

SUNDAY 1 MAY

1000 Trades Presents: Balearic Love Affair 4pm–12am

Join Stroud aficionado Mat Blythe for a day of blissed-out Balearic beats on the 1s and 2s, with everything from downtempo ambient to sun-tinged deep house. Free

WEDNESDAY 4 MAY

Birmingham Improv Presents: Maestro 7.30pm

Birmingham Improv brings you 'Maestro', the exciting elimination improv game where anything can happen. Twelve intrepid improvisers face a series of scenes and challenges, for a night filled with cheer and laughter. The scenes are scored by you, the audience, until only one player remains...the Maestro. Come along and enjoy the ride, cheer for your favourite improviser, and see who will take the winning crown....

Free. *Bucket collection if you enjoyed! See more at www.birminghamimprov.com*

THURSDAY 5 MAY

The Girls Stage: A Night Celebrating Young Female Musicians 7pm

The Girls Stage presents, a night celebrating young female jazz musicians, celebrating some amazingly talented female jazz talent in Birmingham. Featuring the vocals of Lucy Anne Daniels and Natalie McLean, Rebecca Wing on alto, Maria Grapsa on piano and Amy Coates on bass – plus a special guest appearance from Giulia Marro on clarinet. This promises to be a really fun night with some amazing music performed by some really talented women in the scene. £5

FRIDAY 6 MAY

Birmingham Jazz Presents: Trevor Watts Eternal Triangle 7.45pm

Eternal Triangle play the music of Trevor Watts, compositions originally inspired by rhythmic structures from Africa and South America as well as jazz and European musical forms. The trio is built on two duos: Vervan and Trevor first played together in Trevor's "Moiré Music" in the early 1980s and since then have had a long collaboration in the 'Dialogues' project where their work as open improvisers was explored together for many years worldwide. The second duo consists of Jamie and Trevor where Jamie was involved in Trevor's 'Celebration Band' in the 2000s and later in a very successful duo touring worldwide and recording several CDs. The third duo with Vervan and Jamie is yet to be explored!

£12.50/ £10 members/ £5 students. *Tickets via birminghamjazz.co.uk (more on the door)*

SATURDAY 7 MAY

1000 Trades Presents: Pitch Control 8pm–12am

A night of deep, deeper and deepest from the world of upfront new electronic music; expect a journey through time and tempo. From lazy downtempo and easy grooves, to the slower pitched-down side of house and low-slung disco - all blended intricately to create a unique, understated funk which is impossible to resist. With DJ Matt Cottom (Pitch Control). Free. *See Facebook events page for more details*

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY

Birmingham Improv Presents: Box of Frogs 7.30pm

Birmingham's premier Improv bring you a night of high octane improvised comedy nonsense, based entirely on YOUR suggestions. Expect the unexpected as quick witted players conjure up hilarious spontaneous songs, sketches and scenes in the spur of the moment.

Free. *Bucket collection if you enjoyed! See more at www.birminghamimprov.com*

THURSDAY 12 MAY

Kamikaze Club Open Mic 7.30–10.30pm

The Kamikaze Club return for another Open Mic comedy session on a new regular Thursday night slot (third of each month). Fresh acts looking for a spot, as well as pros looking to shine up their material will be on hand to keep hilarity at a high. Free. *More details via facebook.com/TheKamikazeClub*

FRIDAY 13 – SUNDAY 15 MAY

Birmingham Jazz Festival 2022 All weekend

Three days of live and life enhancing music, with a huge 12 acts over its course – with the first gig of each day free entry!

The theme for this Festival will be the emergence and development of British Jazz into its own style and uniqueness. This Festival will showcase jazz musicians who have emerged in the decades since the 1960s, when UK jazz came of age. Its influences reflect the development of the nation with Caribbean, African & Indian influences instead of just the dominant African/American classic jazz. The UK jazz scene is ever-evolving, with new and diverse audiences, reflecting the bands and musicians that have helped to create it over the last fifty years. The reverberations of the British jazz boom that detonated in the mid-2010s echo on, as do its inventive crossovers mixing jazz, hip-hop, afrobeat and funk. *Tickets and line-up via birminghamjazz.co.uk*

FRIDAY 13 MAY

1000 Trades Presents: Eclectic Sessions 8pm–12am

A night celebrating the diverse nature of dance music. Featuring a mix of musical genres from classic house to chill out, via soul, jazz, hip-hop, funk, post-punk and broken beats. Featuring well known classics and modern unknowns from the likes of Salsoul/ Philadelphia International/ Compost Records/ K7/ Strictly Rhythm/ Acid Jazz/ Tru Thoughts/ Grand Central/ BBE/ Alice Russell/ Jazzanova/ Atjazz/ Quantic/ Kaytranada/ BB&Q/4 Hero/Ben Westbeech/Masters at Work/ Pete Rock/ Rae & Christian/ The Milk/ Donald Byrd/ Smoove & Turrell/ Chic/ The Pendletons/ Cameo/ Cymande/ SOS Band/ Children of Zeus/ Amp Fiddler/ Yazmin Lacey + many more. With DJ Greg. Free

SATURDAY 14 MAY

Downtempo Disco 8pm–12am

Ever-popular monthly bringing you the sweetest disco edits, soul cut-ups and cutting edge deep house, brought to you by the inimitable Simon Tricklebank and Dan Farrell. Free

SUNDAY 15 MAY

1000 Trades Presents: Sunday Jazz 7pm–late

Another Sunday Jazz session to please your ears and soul. Hosted by virtuosic young guitarist Alfie Dean and his quartet, they draw inspiration from modern jazz influences including Mike Moreno, Ari Hoenig and Gilad Hekselman, while maintaining the traditions of bebop and its language. All members of the house band are currently studying at The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and have been performing throughout Birmingham over the past year. Every third Sunday of the month special guests will include up and coming talent from the world of jazz, as well as more

established musicians. The initial set will be followed by a jam in which select musicians from the audience will have the chance to sit in with the house band and perform tunes from their repertoire. Free (donations welcome). See [Facebook events page](#) for more details.

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

Birmingham Improv Presents: Improv Showcase 7.30–9pm

Two new Birmingham groups take the stage. Behind The Headlines has two teams of comedians performing sketches based on recent news stories. Breakfast Of Champions starts with a guest speaker giving a monologue which then inspires a range of scenes. Free (bucket collection if you laughed...). See midlandsimprov.com for more details

THURSDAY 19 MAY

Launch Night Celebrating Sanctuary Presents Night Tales: Touki + support 8pm

A new series of four bi-monthly live music evenings bringing the best musical influences from around the world to the Jewellery Quarter, in partnership with Birmingham music organisation Celebrating Sanctuary. A chance encounter between buskers in Bath brought together Amadou Diagne from Senegal and French-American Cory Sez nec AKA Touki. Life embarked them on different touki (journey in Wolof), but over a decade on and this encounter has led to a new musical adventure. The result is a highly original project borne of a genuine dream to bring different worlds together through music. Here the kora dances playfully with and around the banjo and guitar, the calabash and other percussion add powerful, driving beats, and silky voices entrance the listener. The influences are many, and rather than remaining in any one tradition, the touki - the musical voyage itself - is the destination.

They will be supported by Germa Adan, Haitian folk artist known for her ability to write and perform in the style of a storyteller with a strong undercurrent of social consciousness at the heart of her music. She writes and performs a tapestry of ethereal vocal and stringed harmonies, influenced by the overlapping identity with cultures, especially so in the Haitian, American and British folk influences that colour her sound. Germa performs as a solo artist, and also collaborates with musicians and vocalists from many different backgrounds and genres. £5. Free. Tickets via celebrating-sanctuary.org.uk

FRIDAY 20 MAY

Birmingham Jazz Presents: Jonny Mansfield Quintet 7.45pm

With music composed specially for artists to express themselves fully through their instruments, there is an underlying shared commitment to create beautiful, rich textures through the use of extended string and percussive techniques, that allow for familiar folk-like melodies to guide the listener through sonic landscapes. Improvisation is at the core of the performances, which is emphasised by the contrasting musical perspectives each member brings, having grown up in different countries. Influences are drawn from Norwegian drummer Thomas Strønen, Scottish fiddler Aiden O'Rourke and Chilean guitarist Camilla Meza. £12.50/ £10 members/ £5 students. Tickets via birminghamjazz.co.uk (more on the door)

SATURDAY 21 MAY

1000 Trades Presents: Bargain Bin Soul 8pm–midnight

Geeburd digs out a selection of life-long favourite club classics. Obscure floor-fillers salvaged from the bargain bins, from electric boogie and street soul to latin freestyle, new jack swing and beyond. Featuring the likes of Aurra/ BB&Q Band/ Cameo/ Candido/ Change/ Cherrelle/ Chic/ Colonel Abrams/ Debbie Deb/ D-Train/ Fatback Band/ First Choice/ Gap Band/ Glenn Jones/ Guy/ Gwen Guthrie/ Gwen McCrae/ India/ Inner Life/ Jam and Lewis Productions/ Johnny O/ Joyce Sims/ Kashif/ Lisa Lisa & Cult Jam/ Loose Ends/ Luther Vandross/ Mary Jane Girls/ Melba Moore/ Midnight Star/ Noel/ Odyssey/ Patrice Rushen/ Prince and the Revolution/ Ready For The World/ Serious Intention/ SOS Band/ Stacy Lattishaw/ Stevie B/ Sybil/ Teena Marie/ The System/ The Time/ Today/ Unlimited Touch/ Vaughan Mason/ Whispers. With Geeburd (NowHam). Free. See [Facebook events page](#) for more

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY

Birmingham Improv Presents: Comedy Jam 7.30pm

Come and enjoy the Birmingham Improv Comedy Jam – an evening of fun for all. Turn up, grab a drink, put your name in a hat and perform! Or just watch if you prefer. With a different improve group invited to perform each month for the first half, with a jam hosted by residents Box of Frogs in the second. Come and play your favourite improv games, take part in improvised scenes, sketches and songs – or just sit back and watch. Suitable for all levels of experience, including complete beginners. Free (donations welcome). See [Facebook events page](#) for more details

THURSDAY 26 MAY

1000 Trades Presents: Love It Or Shove It 7–9pm

A new night bringing together some of Birmingham's up and coming and established musicians and poets for an eclectic of evening artistry. Not to be missed! Free

FRIDAY 27 MAY

Birmingham Jazz Presents: Sara Dowling 7.45pm

Voted Best Vocalist in the British Jazz Awards 2019, Sara Dowling is gaining fame as one of the most talented jazz singers in the UK. She first trained as a cellist at Chetham's and the RNCM, before emerging as a powerful and expressive jazz vocalist and composer. Her most important influences are Betty Carter and Sarah Vaughan. Although her vocal approach is steeped in the jazz idiom and its repertoire, Sara is now coming forth with her own original sound that resonates in her compositions as well as her unique approach to standards. The fabulous fearlessness with which she approaches the act of singing, the burning conviction, the irresistible communicative power and jaw-dropping musicality she brings to it makes Sara one of the UK's leading Jazz vocalists. £12.50/ £10 members/ £5 students. Tickets via birminghamjazz.co.uk (more on the door)

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SATURDAY 28 MAY

NOW HAM: A Night of Credible 80s 8pm–12am

Bannish Banarama, Kybosh Kylie and Erase Europeour monthly night dedicated to proper music from the most underrated decade since the last one. Featuring the likes of Japan/ Talk Talk/ Scritti Politti/ Vissage/ Bauhaus/ Haircut 100/ King/ Depeche Mode/ Orange Juice/ The Chameleons/ China Crisis/ The The/ Aztec Camera/ The Associates/ The Cure/ Tom Tom Club/ Lotus Eaters/ Heaven 17/ New Order/ Prefab Sprout/ Talking Heads/ Altered Images/ The Teardrop Explodes/ Tears for Fears/ Art of Noise/ Simple Minds – amongst many others. With Coughing Pigeon DJs. Free. See [Facebook events page](#) for more details.