 May | TH

Shoot from the Hip bring their award-winning, TikTok-viral improvised comedy to Town Hall! Featuring chaotic games, epic scenes, and ever-so-slightly unhinged performances, their Metro, Evening Standard, and Time Out-recommended shows are completely unscripted, unpredictable and unforgettable.



## **Dropout Improv** 05 Jun | SH

Since its launch in 2018, Dropout (formerly CollegeHumor) has quickly become one of the most popular subscription comedy platforms. Dropout presents independent, ad-free, uncensored comedy producing and hosting several original series, such as Game Changer, Dimension 20, Very Important People... and many more.



## **ISMO: Perseverance** 17 Jun | TH | 16+

ISMO is an internationally acclaimed comedian, author, rally driver and master of wordplay. Freshly recovered from a broken back, Finland’s funniest export is back on stage and better than ever! ISMO: Perseverance Tour blends clever wit with Finnish grit for a comedy experience that’s smart, surprising and seriously funny.



For full listings & up to date info visit [bmusic.co.uk](http://bmusic.co.uk)

**James Acaster**  
20-22 Jul | SH | 14+

James Acaster is ‘One of comedy’s most original voices’ (Evening Standard). A whimsical master, he has received acclaim from around the world, including a record breaking 5 consecutive nominations for ‘Best Comedy Show’. He returns with a brand new show, full of everything you love about James Acaster and more!



## Warsaw Philharmonic

17 May | SH

**Krzysztof Urbański:** conductor  
**Alexandra Dariescu:** piano

**Lutoslawski** Little Suite  
**Chopin** Piano Concerto No 2  
**Bacewicz** Scherzo  
**Beethoven** Symphony No 7

The grand finale of Birmingham Classical 2025/26 welcomes back the esteemed Warsaw Philharmonic who last played at Symphony Hall in 1998. Krzysztof Urbański is the latest in a succession of Polish chief conductors that has ensured the orchestra retains a distinctive national character. Trailblazing pianist Alexandra Dariescu joins them to play Chopin's Piano Concerto No 2, with its slow movement of pure romance.



## Trio Concept: Sounds of Europe, Odes to Freedom

17 May | JBPS

Still in their mid-twenties, Trio Concept are one of Italy's most award-winning chamber ensembles. They'll play music from Dvořák's 'Dumky' Trio, a Swedish folk song, Elgarian March, Irish folk tune and the Ravel Trio.



Tea/Coffee and cake beforehand, included in your ticket

# JUST ANNOUNCED BIRMINGHAM CLASSICAL 2026/27

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

### FEATURING:

- **Munich Philharmonic Orchestra with Martha Argerich**
- **Marin Alsop & the Philharmonia Orchestra with Esther Yoo**
- **Metropolis at 100: Film with Live Orchestra**
- **Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra with Hyeyoon Park**
- **Opera North: Tristan und Isolde & MORE!**



**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 Birmingham Classical concerts for just **£5**, AND **Kids Go FREE!**

Full details and line up at [bmusic.co.uk/bclassical](https://bmusic.co.uk/bclassical)

# CLASSICAL & ORCHESTRAL

## Ludovico Einaudi: Solo Piano 02 May | SH

Ludovico Einaudi will play the most loved songs from his repertoire alongside some deep cuts and surprises. Einaudi has quietly become one of the most successful musicians in the world. His hauntingly beautiful and evocative music tops the streaming charts worldwide, and is particularly loved here in the UK. He continues to perform to huge crowds at the world's most prestigious venues.



**CBSO: Movies & Video Games in Concert** 29 May | SH  
Join us for an evening of fantasy and adventure as the CBSO takes you on a spectacular journey through the music of the world's most beloved film and video game soundtracks. From enchanted kingdoms to epic battlegrounds, be transported by powerful scores right into the heart of your favourite stories.



## The CBSO & The Orchestral Qawwali Project

12 Jun | SH  
Written and directed by critically acclaimed composer Rushil Ranjan, the Orchestral Qawwali Project features the soaring vocals of Abi Sampa in effortless combination with rich orchestral arrangements performed by the CBSO. All of these elements come together to encapsulate qawwali's original intention - to lead the listener to spiritual rapture.



## Arooj Aftab with London Contemporary

**Orchestra conducted by Robert Ames** 16 Jun | SH  
GRAMMY-winning singer and composer known for her spellbinding blend of jazz and South Asian classical traditions, Arooj Aftab, embarks on an unmissable tour with the London Contemporary Orchestra led by co-artistic director and principal conductor, Robert Ames.



## CBSO: Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto

18 Jun | SH  
Prepare to be shaken, stirred and uplifted by this programme of spectacular orchestral works. Tchaikovsky's stunning Violin Concerto is an absolute favourite with both performers and audiences. Prokofiev's Sixth Symphony tells of a life-and-death struggle, but in Stalin's Russia, even the most stirring masterpiece could carry a darker meaning.



## For You Blue: Bootleg Beatles & Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

23 Jul | SH  
The Bootleg Beatles join forces with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra for another unforgettable symphonic celebration of The Beatles' late-era classics. Encompassing the period from Sgt Pepper through to Let It Be, this is an extraordinary one-off chance to witness 'the concert that never was', featuring all the classic late-period Beatles hits.

## AND

**BAFTA GAMES IN CONCERT:** 06.06 SH **THE BEST OF JOHN WILLIAMS:** 14.06 SH **BIRMINGHAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: MAHLER 2 - THE RESURRECTION:** 14.06 TH **SIR KARL JENKINS CONDUCTS THE ARMED MAN:** 21.06 SH

# INTIMATE GIGS

## JENNIFER BLACKWELL PERFORMANCE SPACE

The JBPS 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 gigs of your life.

### Nashville Sounds in the Round:

**Buckle & Boots Take-Over** 20 May

**Live in the Living Room** 04 July | JHJF

Birmingham's premier country songwriter night 'Nashville Sounds In The Round' in partnership with B:Music! Hosted by multi award-winning Gasoline & Matches, artists are invited to tell the stories behind their songs in a Bluebird Café style 'In The Round' session, stripping the songs back to their origins and transporting the audience right back to the writing rooms.



### Midday Mantra: Earth Pulse

23 May

At the change of seasons from Spring to Summer, join Sampad and B:Music for a vibrant programme of South Asian music. Midday Mantra: Earth Pulse brings you world-class musicians with work inspired by connections to nature and the world around them.



### Joe Webb Trio

07 Jun

Joe Webb is regarded as one of the most formidable new jazz pianists to emerge in recent years, a musician with fearless technique, unmistakable swagger and a melodic instinct that lands with clarity, purpose and distinctly Welsh melodic flair.



### Lady Maisery and Jimmy & Sid present Wakefire:

#### An Incantation to Summer

18 Jun

Two of the most engaging and inventive acts on the English folk scene return with their hotly anticipated next alchemic collaboration. The charismatic supergroup embark on a journey to mark this Summer season in song.



### National Youth Jazz Orchestra: A NYJO Tribute to Township Jazz

20 Jun

Born in the forcibly segregated South African urban townships during apartheid, Township Jazz blends traditional African music, Marabi, and Kwela with 20th century American jazz and is deeply rooted in the lived experiences of oppressed Black communities.



### Blacksabbathmode & Bigheadmode

03 Jul

Brothers Ewan and Robbie Moore present a double bill evening that brings together both of their sonic worlds: the future facing, fraternal energy of Bigheadmode and the expansive, Sabbath inspired collaboration Blacksabbathmode with Plumm.



### Midday Mantra: Sun Raga

18 Jul

Join Sampad and B:Music at the height of Summer for a glorious afternoon of uplifting music. Midday Mantra: Sun Raga will bring audiences a diverse, energising programme from renowned South Asian artists.

# FAMILY



**Fireman Sam** 20 Jun | TH  
Norman Price is determined to win the Pontypandy Treasure Hunt, but when he discovers clues to a real pirate treasure, he goes exploring deep into the caves. It's up to Fireman Sam, Elvis and Ellie to save the day and find the treasure. With clues, pirate songs and plenty of swashbuckling adventure, Fireman Sam's new live show is perfect for all budding pirates! Live Show Ahoy!

Produced by Mark Thompson Productions in partnership with Mattel. Directed by Miranda Larson.



## Lenny Pearce: Toddler Rave World Tour Part 2

17 Jul | TH  
Lenny Pearce is a force in family entertainment, captivating a global audience as the pioneer of 'Toddler Techno' and 'Baby Raves.' Lenny's energy-filled performances and brilliant family-days-out delight families as he spins children's favourites, remixed into modern hits that keep kids and parents dazzled all the same.

# EXPERIENCE

Looking for something a little bit different? From the immersive to the psychic, there's something for everyone on the B:Music stages.



## Strictly Come Dancing: The Professionals

15 & 16 May | SH

Ten world-class dancers from Strictly Come Dancing, a live band, and powerhouse vocalists combine with dazzling choreography, stunning costumes, and a killer soundtrack to create an immersive, high-energy show; where every beat, move, and shimmer delivers the ultimate night out.



## Max Cooper Live: Feeling Is Structure

18 May | SH

See Symphony Hall turned into an immersive explosion of colour & sound as Max Cooper presents his latest album Feeling Is Structure in his inimitable way, exploring the human experience through haunting visuals and music.



## David The Medium 21 May | TH

Join internationally-recognised Australian Psychic Medium, David the Medium, at his 'Coming Home: Reunion' show on the Town Hall stage. Be a part of this magical experience as David takes the stage and channels Spirit for members of the audience at random to pass on specific messages.



## Space Station Earth 05 Jun | TH

Space Station Earth is a live concert by composer Ilan Eshkeri, exploring how seeing Earth from space reshapes human perspective presented alongside a film written and directed by Eshkeri, created from footage captured by astronauts aboard the International Space Station and imagery filmed at European Space Agency locations.



## The Music of Stranger Things: Performed by Kyle Dixon & Michael Stein 19 Jun | SH

A fully immersive performance from the Emmy-winning Stranger Things composers. Dixon & Stein bring the scores to life from the iconic theme to the climatic sounds of Season 5 using light & fog to create a truly tangible Stranger Things experience.

# TALKS & CONVERSATIONS



## The Receipts Podcast

05 May | TH

Your favourite girlies, big sisters, besties and agony aunts are hitting the road and bringing you everything you love about the podcast in real life. We're talking dilemmas, special guests, undiluted chat and so much more.



## Sue, Matt & Phil Live: The Reunion Tour

05 May | SH

The much-loved trio return with A-list celebrity guests, fan favourite quiz rounds and brand-new games created just for this tour. Get ready for quick-fire banter, big laughs and plenty of audience interaction, including the chance to test your own sporting knowledge against Matt, Phil and the teams.



## William Dalrymple: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company

08 Jun | TH

Join master storyteller, William Dalrymple, for the cautionary tale of the first global corporate power, and the supreme act of colonial violence that changed the world forever.



## An Evening with David Sedaris

02 Jul | SH

One of America's most celebrated satirists and humour writers, David Sedaris, returns to the UK to read new and unpublished stories, take questions, sign books and meet his audience. The evening will make you laugh, think and sometimes be deeply moved by the absurdities of human nature and modern life.

# INSPIRED BY

Just because we can't be there, doesn't mean we can't enjoy the fabulous music! Have a great night immersed in the sounds of favourite artists you can no longer see live.



## Celebrating Meat Loaf

14 May | SH

This live show is the only authentic reimagining of the legendary Meat Loaf and Jim Steinman, performed by vocalist Sam Pope & world-class alumni of The Neverland Express who brought his musical visions to life both in the studio and live on stages across the world.



## Sounds of the 60's Live: Hosted by Tony Blackburn

22 Jun | SH

An evening of 60s classics performed by the Sounds Of The 60s All Star Band & Singers, hosted by Radio 2's legendary DJ, Tony Blackburn OBE.



## Rumours of Fleetwood Mac

30 Jun & 01 Jul | SH

Personally endorsed by Fleetwood Mac founding member, Mick Fleetwood, Rumours of Fleetwood Mac is the ultimate tribute to one of rock and roll's most remarkable groups.

"A stunning and incredibly accurate snapshot of the World's first Super Group" Sunday Times



## Classic Albums Live: Led Zeppelin II plus bonus set of Zeppelin hits

03 Jul | TH

Classic Albums Live brings the greatest classic rock records to life with note for note, cut for cut precision. In this powerful performance, the band recreates Led Zeppelin II in its entirety, capturing every detail.



# 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.



Full season: [bmusic.co.uk/free-jazz-fridays](http://bmusic.co.uk/free-jazz-fridays)

Image: Heavy Beat Brass Band bringing the vibes to the JBPS. John Anderton

# FILM

Enjoy favourite films on the big screen, with the score performed live, creating an unforgettable immersive experience.



**The Rocky Horror Picture Show: The 50th Anniversary Spectacular Tour**  
01 May | SH | 12+



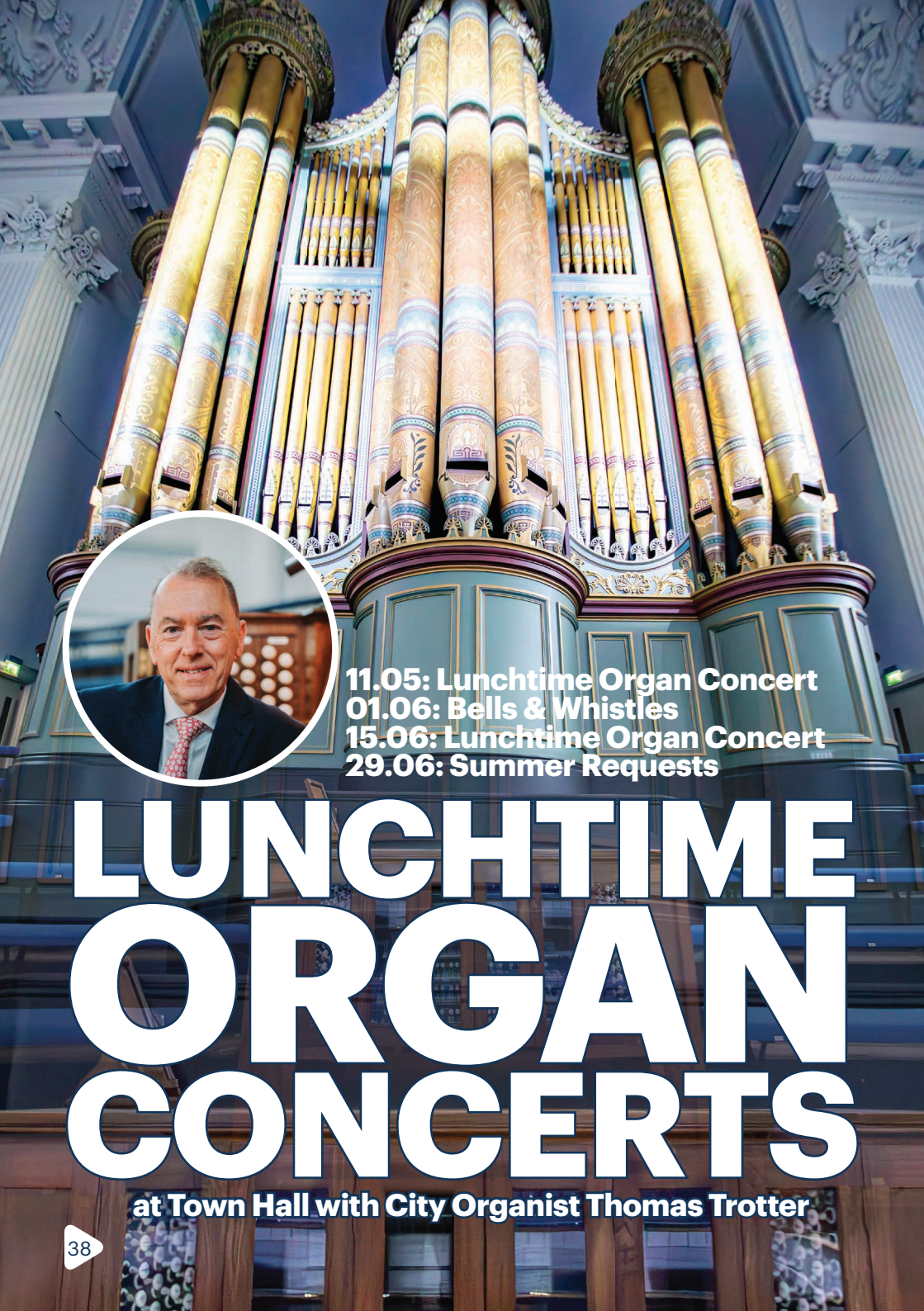
**Dirty Dancing in Concert: Film with Live Band**  
01 Jun | SH | 12+

**Aardman in Concert** 01 May | TH  
A cinematic and musical celebration of clay, comedy, and creativity. Bring the whole family for a hilarious, heartwarming big-screen celebration featuring Wallace & Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, Timmy Time, Morph, Creature Comforts and more, all accompanied live by a world class orchestra.



**Indiana Jones & The Raiders of the Lost Ark: Film with Live Orchestra**  
04 Jun | SH | 12+





11.05: Lunchtime Organ Concert  
 01.06: Bells & Whistles  
 15.06: Lunchtime Organ Concert  
 29.06: Summer Requests

# LUNCHTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

at Town Hall with City Organist Thomas Trotter

# SNEAK PEEK

Check out some of the great shows coming to the B:Music stages later this year!



**Michael Ball**  
30 Aug | SH



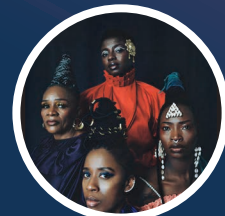
**Toto The Ninja Cat & the Great Snake Escape**  
15 & 16 Aug | TH



**The Archers: Live at 75**  
09 Sept | SH



**Altered Images**  
12 Sep | TH



**African Soul Rebels**  
08 Oct | TH



**Starsailor**  
23 Oct | TH

Rarely seen:  
The Production team  
are central to a  
Great Night Out  
with B:Music



Words & Pictures: Ibi Keita

# MEET THE TEAM: PRODUCTION

## Behind the Curtain: The B:Music Production Team Powering World-Class Live Events

At B:Music, the Production team plays a vital role in bringing live events to life at Town Hall and Symphony Hall. Working behind the scenes, they ensure that every performance runs smoothly, from large scale concerts to one night touring shows and conferences. Their work blends technical planning, coordination and creative problem solving, making them central to the audience experience, even if they're rarely seen.

Production Coordinators are often the first point of contact for visiting artists and their teams. They manage everything from technical requirements and staffing to scheduling and logistics, ensuring that every detail is in place. As Jade explains, this can range from organising stage and lighting setups to confirming practical details like dressing rooms and arrival times. She describes the most rewarding part of the role as watching a full production come together and seeing audiences enjoy the result, saying that bringing joy to others "will never not be rewarding".

For Production Manager Jake, the variety of the role is what stands out most. "No two days are the same," he says, noting that he might work on a pop show, orchestral performance or

formal event all in the same week. This fast pace is driven by the number of touring productions passing through B:Music venues, offering constant opportunities to adapt and learn. One highlight for Jake was working on Christine and the Queens in 2023, where a complex show was successfully adapted for Symphony Hall in just a week.

The team also benefits from extensive experience. Production Manager Des brings more than 20 years in live events and has worked on everything from intimate gigs to major productions. His passion for music continues to shape his work, and he emphasises that there is always more to learn in the industry.

**The B:Music Production team plays a vital role in bringing live events to life at Town Hall & Symphony Hall**

Across the team, there is a shared focus on collaboration, adaptability and enthusiasm for live performance. Whether supporting established artists or helping new talent find a platform, the B:Music production team ensures that every event meets the highest standard, making each performance possible long before the audience takes their seat.

# 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.**

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# IMPORTANT INFO

## To book your tickets:

**Online:** [bmusic.co.uk](http://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

## Age Guidance

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



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B:Music® is a registered trademark

## 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. In support of this we work with Nimbus Disability.

[bmusic.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility-information](http://bmusic.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility-information)

Access Booking Line: 0121 289 6343

## Data protection

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## 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](http://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.

**SH:** Symphony Hall

**TH:** Town Hall

**JBPS:** Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space at Symphony Hall

**JHJF:** Jane How & Justham Family Rooms 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.

A photograph of Ben Folds sitting at a wooden table outdoors. He is wearing a dark cap, glasses, a green shirt, and a dark jacket. His hands are clasped on the table. The background is a wooden fence and green foliage.

# Ben Folds' Paper Airplane Request Tour

24 November 2026 | SH

**A show with a difference:  
Request your favourite Folds  
song via paper airplanes  
launched from the audience  
onto the stage...**

**B:Music**  
Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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

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