

SJM

October 2021



An evening of music and dance with

THE SIMON BATES BIG BAND

...Quite simply one of the best BIG BANDS the UK has to offer.

SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER 8.00PM
DOORS AND CASH BAR OPEN 7.30PM
EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM, GU28 0QB

Tickets are available from empirehall.org.uk
General Admission £20, seating not guaranteed
Balcony Area £35, with guaranteed seating



Demonstration Lindy Hop/Swing dancers will be there to show the way and provide ticket holders with an opportunity to practice before the event. As one can imagine space will be limited for this crackjack evening and the dance area will be no less than 25 square meters (which is not as much as it might sound).

DRESS AS SMART AS YOU WANT

This event can only go ahead if COVID regulations allow, tickets will be refunded if we cannot go ahead.

jazznewblood.org/jazznewbloodtapes



JAZZNEWBLOOD

X  Nov 10 - 3pm
Nov 14 - 5pm
recording.com

 Nov 08 - 7pm
Bethlehem Farm
www.kahp.ac/pascalre

by Patricia Pascal



Monthly

BRIGHTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

Five Days of World Class Jazz featuring the UK's most exciting acts from deep tradition to the cutting edge

BRIGHTON PALACE PIER - SEPT 29-OCT 3
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: www.newgenerationjazz.co.uk

WED 29
LIANE CARROLL & JULIAN SIEGEL

THUR 30
ALAN BARNES & DAVE NEWTON
SARAH OSCHLAG

FRI 1
HOWES3
JACKSON MATHOD

SAT 2
SUPREME STANDARDS PRESENTS
MARK KAVUMA & THE BANGER FACTORY
CHERISE

SUN 3
TERRY SEABROOK QUINTET
QOW TRIO

Part of the Brighton Jazz Festival
Sponsored by Arts Council England
Sponsored by Love Supreme Jazz Festival
Sponsored by Brighton Jazz Festival

BRIGHTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

FREE EVENTS
FRIDAY 1ST OCT
3.30-4PM & 4.30-5PM **FISHER & RAE**
TOP SONGWRITERS IN JAZZ/POP CROSSOVER COLLABORATION

SATURDAY 2ND OCT
2-4PM **WATERBEAR'S EMERGING ARTISTS SHOWCASE**
NEW TALENT FROM WATERBEAR COLLEGE OF MUSIC

SUNDAY 3RD OCT
1PM **JAZZ FUTURES**
FEATURING ALL FEMALE SAX QUINTET & THE NEW GENERATION JAZZ YOUTH ORCHESTRA

3PM **ADRIAN KENDON & THE BOPSTARS**
PROLIFIC JAZZ EDUCATOR AND FOUNDER OF THE FIRST EVER BRIGHTON JAZZ FESTIVAL PERFORMS HIS MUSIC WITH THE UK'S RISING STARS

Part of the Brighton Jazz Festival
Sponsored by Arts Council England
Sponsored by Love Supreme Jazz Festival
Sponsored by Brighton Jazz Festival



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NYJO MD

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Winston Rollins National Youth Jazz Orchestra

There are lots of Amy Winehouse tributes around, but what makes the upcoming NYJO one different?

Yes, there is a lot of Amy Winehouse tributes around, but what makes our show special, the fact that Amy was the featured singer with NYJO when she was 16, with myself being on the original *Frank* album session in 2003, we will be celebrating the life and works of Amy with a big band of 24 musicians on stage, playing the re-imagined songs of Amy Winehouse, no-one else in the country will sound like this!

What repertoire will you focus on?

We will be taking inspiration and repertoire from the *Frank* and *Back To Black* albums, as well as touching on a couple of songs from the *Lioness: Hidden Treasure* compilation album, these were songs that Amy recorded before or around the time she recorded her *Frank* album but were previously unreleased.

Tell us about the arrangements for the concert.

We have an amazing composer/arranger called Olivia Murphy who holds the composer's chair in NYJO, amongst her achievements, she has won the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Jazz Composers Prize in both 2018 & 2019 and most recently won the Jazzlife Alliance's

Young Composer Award which will see her go on to work with some of the most prolific jazz artists of today. Olivia has made these concerts accessible to the listening ear by taking Amy's songs and re-imagining them for the big band, from the dramatic moody opening of *Back to Black* which then snaps into the 60's style beat that Amy so loved to a New Orleans style, hand clapping, feet stomping version of *Valerie*, which will get you up and dancing! Some of the arrangements have been stretched beyond the imagination, whilst other songs have kept their form, making this concert a not to be missed for those who like to hear something a little different whilst retaining the true core and vibe of Amy's music.

Amy Winehouse had an amazing talent and persona, so how do you re-create her magic on stage?

We have an amazing singer in Lucy-Anne Daniels who will be putting her own vibe into the songs, with her lush voice, you will get lost in her interpretation of the songs, whilst enjoying every moment!

The National Youth Jazz Orchestra will celebrate the life and music of their former member Amy Winehouse on Thursday 7th October at De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea. Details and tickets [here](#).



Olivia Murphy



Olivia, as arranger for the upcoming Amy Winehouse celebration, what have been the biggest challenges that you've faced?

There's been a few! Perhaps one of the challenges throughout has been trying to find a balance of staying true & respectful to the original material but still allowing myself to have a voice as a composer and reimagine the songs to challenge and show off the incredible band!

How did you first get into jazz?

I started playing music through having piano and clarinet lessons while at school - I'd listened to little bits of jazz here and there but it wasn't until starting saxophone lessons at 14 that I started playing more of the music. I actually played saxophone in a couple of the NYJO Academy bands when I was in sixth form which is where I learnt so much about improvisation, playing with other people and big band music.

What did you learn most from your time at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire?

I studied jazz saxophone at RBC - and during my time there I learnt a lot (I'd had very little formal jazz training before) and met so many of my closest friends. What I learnt the most however is perhaps perseverance - there were a whole lot of challenges during my time studying there but despite this, I knew I wanted to be in this industry; I worked hard and managed to find what I was the most passionate about - composition & large ensemble leading!

How has NYJO helped you develop as a composer and arranger?

There's very few professional level jazz orchestras that regularly

rehearse and gig in the UK so it's a luxury to have this amazing band of supportive friends and peers playing my music. Since leaving RBC in 2019 it has been vital for me to continue learning and growing as a jazz orchestra composer and NYJO has been the perfect opportunity for that.

Who are your favourite arrangers?

Whether I'm doing an arrangement or my own composition, I'm influenced by a lot of arrangers/composers: Duke Ellington, Kenny Wheeler, Maria Schneider, Miho Hazama, Bob Brookmeyer - there's so many!

What can audiences expect to hear at the concerts?

It's a celebration of Amy Winehouse's beautiful songwriting while reimagining some iconic hits to fit a contemporary jazz orchestra. It's hopefully a good time!

Is there a piece that you've arranged that has a special meaning to you personally?

I really like the lyrics to *Wake Up Alone*... it's a really special one which I hadn't actually heard before starting this project, but it's a beautiful song.

What plans do you have for the future?

I have a few projects with my own music and my own jazz orchestra in the pipeline ... potentially trying to plan an album recording for next year! I love directing and leading a jazz orchestra and so as long as I'm doing that I'm happy!

<https://www.oliviamurphymusic.com>





Mark Armstrong National Youth Jazz Orchestra

be different from the full orchestra?

Normally I direct the full orchestra and maybe play an occasional trumpet solo so it will be a real treat to be performing all the way through. In a small group much of the communication and direction is done by instinct rather than talking and gestures so by playing small group music in the authentic way it gives all of us a chance to refine and develop our jazz instincts.

Tell us about your history with NYJO and how you first got involved with them.

Originally I was a trumpet player in the Jazz Orchestra while I was studying music in London. I kept playing with the band from about 21 up to the cut-off age of 25 but the founding Music Director, Bill Ashton, asked me to stay on to direct the rehearsals and run some educational workshops. Following that, when Bill retired, I applied for the job of Music Director, which has grown to become Artistic and Music Director since that time as NYJO's activities have evolved.

What music will you be performing at Haywards Heath on 16th October?

It will be a mixture of original compositions by me from my album 'Coastbound' and some jazz standards from my favourite jazz composers and performers, such as Miles Davis, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

You'll be conducting/performing with a NYJO Sextet. How will that

NYJO recently moved to new premises, Woolwich Works in South East London. How are you finding it?

It's a fantastic facility with lovely rehearsal spaces and for the first time for us the office and rehearsal space will all be in the same building. We were lucky to be able to get in while it was still under construction and it's been amazing watching the facilities grow and get finished while we were rehearsing. The opening ceremony last week was a real celebration of the local community and the importance of the Arts in everyone's lives so a real privilege to be able to take part in that too.

NYJO Sextet & Mark Armstrong play at the Haywards Heath Music Society, St Wilfrid's Church, Church Road, Haywards Heath on Saturday 16th October.

Details and tickets available [here](#).

Big Band Scene

Patrick Billingham



This month is usually the time for bands to book a slot in the Eastbourne bandstand Big Band & Swing Sound series for the following summer. However, it would seem that due to the current uncertainties surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, with the possible imposition of some level of lockdown, their current programme of events goes no further than February 2022.

This year, the usual programme of around eight concerts was reduced to five. In the end, as a result of the delay to the final relaxation of restrictions, there were only two.

Some Sussex big bands have resumed rehearsals this year, with a handful of outdoor gigs. A few indoor gigs are planned for the end of the year. But the number of active bands is about a quarter of what it was two years ago.

Now some even sadder news. Multi-instrumentalist, composer and arranger, Robin Blakeman died in late

August, aged 74. As the result of an epileptic seizure, I have been told.

I first met him nearly 30 years ago when he joined the sax section of The Sussex Jazz Orchestra. He left after a while to travel to Latin America to pursue his interest in that musical genre. After his return, he spent some time on lead tenor with The Brighton Big Band. He was also a member of Terry Pack's Trees in its early days.

The last time we played together was two years ago, when he answered an emergency call and played soprano sax with two others, as part of the trumpet section on Brighton Bandstand with the SJO.

You can appreciate more about Robin and his music by reading the in depth interview he gave in SJM 047, December 2015, [here](#).

A few days before his death, we exchanged emails, and he told me about his latest project, which sadly, will now never be. Although his abrupt manner could, at times,



Robin Blakeman at The Brunswick in 2014 by Patrick Bellingham

alienate some people, he was, for me, a valued friend and colleague. I shall miss him.

Although it appears that there is no prospect of any big band gigs in Sussex this month, I have received information about activity elsewhere. At 1:30pm on Sunday 17th, The Gareth Lockrane Big Band is appearing at the Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean Street, Soho, London W1D 3RW (02074 394962). Tickets £25.

From the same source, Big Band Sounds of The Jazz Age – The Roaring 20's at 7pm and The Swing Era 35-45, at 9:15pm on Tuesday 26th at Crazy coqs, 20 Sherwood St, London, W1F 7ED (020 7734 4888). Tickets also £25. However, these big band sounds are both produced by small ensembles, albeit of a high standard.

I found another gig on the 26th, from 8-10:30pm, with a full sized big band. Another SJO. This time the Surrey Jazz Orchestra, with vocalist Geogie Fellows, at Jacob's Well

Village Hall, Jacobs Well Road, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7PD. Tickets on the door, £7.50. For further information, please contact Peter Deane on 07770 882855, or email him on peter.deane@ntlworld.com

Finally, the Glenn Miller Orchestra with Ray McVay is due to appear at 3pm on Sunday 10th at the Dorking Halls, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1SG (01306 881717). Tickets £25.50. Three weeks later at 3pm on Sunday 31st, they are at The Central Theatre, 170 High Street, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4RG (01634 338338). Tickets £23/£21.50.

Next month: Whatever news there is, assuming we're still out of lockdown. If there is anything such as feedback on this column, that you would like me to include in the November Big Band Scene, please send it to me by Tuesday 12th October, at g8aac@yahoo.co.uk.

Listings

More details of performances and live streams
can be found on our listings page:
www.sussexjazzmag.com/listings

Mondays

Every Monday: The Monday Boys, The Paris House, Brighton 2pm-5pm Free

Every Monday: Jazz at Saint James Tavern, Kemptown, Brighton 8pm Free

Every Monday: Oli Howe Trio with guest, The George Payne, Hove 8pm Free

Every 2nd Monday of the month: Guest + Jam, The Lewes Road Inn, Brighton

Tuesdays

Every Tuesday: Paul Richards Quartet with Guest at The Brunswick, Hove. Doors 7pm, Starts 7:30pm £10 in advance

Every Tuesday: Jazz at The Hare & Hounds, Worthing. 8:30pm Free (c) Check website [here](#).

5th Oct. Dave Quincy Quartet

12th Oct. Greg Heath Quartet

19th Oct. Mike Carey's Big House Band

26th Oct. Chris Coull Quartet

5th Oct. Peter Jones with Vasilis Xenopoulos East Grinstead Jazz Club, The Apron Café, Chequer Mead Theatre. Doors 7pm Music 7.30pm to 10.30pm £12

Wednesdays

Every Wednesday: Paul Richards and guests at Southern Belle, Waterloo Street. 8pm Free

Every Wednesday: Jason Henson & Friends at The St James Tavern, St James Street, Brighton 8:30pm Free

Fridays

Every Friday: Jason Henson & Friends at The Better Half, Hove. 2:30-5pm Free

1st Oct. Jo Fooks Quintet, Steyning Jazz Club, Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3XZ. Doors 7.15pm Music 8pm-10.30pm. Admission £12, Members and Students £7. www.steyningjazz.co.uk

1st Oct. Fisher & Rae at The Brighton Jazz Festival, Horatio's Bar, Brighton Palace Pier 3:30pm Free.

1st Oct. Howes3 + Jackson Method at The Brighton Jazz Festival, Horatio's Bar, Brighton Palace Pier. 8pm £15

St. Andrews Church, Hove. Doors 5:30pm, Music 6pm. £10/£8

8th Oct. Sara Oschlag Quintet

15th Oct. Chris Coull Big Band

Saturdays

Every Saturday: Jazz at The Paris House, Hove. 4-7pm Free

Every Saturday: The Blue Cafe Duo (Magdalena Reising & Shane Hill) at The Emerald Lounge, Brighton. 8pm Free.

Sat. 2nd Oct. Mark Kavuma & The Banger Factory + Cherise at The Brighton Jazz Festival, Horatio's Bar, Brighton Palace Pier. 8pm £15

16th Oct. Simon Bates Big Band at Empire Hall, Graffham. Doors 7:30pm £20

Sundays

Every Sunday: Paul Richards and guests at Stirling Arms, Hove. 7pm Free

Every Sunday: Jason Henson & Friends at The Hand in Hand, Kemptown. 7pm Free

Sun. 3rd Oct. 1pm Jazz Futures; 3pm Adrian Kendon & The Bopstars at The Brighton Jazz Festival, Horatio's Bar, Brighton Palace Pier. Free

Sun. 3rd Oct. Terry Seabrook Quintet + QOW Trio at The Brighton Jazz Festival, Horatio's Bar, Brighton Palace Pier. 8pm £15

Further Afield

Wednesday 6th October: Nic Meijer World Group at the Guildford Book Festival at Guildford Cricket Club Pavillion. <http://guildfordjazz.org.uk>

On The Horizon

East Grinstead Jazz Club: Tuesday 2nd Nov. Simon Spillett

Steyning Jazz Club: Fri. 5th Nov. Gabriel Latchin Trio

All Saints, Hove: Thursday 18th November at 1pm : Spike Wells Trio with Mark Edwards (piano), Chris Laurence (bass), Spike Wells (drums). Thursday 25th November at 1pm : Gabriel Latchin Trio play 'I'll Be Home for Christmas'. Admission free (retiring collection). Refreshments available.

Friday 26th November: Eternal Triangle: Trevor Watts, Veryan Weston, Jamie Harris at The Rose Hill, Brighton. Tickets here.

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Charlie Anderson

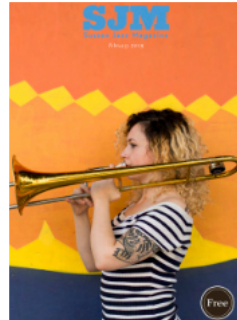
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- 10.09.2021 **Leeds** Leeds Town Hall
- 23.09.2021 **Nottingham** Royal Concert Hall
- 24.09.2021 **Southend** Palace Theatre
- 07.10.2021 **Bexhill-on-Sea** De La Warr Pavilion
- 14.10.2021 **Poole** Lighthouse
- 21.10.2021 **Basingstoke** Anvil Arts
- 04.11.2021 **Oxford** Oxford Town Hall
- 06.11.2021 **Bradford** St George's Hall
- 28.11.2021 **Cambridge** Cambridge Junction
- 14.01.2022 **Saffron Walden** Saffron Hall
- 20.01.2022 **Lichfield** Garrick Theatre
- 21.01.2022 **Northampton** Royal & Derngate
- 23.01.2022 **Bury St Edmunds** The Apex
- 10.02.2022 **Sunderland** The Fire Station
- 11.02.2022 **Manchester** Band On The Wall
- 18.02.2022 **Norwich** Norwich Playhouse
- 20.02.2022 **Derby** Derby Theatre
- 25.02.2022 **Leicester** De Montfort University
- 02.03.2022 **Truro** Hall For Cornwall
- 10.03.2022 **Portsmouth** Portsmouth Guildhall
- 11.03.2022 **Redditch** Palace Theatre
- 13.03.2022 **Cardiff** RWCMD
- 19.03.2022 **London** Woolwich Works
- 10.04.2022 **Milton Keynes** The Stables



For more info visit: www.nyjo.org.uk

AMY WINEHOUSE

A celebration of her life & music with the
National Youth Jazz Orchestra