

B:Music

Aug | Sep | Oct 2026

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

MEERA SYAL VIGILAUNTIE

28 Sep 2026
Town Hall

A SYMPHONY OF SUPPORT

The Journey of B:Music
& The Lost Notes

SHIV MATWALA

B:Music's Summer
School Creative
Director: why the
talent development
pipeline matters



bmusic.co.uk

SIMON BRODKIN | UNDERTALE | NISH KUMAR & MORE

AT A GLANCE

AUGUST

- 05 ● **National Youth Orchestra**
- 07 F ● **Free Jazz Friday**
- 15 & 16 ● **Toto The Ninja Cat**
- 30 ● **Zain Zohaib**
- 30 ● **Michael Ball**

SEPTEMBER

- 01 ● **David Essex**
- 03 ● **Spell Songs**
- 04 ● **Munich Philharmonic Orchestra**
- 04 & 18 F ● **Free Jazz Friday**
- 05&06 ● **6th Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition**
- 06 ● **Blippi**
- 08 & 18 ● **Tom Bailey + Blancmange**
- 09 ● **The Archers Live**
- 10 ● **Kanan Gill**
- 10 ● ● **The Prat Pack**
- 11 ● **Simon Brodtkin**
- 12 ● **Altered Images**
- 12 ● **The 172nd British Open Brass Band Championships**
- 13 ● **Brassed Off Live**
- 17 ● **CBSO**
- 14 & 28 ● **Lunchtime Organ Concert**
- 15 ● ● **Jon Anderson & The Band Geeks**
- 17 ● **Can I Be Candid Live**
- 19 ● **Tom Gilbey**
- 19 ● **Midday Mantra**
- 19 ● **Rob Lamberti**
- 20 ● **Peter 'Danish Pete' Honoré & Ben Smith**
- 20 ● ● **John Cleese**
- 21 ● **Captain Fantastic & the Rocket Man Band**
- 22 ● **Freya Ridings**
- 23 ● **Henry Paker**
- 23 ● **Marillion + Haunt The Woods**
- 26 ● **Urzila Carlson**
- 26 ● **James Bond Concert Spectacular**
- 27 ● **Nigel Mansell**
- 28 ● **Meera Syal**
- 28 ● **Undertale**
- 30 ● **CBSO**
- 30 ● **Gianmarco Soresi**

OCTOBER

- 02 ● **Laura Smyth**
- 03 ● **Jason Byrne**
- 05 ● **Justin Hayward**
- 07 ● **Kiell Smith-Bynoe**
- 08 F ● **BIMM: Live at B:Eats**
- 08 ● **The Burt Bacharach Songbook**
- 08 ● **African Soul Rebels**
- 09 ● **Serena Terry**
- 09 ● **Daniel Sloss**
- 10 ● ● **Avatar: The Last Airbender**
- 10 ● **Cabaret Voltaire**
- 11 ● **Camila Mandillo**
- 11 ● **The Simon & Garfunkel Story**
- 11 ● **Leo Sayer**
- 12 & 26 ● **Lunchtime Organ Concert**
- 12 ● **Katherine Jenkins**
- 12 ● **Between The Covers Live: Agatha Christie**
- 13 ● **NDR Radio Philharmonic Hannover**
- 14 ● **Steve Hackett**
- 15 ● **Nish Kumar**
- 16 & 30 F ● **Free Jazz Friday**
- 16 ● **Mike Bubbins**
- 16 ● **Hue & Cry + Roachford**
- 17 ● **The Shamrocks**
- 17 ● **The Beat**
- 18 ● **Ex Cathedral**
- 18 ● **The Legends in Vegas**
- 19 ● **Soul II Soul**
- 19 ● **Jeremy Bowen**
- 20 ● **Foy Vance**
- 22 ● **Alison Moyet**
- 23 ● **Starsailor**
- 24 ● ● **How to Train Your Dragon 2**
- 24 ● **Dr John Cooper Clarke**
- 25 ● ● **CBSO**
- 25 ● **Jimeoin**
- 26 ● **Joe Marler**
- 27 & 28 ● **Akaash Singh**
- 28 ● **Harry Enfield**
- 30 ● **Halloween The Concert**
- 30 ● **Casino Royale**
- 31 ● **Steeleye Span**
- 31 ● **World of Warcraft**

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

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WELCOME

From **Shiv Matwala:**
B:Music Summer School Creative Director 2026

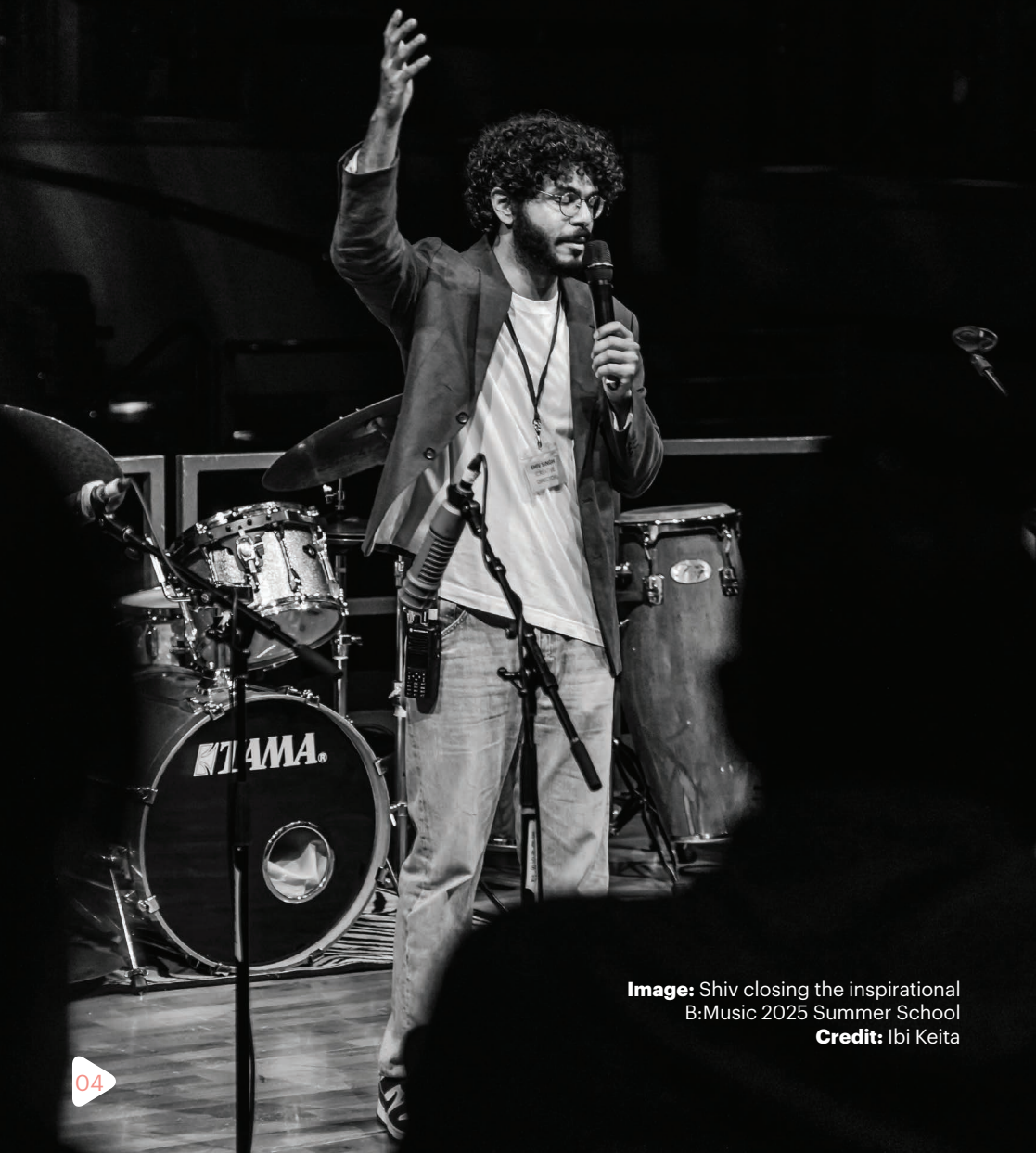


Image: Shiv closing the inspirational
B:Music 2025 Summer School
Credit: Ibi Keita

Welcome to the B:Music What's On Guide August-October 2026.

For me, B:Music has always been about more than concerts. It's about experiences, those moments when live music brings people together, sparks something new, or changes the way you feel entirely.

I know that first-hand. I started attending B:Music workshops as a young musician in 2012. They gave me opportunities that opened doors and shaped my musical path, and ultimately led me to where I am now.

Live music really does matter. There's something unique about being in a room together, sharing sound in real time. It connects people in a way nothing else can. You feel the energy, the risk, the spontaneity; all the things that make music come alive. It's also where inspiration happens. Seeing musicians perform at the highest level can be the spark that encourages someone to pick up an instrument, write their first piece, or step onto a stage themselves.

That's why programmes like the B:Music Summer School are so important. They give young people the chance to take that inspiration and turn it into something tangible. They bring together musicians from all backgrounds, create a real sense of community, and provide access to professional experiences that can genuinely change someone's path.

I have direct experience of how powerful this is. B:Music gave the kids in our workshop free tickets to see Wynton Marsalis with Lincoln Jazz Centre when I was about 15, I got to sit between Wynton and the bass player, Carlos Henriquez, during rehearsals and was in shock at how they were able to do what they did. It was important to them to close the circle by giving back to young musicians, and now I'm able

to do the same through B:Music. You can find out more about my journey and Summer School on P 14.

You can also find out more about the incredible work coming out of B:Music's community programmes on p18. From the Workplace Voices Summer Concert to the Generation Birmingham showcase, the B:and Together Showcase and Community Spirit, these events celebrate the people at the heart of what we do. They're about participation, creativity and giving everyone a platform to be heard.

And of course you can see who's performing on the iconic stages, from superstar Alison Moyet to the but equally talented Les Amazones d'Afrique, there really is something for everyone.

A lot of people don't realise that when you buy a ticket directly through B:Music you're supporting all their talent development work. The commission from ticket sales doesn't just bring world-class artists to Birmingham, it also helps fund programmes like Summer School. So, by coming to a concert, you're playing a part in creating opportunities for others.

For me, that cycle is what makes B:Music special. You come for a performance, you experience something unforgettable, and that in turn helps support the next generation of musicians and audiences.

I hope as you explore this guide, you find something that excites you, challenges you, or simply gives you a great night out. And who knows, it might even be the start of your own journey with B:Music.

Shiv Matwala
B:Music Summer School Creative
Director 2025/26

NEWS



When Echo Juliet met Max Cooper: Ibi Keita

ECHO JULIET: FROM BAR TO SYMPHONY HALL STAGE

When Emily Jones, aka Echo Juliet, was asked to support Max Cooper at his recent Symphony Hall gig by BBC Introduces it was a significant personal milestone, as she had previously been a member of the B:Music team working Front of House and backstage before becoming a Programming Assistant. We were delighted to see her return as an artist in her own right with a tactile and expressive electronic music set. Good to have you back EJ!

B:GREEN

We are always working to reduce our carbon footprint in our venues.

Our dedicated staff who volunteer on our B:Green Team recently shared that we've reduced our paper tickets from 77% in 2021/22 to just 16% and that Town Hall house and orchestral light energy use has been reduced by 70% by replacing the old tungsten lighting with LED fixtures.



Will paper tickets become a thing of the past? Ibi Keita



SPOTLIGHT ON: Work Experience Feedback

I just wanted to check in and send another round of thank yous. I've just completed a module at university called 'Professional and Academic Development' and my experience at B:Music really elevated the assignment, in fact I would have been a bit lost without it!

We've been on this journey for some years, and although we won't always get it right, we're always happy to learn and assess our practices as well as celebrate our wins.

CARERS WEEK

In June we were proud to host our annual carers week celebration in partnership with Forward Carers. Over 400 carers and 50 charities joined us at Symphony Hall. As well as seeing brilliant performances, attendees were able to connect, discover support and enjoy some much needed respite.



Taking a break at Carers Week: Ibi Keita



B:Music CEO Nick Reed introducing the Healing Arts Festival Opening Ceremony

HEALING ARTS FESTIVAL

As a central partner in the festival, we were extremely proud to be invited to host and curate the opening ceremony at Symphony Hall. The festival was a city-wide initiative to demonstrate how arts, culture, and heritage can transform health, wellbeing, and social equity. Co-led by Birmingham City Council, the initiative was part of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global outreach campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organisation. Supported by a coalition of organisations and communities across the Midlands, Healing Arts Birmingham brought together artists, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to tackle health inequalities and embed creative practice at the heart of public life.

COME ON B:OARD!

Keep an eye on our website for B:Music Youth B:oard recruitment opening in January 2027. This is for 16-23 year olds to come together to learn about and influence the decision making within the organisation, as well as work with our teams to organise and put on a successful event in one of our venues.

Previous events have included a Battle of the B:ands and a multi-lineup gig of emerging young artists. This opportunity is perfect for young people wanting to work in the world of live events. Find out more at bmusic.co.uk/youth-board



Noelle from Youth B:oard 2025/26 went on to do a Work Experience Placement learning from our teams including Senior Technician Shep

B:Eats Presents: **SMASHED AVOCADO & GARLIC MUSHROOMS** On Toast



Image: Deliciousness squared Credit: Ibi Keita

B:Eats at Symphony Hall

Looking for a lunch that is delicious, but light, and makes solid inroads into your 5-a-day?

You might want to try the **B:Eats Smashed Avocado & Garlic Mushrooms on Toast**. The pile of wild mushrooms are gently sautéed in garlic and thyme and rest atop the creamy avocado which in turn is paired with a splash of sriracha and a touch of sweetness provided by the brioche loaf.

Even better, it's vegan AND there's a gluten-free option on request!

Good food is always the first priority when Chef Lee puts together his menus, but that goes alongside equally important environmental considerations.

Where possible, Lee actively seeks out local suppliers and the B:Eats team work hard to minimise waste via careful ordering of ingredients using predicted footfall and advance ticket sales in our venues. The team go one step further, if there is overstock or short shelf-life items, this food is turned into creative and delicious meals our staff can purchase via our B:Fed scheme.

All waste generated in our kitchen, from food scraps to packaging, are separated before disposal, recycling everything where possible.

So not only is the food delicious, we're working hard to reduce our carbon footprint AND you come away with the warm glow of knowing all profit is ploughed straight back into our charity work, supporting local musicians and spreading the love of live music.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Sat 11am-4pm & pre show

See the full menu:

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

A SYMPHONY OF SUPPORT:

B:MUSIC X THE LOST NOTES

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The Lost Notes are a local five-piece UK-Americana band who first came to the attention of B:Music at Moseley Folk Festival in 2021. Since then, our relationship with the band has bloomed and serves as a living example of our mission to inspire a love of live music across Birmingham and beyond.



The Beginning

"It was a blisteringly hot Friday evening in September 2021 and festivals were still grappling with the aftershocks of the Covid pandemic, when we received a call from Moseley Folk Festival to say that one of the acts for the Saturday afternoon had pulled out. We jumped at the chance to step in, found a stand-in drummer, rehearsed the set Saturday morning then went directly to Moseley park to play it. After a glorious day of chilled folk music, our role, as we saw it, was to inject some energy into proceedings. We threw ourselves into trying to get 2000 folk revellers up, dancing and hollering. It turned into a magical afternoon."

-The Lost Notes

B:Music's Head of Programming, Chris, loved the show, the energy and the music and arranged to meet up with the band and discuss working together in the future.

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19.01.22

Lunchtime performance at Symphony Hall, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space for Midland Mencap

02.08.22

Nashville Sounds in the Round
Birmingham Songwriters
Showcase in Victoria Square, for
the Birmingham Festival 2022
during the Commonwealth Games



29.06.23

Trustees Event, Symphony Hall

25.02.25

Symphony Hall, Jennifer Blackwell stage – to celebrate the release of their 3rd album: "Good Luck Shoes"

"A live show by The Lost Notes is something marvellous to behold."
-At The Barrier



The Journey

12

10.02.22

Nashville Sounds in the Round
– Transatlantic Sessions
Pre-Show: Symphony Hall,
Jennifer Blackwell



14.04.23

Live at B:Eats, Symphony Hall

14.12.24

Nashville Sounds In The Round,
Symphony Hall



26.06.25

B:Eats, Symphony Hall: In association with B:Music and Abbey Road Studios.

27.11.25

The Last Waltz, Town Hall:
special guests for WLDLRS

04.02.26

Symphony Hall, Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space: Live Album Recording **coming soon!**

Feb 2027: Watch this space...

Our support

is a reflection of our belief in The Lost Notes, and in our mission to be a hub for connecting audiences with incredible live music. We're so proud and excited to be part of The Lost Notes' journey and we can't wait for their upcoming projects!

"It's hard to express quite what it means when representatives of somewhere like B:Music come up after a gig and say, "we love what you're doing and we'd like to support you and offer you some performances!" That, in itself, is so encouraging. It makes all the effort you put into trying to make your music a success worth it. It's genuinely a 'pinch yourself' moment. We also absolutely love the use that is made of the Jennifer Blackwell Performance Space, B:Eats and the other smaller rooms.

Looking from the outside in, those spaces seem to be used to give opportunities to artists across the age range and musical spectrum to perform and, equally, to showcase what our city has to offer. From the Free Jazz Fridays, to the free BIMM at B:Eats, to Celebrating Sanctuary, we love seeing people being given the same opportunity we have had, to perform in such iconic spaces. That's why we keep coming back as regular punters!"

TheLostNotes.co.uk

The Lost Notes

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SUMMER (SCHOOL) OF SHIV

Shivraj (Shiv) Matwala's journey with B:Music is a powerful example of what can happen when talent meets opportunity. Today, as Creative Director of the B:Music Summer School, he leads a programme that helped shape his own life, but his story begins not at the front of the room, rather among the students.

Shiv first joined Summer School in 2012 as a teenager aged around 15. Back then, he wasn't even a jazz musician. Like many young people, his musical tastes were still evolving, shaped by a love of hip-hop, rock and the eclectic sounds he picked up from family influences. It was through B:Music that he began to explore jazz seriously, discovering its depth and possibilities for the first time.

What followed was not just participation, but progression.



Credit: Ibi Keita

Shiv became a support tutor, then a lead tutor, and eventually stepped into the role of Creative Director.

His journey mirrors the 'pipeline' he values so deeply; the cycle where young musicians develop, grow professionally, and return to mentor the next generation. 'When I joined the B:Music jazz groups there was this real sense of community, of working musicians coming together to help young musicians get to be working musicians as well. So, there's that really nice cycle of people coming through, going down the same pathways that these professional musicians have gone through and coming back to this space, like myself. That cyclical movement is really important because it means that we have a pipeline of people that want to do this professionally,' Shiv reflects.

Music itself has always been part of Shiv's life. Encouraged by family and a dedicated school music teacher who recognised his potential, he began experimenting with instruments, eventually settling on the bass, drawn to its unique role bridging rhythm and harmony. With support from his school and programmes like B:Music, he accessed lessons, conservatoire training and professional development that accelerated his growth as a professional musician.

'My school music teacher backed me 100% but there was a limit to what he could teach me, so he encouraged me to apply to Summer School where

I could learn from real musicians that were working and a part of the music scene, it felt like I developed quickly learning from them,' says Shiv. Since graduating from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire with a degree in jazz, Shiv has built a rich and varied career. He performs across the UK and Europe, composes original music, produces recordings and collaborates with other artists. His work includes leading his own projects, touring, and recording new material.

'There's that cycle of people going down the same pathways that these professional musicians have gone through and coming back to this space, like myself.'

That cyclical movement is really important because it means that we have a pipeline of people that want to do this professionally.'
Shiv Matwala

When Shiv took on the role of Summer School Creative Director in 2025 he brought with him a clear vision: to make B:Music Summer School an accessible, inspiring and creative environment for all abilities. His approach centres on themes that allow participants to connect emotionally with music. Last year's focus on storytelling encouraged students to think beyond theory, exploring drama, narrative and expression in their playing.

Keen to build on his success, Shiv applied for the role of Creative Director again in 2026. This year, that vision continues with a theme of self-expression, giving young musicians the freedom to explore their identity and creativity through music. For Shiv, this is essential: it's about helping them express something they feel, ensuring that every participant, from beginners

to advanced players, can engage meaningfully.

Above all, Shiv is passionate about the wider impact of programmes like Summer School. Beyond musical skills, they create community. Young people from across Birmingham from different backgrounds, cultures and experiences come together to create a shared voice. 'People underestimate the importance of the social element. Some of my best friends to this day come from being a student at Summer School. That togetherness and exposure to new people is really important for young people.'

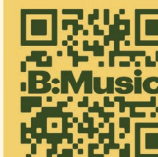
These programmes also provide access to professional expertise that many participants might not otherwise encounter, helping to level the playing field.

For Shiv, the impact is both personal and ongoing. Some of his closest friendships were formed at Summer School, and now, as a leader, he is helping to shape experiences that will have the same lasting effect on others.

His story is not just one of success. It is a testament to the power of opportunity, community and music to transform lives.

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

B:CONNECTED

with photographer **KATE GREEN**

Kate Green is the latest artist to be exhibited in the B:Eats entrance to Symphony Hall. Take a moment to admire her work until January 2027.

After becoming increasingly disillusioned with my successful but relentless corporate career I made the decision in 2006 to leave behind a world of KPIs and ROI's to pursue a long-held dream of becoming a photographer. This leap into the creative unknown, completely changed the direction and purpose of my life.

Photography has always been about connection for me - connection to ourselves, each other, our environment and capturing moments that might otherwise pass unnoticed.

While I'm inspired by many genres of photography, the work of Nan Goldin has had a lasting influence on me largely due to its honesty, intimacy and emotional depth.

Today, my work spans live music photography, participatory arts projects and tutoring.

Alongside photographing performances for B:Music at Birmingham Symphony

Hall and Town Hall, I tutor varying levels of photography at both the Midlands Arts Centre (The MAC) and Solihull College & University Centre.

I also run mindful photography workshops and lead participatory projects with a range of local and national charities. My holistic creative practice uses photography as a way to encourage creativity, presence, awareness and healing.

What I love most about photography is the balance it brings to my life. Some days I can quietly disappear behind the camera, observing and creating; on others I can share my passion through tutoring and community work. Both are equally important to me and keep my purpose and values aligned.

Music photography, in particular, feels like a privilege. My role for B:Music is not only to photograph performers on stage, but also to capture the atmosphere of the evening — the audience's connection to the music, the energy within the room and the often overlooked beauty of the venues.

I shoot with Fujifilm equipment and working in challenging lighting conditions and dark performance spaces is something I genuinely enjoy. Every show brings a new technical & creative challenge and I love finding ways to showcase Birmingham's incredible venues while preserving the emotion and experience of live performance.

For anyone starting out in photography, I have some simple advice. Know your camera inside out, study and understand light, say yes to every opportunity and most importantly never undervalue the work you create.

Ultimately I feel proud of my younger self for having the courage to follow her passion enabling me to build a life and professional career centred on creativity and purpose.

Follow: [@kategreenphotog](https://www.instagram.com/kategreenphotog)
www.kategreenphotog.com

ALISON MOYET
22.10.26 | SH

SOLD OUT

DON'T MISS THE NEXT GREAT EVENT
Become a B:Music Member for just £35pa.
Members get advance notice of sales on select shows and access to all our pre sales bmusic.co.uk/join

SHOWCASE SEASON

B:Music's stages came alive with a series of uplifting showcases in June, celebrating the creativity, diversity and talent nurtured through our impact programmes. From first-time performers to emerging young artists and community ensembles, these events shine a spotlight on the transformative power of music, and the people at the heart of it.



Image: Generation Birmingham Credit: Ibi Keita

The **Generation Birmingham** showcase was a powerful example of this impact in action. Working with 160 primary school pupils from some of the most deprived areas in Birmingham, this ambitious programme brought

global music traditions into the classroom, and then onto the stage. In partnership with Services for Education and Celebrating Sanctuary, the children explored music shaped by cultures from across the world, learning pieces

created by refugee musicians and inspired by traditions from Senegal, China and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Performing together at Symphony Hall during Refugee Week, pupils demonstrated remarkable confidence and curiosity, many stepping forward to improvise or perform solos for the very first time. It's an inspiring reminder of how music can broaden horizons and celebrate identity.

Music's ability to connect people is also at the heart of **Tea & Jam**, our welcoming, free sessions for local unpaid carers and isolated adults across the West Midlands. Bringing together people of all backgrounds and musical abilities, these joyful gatherings use singing and percussion to help participants build confidence, make friends and combat isolation. The group performed at the opening of the Healing Arts Festival Birmingham, an initiative exploring how creativity can improve wellbeing and tackle inequality, showcasing just how meaningful these shared experiences can be.

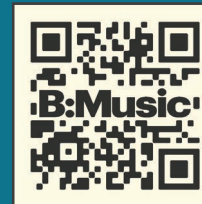
For young musicians developing their craft, our **B:and Together** programme provides a vital platform. Through regular workshops with B:Music professional tutors, many of whom have come through the ensembles themselves, participants grow their skills, confidence and friendships. Their talents took centre stage in a vibrant Free Jazz Friday takeover, an energetic riot of creativity and collaboration, set within one of Birmingham's most iconic musical spaces.

Meanwhile, **Community Spirit** returns for its 13th year, bringing together nearly 400 singers from across nine choirs for a spectacular massed performance on 26 July. This extraordinary project is about far more than singing; it's about

unity, expression and collective joy. This year's concert features a world premiere by acclaimed composer Ken Burton, performed alongside Associate Artists Black Voices, highlighting the rich heritage and ongoing evolution of gospel music.

These showcases demonstrate how music can inspire, empower and bring people together in unforgettable ways. Crucially, this work is made possible by you. Every ticket purchased for performances at Town Hall and Symphony Hall helps fund our education and community programmes, supporting opportunities for people across Birmingham to discover and develop their love of music.

Join us in celebrating these remarkable performers, and in making even more possible.



Go to **bmusic.co.uk/support-us** to find out how you can help us shine a spotlight on local talent

Image: Tea and Jam at the Healing Arts Festival Opening Ceremony Credit: Jas Jagpal



GIGS

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

Altered Images: Happy Birthday

12 Sept | TH

Clare Grogan and her band perform the iconic album Happy Birthday in full, plus all the hits at Town Hall!

Altered Images became one of the early '80s defining acts, scoring a string of chart successes including "Don't Talk to Me About Love," "I Could Be Happy," "Happy Birthday," "See Those Eyes," "Pinky Blue," and "Bring Me Closer." Following her breakthrough with Altered Images, Grogan became a familiar face on screen, most notably starring in the cult-classic film Gregory's Girl and later taking on roles across television drama and comedy. As an author she has written several successful children's books.



Zain Zohaib Live: Chapter 4

30 Aug | TH

Zain Zohaib arrive in Birmingham for a spectacular night of Sufi music, bringing their powerful blend of tradition, soul, and contemporary artistry to one of the UK's most iconic stages.



Michael Ball: Glow

30 Aug | SH

Michael is hitting the Birmingham Symphony Hall stage to perform songs from his new album, Glow as well as fan favourites from over 40 years on stage.



David Essex

01 Sept | SH

David Essex has enjoyed a remarkable career, writing and producing albums that have sold millions of copies worldwide. He's had twenty-three Top 30 singles in Britain alone.



Spell Songs: In Thin Air

03 Sept | SH

A much-anticipated performance by folk 'supergroup' Spell Songs, featuring the collaborative genius of Karine Polwart, Julie Fowlis, Seckou Keita, Kris Drever, Rachel Newton, Beth Porter and Jim Molyneux, with live painting by award-winning artist Jackie Morris.



Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey + Blancmange

08 & 18 Sept | TH

Thompson Twins are widely regarded as one of the most iconic bands of the 1980s. Known for their unique fusion of pop, new wave, and synth-driven dance music, combined with an eclectic visual style.



Freya Ridings

22 Sept | TH

Freya Ridings has cemented herself as one of the UK's most impressive vocal talents, with the ability to turn her hand to tender balladry and powerful air punch moments alike.

GIGS



African Soul Rebels ft Les Amazones d'Afrique & Gasper Nali 08 Oct | TH

African Soul Rebels, Music Beyond Mainstream's trailblazing live series, is reborn for a new era. Leading the charge are the electrifying L'Amazones d'Afrique, the powerhouse collective of West African artists and joining them on stage is the phenomenal Gasper Nali, a not-so-traditional babatoni player from the shores of Lake Malawi.



Cabaret Voltaire 10 Oct | TH

Cabaret Voltaire bring their 50th anniversary show to Symphony Hall Birmingham, marking half a century since the band's first-ever live performance.



Katherine Jenkins 12 Oct | SH

Katherine Jenkins is coming to Symphony Hall Birmingham to celebrate her incredible 25 Years in music. This is the first tour for Katherine in five years and is set to feature all her biggest hits including 'Time To Say Goodbye', the emotional 'Jealous of the Angels' and 'I Will Always Love You' and more.



Folk Rock Pioneers Steeleye Span in Concert

31 Oct | TH

Together for fifty seven years now, Steeleye Span changed the face of folk music forever by taking it into the world of gold discs and international tours. Now they return with Conflict, their first full studio album in over five years.

AND

JON ANDERSON & THE BAND GEEKS: 15.09 SH **MARILLION + HAUNT THE WOODS:** 23.09 SH **JUSTIN HAYWARD: THE STORY IN YOUR EYES:** 05.10 TH **WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW: THE BURT BACHARACH SONGBOOK:** 08.10 SH **LEO SAYER:** 11.10 TH **STEVE HACKETT: BEST OF GENESIS & SOLO GEMS:** 14.10 SH **HUE AND CRY & ROACHFORD:** 16.10 SH **THE SHAMROCKS:** 17.10 SH **THE BEAT: DANCE CRAZED TOO:** 17.10 TH **SOUL II SOUL:** 19.10 SH **FOY VANCE: THE WAKE:** 20.10 TH **ALISON MOYET:** 22.10 SH



Starsailor 23 Oct | TH

Starsailor will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of their critically-acclaimed, multi-platinum debut album Love is Here with a special tour featuring a string ensemble arranged and conducted by Joe Duddell. Formed in Wigan by music students James Walsh (vocals/guitar), James Stelfox (bass), and Ben Byrne (drums), the band went through several guitar-heavy embryonic line-ups before the arrival of keyboardist Barry Westhead (keyboards) cemented their sound.

COMEDY



Kanan Gill: Not This Again 10 Sept 2026 | TH | 14+
Kanan Gill is one of India's most prominent stand-up comedians, widely regarded for his incisive observational humor and meticulous approach to writing. His comedy blends everyday insight with a global sensibility, allowing his work to travel seamlessly across cultures and audiences.



Simon Brodtkin: Unleashed 11 Sept 2026 & 28 Feb 2027 | SH | 14+
'Unleashed' is comedian Simon Brodtkin's hysterical new show. Packed with outrageous punchlines and electric crowdwork, Simon rips into wild swimmers, vape shops, Greta Thunberg, religion and his wife's friends Claire & Carl.



Tom Gilbey: Absolute Filth 19 Sept | TH | 18+
After entertaining millions of people online with his no-nonsense guides, wine expert, broadcaster, author and all-round decent bloke Tom Gilbey is bringing his trademark energy, humour, producer Fred and some questionable bottles of plonk to Town Hall. With his talent for teaching us how to drink better without spending a fortune, Absolute Filth is a night out like no other.



Henry Paker: Pencil Case 23 Sept | TH | 14+
A new comedy show from Henry Paker, featuring live illustration. You've looked behind a Wizard's Curtain. You've visited a sausage factory. Do you dare to gaze inside a cartoonist's pencil case? Leave your preconceptions about comedy/illustration at the door and expect to find them in an absolute state on the way out.



Urzila Carlson: Fatty on a Yacht 26 Sept | SH | 16+
Multi-award-winning South African-New Zealander Urzila Carlson is one of Australia and New Zealand's biggest comedy stars. The fan-favourite comedian returns to the UK with even more understated punchlines and her signature deadpan delivery in the brand-new show, Fatty on a Yacht.

Laura Smyth: Born Aggy

02 Oct | TH

What if all your dreams come true and you've still got the hump? Laura Smyth has had a meteoric rise in comedy! Her debut tour 'Living My Best Life' sold out up and down the country; she has supported Jack Whitehall, Michelle de Swarte, Alan Davies, and Jason Manford and appeared on multiple panel shows, QI, Would I Lie To You, 8 out of 10 Cats Does Countdown and Live at The Apollo twice! She's even beaten cancer; she's done all the alternative healing shit you could shake a stick at and she still thinks everyone's a d**khead. It can't just be her, can it?

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



COMEDY

Nish Kumar:

Angry Humour From A Really Nice Guy 15 Oct | TH | 14+

The world is in chaos. Inequality is widening, autocracy is rising and political parties are collapsing. In these divided times, what this country desperately needs is Angry Humour From a Really Nice Guy (in many ways it's actually the last thing this country needs, but it's what it's getting so tough luck).

The UK's leading political comic Nish Kumar, co-host of hugely popular podcast Pod Save the UK, former host of axed BBC show The Mash Report, and one of Taskmaster's greatest losers – is back on tour with a formidable batch of passionate, progressive stand-up for the ages.

Kumar is 40. His mind is breaking. His body is worse. Expect existential angst and political disquiet from comedy's cheekiest boy.

For full
listings & up to
date info visit
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Gianmarco Soresi: The Misery Loves 30 Sept | TH | 18+
Gianmarco Soresi is a New York-based stand-up comedian, actor, and creator known for his sharp societal observation and sly, energetic stage presence. Gianmarco effortlessly commands a room with his animated style, blending upbeat candor with dark comedic beats.



Jason Byrne: 30 Years Byrning 03 Oct | TH | 16+
Jason Byrne is back and "Byrning" brighter than ever, celebrating 30 glorious years of stand-up with his brand-new show, 30 Years Byrning. Byrne delivers a riotous night of high-energy storytelling, surreal tangents and unstoppable laughter. From razor-sharp observations to gloriously unhinged audience interaction, brave improvisation, that has made Jason a festival favourite for three decades.



Kiell Smith Bynoe's Kool Story Bro 07 Oct | TH | 16+
Kiell Smith-Bynoe (star of Ghosts, Taskmaster and Stath Lets Flats) is bringing his smash hit improv comedy show to Town Hall! Featuring a surprise celebrity guest every night, a cast of some of the UK's best improvisers around and stories from you, the audience, to inspire the comedy!



Serena Terry 09 Oct | TH | 16+
Serena Terry, comedian, author and creator of online sensation 'Mammy Banter' is bringing 'Therapy' her biggest stand-up comedy tour to Birmingham in 2026



Daniel Sloss: Bitter 09 Oct | SH | 16+
Don't miss your chance to catch one of the biggest global names in live stand-up, as Scotland's international comedy superstar Daniel Sloss unleashes his brilliant and devastatingly hilarious brand-new show 'Bitter' at Symphony Hall.

AND

MIKE BUBBINS: IDEAS MAN: 16.10 TH **JIMEOIN: BALLYHOO:** 25.10 TH
AKAASH SINGH: GENERATIONAL TRIUMPH: 27&28.10 TH **HARRY ENFIELD & NO CHUMS:** 28.10 SH

BIRMINGHAM CLASSICAL

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

ÉCHO
RISING STARS



Camila Mandillo 11 Oct | JBPS

Rising Star soprano Camila Mandillo takes us from Monteverdi's healing power of laughter and Mozart's children at play to wartime satire in Poulenc's *Fêtes galantes* and the half-nonsense words of Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre*.

An hour-long concert, with coffee/tea and a slice of cake available beforehand, included in your ticket.



NDR Philharmonic Hannover:

Beethoven & Brahms 13 Oct | SH

The outstanding German orchestra brings an excitingly authentic voice to Brahms's sunny Second Symphony and Beethoven's *Egmont Overture* and Piano Concerto No 4. With celebrated Argentinian pianist Ingrid Fliter as soloist, expect energy, precision and sensitivity in this favourite work.



Lunchtime Organ Concerts

Lunchtime Organ Concert with Thomas Trotter 14 Sept | SH

The Best of Best 28 Sept | TH

IAO-RCO Organ Competition for Young Organists Winner

12 Oct | TH

Lunchtime Organ Concert with Thomas Trotter 26 Oct | TH

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!**

Tickets start at £15 for every concert, and you can save money with a package when you book 3 or more concerts.

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

Munich Philharmonic Orchestra with **Martha Argerich** 04 Sept | SH

Martha Argerich is a true legend: "unquestionably one of the greatest pianists of all time" (Gramophone); "stars don't come much bigger in classical music" (The Guardian). Added to which, this is the first time in over 30 years that she has played in Symphony Hall. Partnered by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra in their only UK performance outside London, expect sheer magic in Beethoven's youthful and exuberant Second Piano Concerto.

This long-established orchestra is at the heart of Munich's cultural life. They begin with a comparative rarity – an attention-grabbing overture by 19th century French pianist-composer Louise Farrenc. Brahms's Fourth Symphony, with its lilting opening movement and the driving momentum of its thrilling finale, makes the perfect conclusion to an exceptional evening.

A concert experience to treasure.



CLASSICAL & ORCHESTRAL

Undertale: The Determination Symphony 28 Sept | SH

Undertale: The Determination Symphony features unforgettable, fan-favourite music from the game, newly arranged and performed live by a 25-piece orchestra. With gameplay footage displayed on a screen above the stage, audiences will be fully immersed in the world of Undertale, experiencing its story and music like never before. Concert-goers can look forward to being filled with determination as the performance guides them through the Underground. From the Ruins and Snowdin to Waterfall, Hotland, and finally New Home, the concert brings iconic characters, battles, and emotional moments vividly to life through music. Fans are encouraged to attend in their best Undertale cosplay as part of this global celebration.



CBSO: Kazuki Conducts Mahler's 2nd Symphony

17 Sept | SH

Kazuki Yamada continues his cycle of Mahler symphonies with No.2, known as the 'Resurrection'. It is epic in all senses: some 90 minutes long, with an immense orchestra, plus organ, choir, and soloists. Expect to be uplifted and transformed as the choir sings for the first time, and the solo voices soar angelically above.



James Bond Concert Spectacular 26 Sept | TH

Q The Music presents The James Bond Themed Concert Spectacular, widely considered to be the finest performance of Bond songs since the originals. A show created by die-hard Bond fans, for Bond fans and known for its adrenaline-fueled and stirring performances, the show will be hosted by Miss Moneypenny herself: Caroline Bliss.



CBSO: Elgar's Enigma Variations 30 Sept | SH

Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Ben Goldscheider, and Jess Gillam: three inspirational artists who need no introduction. Bring them together in a brand-new triple concerto by jazz phenomenon Gwilym Simcock, and it's safe to say that this will be quite an afternoon even before we even get to Elgar's evergreen Enigma Variations.



Ex Cathedra in 40 Parts: spem in alium 18 Oct | TH

Soaring, uplifting, remarkable, and truly monumental, Tallis' Spem in alium is perhaps the most iconic piece of choral music ever written. This unmissable concert also features a world premiere from Roderick Williams and revisits Ex Cathedra's spine-tingling 2010 commission from Alec Roth - both written in 40 Parts. What better way to open Jeffrey Skidmore's final season!



CBSO Family Concert: Halloween Spectacular

25 Oct | SH

From iconic movie themes including Ghostbusters and Jaws to Saint-Saëns' eerie Danse Macabre and Mussorgsky's wicked Baba Yaga, get your spookiest costume on and join us at Symphony Hall for an afternoon of ghoulishly delightful classics for the whole family.



World of Warcraft: 20 Years of Music 31 Oct | SH

Immerse yourself in the epic legacy of World of Warcraft®, one of the world's most iconic video game franchises through an unforgettable symphonic experience. Performed by a full symphonic orchestra and choir, this two-hour musical journey brings to life the most epic and iconic music from the franchise.

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.

GIULIA MARRO QUARTET 07.08

SHE:MUSIC X WOMEN IN JAZZ TAKEOVER 04.09

SAM FRANKS' OCTABONES! 18.09

LUCY-ANNE DANIELS 16.10

KOLOSSO 30.10

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

Image: Elysia Biro brings the soul to the JBPS. Garry Corbett

B:TREATED

Make your night out extra special by adding our Helen Walsh Lounge* to your booking!

Open 90 minutes before show start, the lounge is the perfect space to meet friends, relax and start your evening in style.

It couldn't be easier to B:Treated. Simply add to your basket when you see the prompt while booking tickets!

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 1 x wine, bottled beer, cider or single spirit with mixer or soft drink per person (served pre-concert)
- Selection of dry snacks
- 1 x ice cream per person (choose whether to enjoy pre-concert or at interval. Vegan option available)
- Exclusive use of the Helen Walsh lounge pre-concert and interval
- Reserved table
- Waiting service throughout the evening

£25 per person

Over 18's Only

*Available on selected shows



EXPERIENCE

Looking for something a little bit different? From films accompanied by live music to Strictly stars, live radio drama & tributes to musical superstars: there's something for everyone on the B:Music stages!

The Archers: Live at 75 09 Sept | SH

Don your best hat, dust off your prize-winning jam recipe and join us for an unforgettable celebration of 75 glorious years of BBC Radio 4's The Archers. To mark this extraordinary milestone, The Archers is stepping out of the studio and onto the stage for a very special national tour. Hosted by comedian and superfan Angela Barnes and set at the beloved Ambridge Flower & Produce Show, this landmark event brings some of your favourite cast - Charles Collingwood (Brian Aldridge), Ryan Kelly (Jazzer McCreary), Susie Riddell (Tracy Horrobin) and Sunny Ormonde (Lilian Bellamy) - into the spotlight with live performances, on-the-spot sound effects from Vanessa Nuttall and unforgettable moments from the BBC archives. A commercial production licensed by the BBC.



The Prat Pack's Back 10 Sept | SH

Following the monumental success of their debut run, the nation's most beloved entertainers are officially reuniting. Bradley Walsh, Brian Conley, Joe Pasquale, and Shane Richie have confirmed they are hitting the road once again with The Prat Pack's Back.



John Cleese's Holy Grail 20 Sept | TH

An unmissable night of absurdity, laughter, and legendary comedy! This once-in-a-lifetime event features a special screening of the beloved cult classic, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, followed by an uproarious conversation and audience Q&A with Cleese himself, where he'll share behind-the-scenes stories, wit, and wisdom - assuming he remembers any of it.



Captain Fantastic & The Rocket Man Band 21 Sept | SH

Celebrating more than five decades of amazing music and showmanship from legendary British singer, pianist and composer, Sir Elton John. Featuring the spellbinding voice and magnetic stage presence of pianist Richard Reeves as the Captain.



The Legends in Vegas: After Hours 18 Oct | SH

After two highly successful tours, Strictly stars Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Pasha Kovalev, Vincent Simone, and Ian Waite are back, this time joining forces to create a show that celebrates the magic, glamour and thrill of Las Vegas like never before.



Casino Royale in Concert 30 Oct | SH | 12A

For the first time ever, audiences will experience Casino Royale on the big screen accompanied by CBSO performing composer David Arnold's thrilling musical score live - a spectacular way to celebrate the film's 20th anniversary.

AND

BRASSSED OFF LIVE WITH THE GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND: 13.09

SH **ROB LAMBERTI PRESENTS PERFECTLY GEORGE:** 19.09 SH **AVATAR**

THE LAST AIRBENDER IN CONCERT: 20TH ANNIVERSARY: 10.10 SH **THE**

SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY: 11.10 SH **HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 IN**

CONCERT: 24.10 SH **HALLOWEEN THE CONCERT:** 30.10 TH

FAMILY



Toto The Ninja Cat and the Great Escape

15 & 16 Aug | TH

Meet Toto. She might look like an ordinary cat, but she's no ordinary feline. Almost completely blind, Toto has incredible ninja skills, a big heart, and a nose for adventure. Based on Dermot O'Leary's best-selling children's book.



Blippi: Be Like Blippi

06 Sep | TH

Get ready to see the world more curiously as you move like, play like, and explore just like Blippi! Join Blippi and Meekah. live on stage in a high-energy live show packed with music, laughter, and surprises

TALKS & CONVERSATIONS



An Evening with Nigel Mansell 27 Sep | SH

An ultimate evening with F1 driver Nigel Mansell where he will give a full insight into his fantastic career on the tracks.



Meera Syal: Vigilauntie 28 Sep | TH

Dame Meera Syal joins us to share the hilarious and heartwarming true stories that have shaped her life and work as one of Britain's most beloved comedy legends.



Jeremy Bowen: Truth Under Fire 19 Oct | TH

Gaza. Ukraine. Syria. Sudan. Yemen. The world is facing more armed conflicts than at any point in decades, and Jeremy Bowen has reported from the centre of nearly all of them. An essential evening for anyone who wants to understand the world as it is, not as we wish it to be.



Joe Marler Will See You Live 26 Oct | TH

Joe Marler and Jake Bhardwaj bring their podcast to life each night alongside a different famous guest, diving into the complexities of the celebrity mind to deliver something far beyond a typical interview.

AND

CAN I BE CANDID: LIVE: 17.09 TH **A GUITAR EVENING WITH PETER 'DANISH PETE' HONORE AND BEN SMITH:** 20.09 JHJF **BETWEEN THE COVERS LIVE: AGATHA CHRISTIE:** 12.10 TH **DR JOHN COOPER CLARKE:** 24.10 TH



B★Festive

Town Hall & Symphony Hall

From festive family favourites on the big screen, accompanied live-to-film by world class orchestras to carol concerts, singalongs, parties with stars on stage and even festive stand up specials:

Enjoy a Great Night Out creating magical memories with friends and family this Christmas!



SNEAK PEEK

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



The Dinosaur That Pooped A Rock Show
08 Nov | TH



Bay City Rollers
12 Nov | TH



Sindhu Vee: Swanky
13 Nov & 17 Apr | TH



Professor Alice Roberts: From Cell to Civilisation-Live on Stage
15 & 16 Nov | TH



Jools Holland & his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra
20 & 21 Nov | SH



Marin Alsop conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra
22 Nov | SH

MEET THE TEAM: FINANCE

Behind the Curtain: Balancing the Books; Powering the Performance



Words & Pictures: Ibi Keita

At B:Music, the Finance team plays a vital but often unseen role in bringing performances to life. Working behind the scenes across Symphony Hall and Town Hall, they ensure every event is supported by strong financial planning, smooth processes and a shared commitment to the arts.

What sets the team apart is not just technical expertise, but the people behind the numbers. As Director of Finance Janine reflects, “The best thing about my role is the variety of talented, creative and resourceful colleagues I work with... people that are inherently flexible-thinking, problem-solving and boundary-

pushing.” That creative spirit runs throughout the team, shaping a working environment that feels very different from traditional

finance roles. It is collaborative, dynamic and closely connected to the artistic heart of the organisation.

Finance is involved at every stage of an event’s journey. From early planning to final settlement, the process is carefully managed to ensure everything runs smoothly. Often described as “Cradle to Pay”, as noted by Graham, this approach reflects the many moving parts behind a performance and the importance of “everyone singing from the same hymn sheet.” For those working on events, this also means building close relationships with promoters and artists and experiencing a wide range of performances along the way.

Variety is a defining feature of the team’s work. Management Accountant Gill sums it up simply: “Every day is different, working across everything

from small gigs to large events. It’s especially rewarding to see the outcomes of my work in action, with the added bonus of experiencing live events along the way.”

From large-scale concerts to smaller, more intimate shows, the team supports a wide range of activity. Many share a personal passion for music, whether performing, directing or supporting artistic groups outside of work, which deepens their connection to what they do each day. The role also comes with its unique challenges. The team manages specialist financial areas that are rarely encountered elsewhere, from spreading costs over time through depreciation to overseeing niche requirements like Foreign Entertainers Tax.

‘The best thing about my role is the variety of talented, creative and resourceful colleagues I work with... people that are inherently flexible-thinking, problem-solving and boundary-pushing’

Janine: Director of Finance

Alongside this, there is a strong focus on learning and development. “I’m always learning more,” says Rumaisa, reflecting the breadth of responsibilities and the opportunity to build knowledge across the full events process.

Above all, the Finance team is defined by its sense of community. Many team members have built long careers at B:Music, forming lasting friendships and sharing a genuine appreciation for the arts. It is described by Gill as “a more relaxed environment, surrounded by people who are so passionate about what they do,” where creativity and professionalism go hand in hand.

Together, the team ensures that every performance not only inspires audiences, but is supported by expertise, collaboration and care behind the scenes.

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

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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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

Access Booking Line: 0121 289 6343

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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 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

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AFRICAN SOUL REBELS
ft LES AMAZONES D'AFRIQUE
& GASPER NALI

08 October 2026 | TH

B:Music
Town Hall & Symphony Hall

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

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