



# FESTIVAL GUIDE

THURSDAY 23 - MONDAY 27 MAY



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# WELCOME



**Welcome to the third annual Sidmouth International Jazz and Blues Festival, a five-day celebration of music, culture, and community spirit set against the stunning backdrop of Sidmouth's coastal beauty.**

From May 23rd to May 27th, we invite you to join us for an unforgettable weekend of jazz and blues that promises to delight the senses and lift the spirits.

Prepare to be transported on a musical journey unlike any other as we showcase an eclectic line-up of talented performers from the UK, the local region and around the globe. Whether you're a die-hard jazz aficionado or a casual blues enthusiast, there's something for everyone to enjoy at this year's festival. You can expect to experience the best in Jazz, Blues, RnB, Funk, Soul, Latin and contemporary music.

Headline concerts take place each evening on the outdoor stage in Blackmore Gardens. Headline artistes performing this year are Tony Hadley with his Swing Band, MF Robots & Roachford; from Havana Cuba the incredible Roberto Fonseca and his band, Ruby Turner; and closing the festival multi-award winning British female singers and songwriters Elles Baily and Mica Millar.

In addition to the main stage performances, the festival offers a wealth of interactive experiences for you to enjoy. Take part in workshops led by industry professionals, where you can hone your skills and learn new techniques or join in the jam sessions.

Visit the many coffee houses, pubs, hotels and

restaurants hosting fringe events, or join us each day in Blackmore Gardens from 11.00am – 5.30pm on Saturday through to Monday where we present 5 artistes daily on the outdoor stage. Gates open at 10.00am so come along and grab a good spot to hear incredible talent and enjoy the vast variety of food offerings from the region.

And let's not forget about the breath-taking natural beauty that surrounds us here in Sidmouth. Take a stroll along the promenade, soak up the sunshine on the beach, or explore the charming streets lined with boutique shops and cafes.

With its stunning coastal vistas and laid-back atmosphere, Sidmouth provides the perfect backdrop for a weekend of music and relaxation.

This is a weekend you'll cherish forever. So join us for a celebration of music, culture, and community at the third annual Sidmouth International Jazz and Blues Festival. We can't wait to welcome you!

We gratefully acknowledge and thank all our festival partners, patrons, advertisers, and venues for their support and for sharing our exciting vision. Thank you for being part of something special and enjoy your visit to Sidmouth and the festival.

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# CONTENTS

- 1** Welcome to the 2024 Festival
- 3** Contents
- 4** What's on, where and when
- 8** About the festival
- 13** Evening Headline: Tony Hadley
- 14** Evening Headline: MF Robots
- 15** Evening Headline: Roachford
- 17** Evening Headline: Roberto Fonseca
- 19** Evening Headline: Ruby Turner
- 20** Evening Headline: Elles Bailey
- 21** Evening Headline: Mica Millar
- 25** Live at The Conservative Club
- 28** Blackmore Gardens – The Outdoor Stage
- 32** Saturday Outdoor Stage Daytime Line-Up
- 35** Saturday Daytime Headline: Ian Shaw
- 36** Sunday Outdoor Stage Daytime Line-Up
- 39** Sunday Daytime Headline: Snowboy & The Latin Section
- 40** Monday Outdoor Stage Daytime Line-Up
- 43** Monday Daytime Headline: Acantha Lang
- 46** The Free Fringe Programme
- 50** The Free Education Programme
- 54** In and around Sidmouth
- 58** Looking back at the 2023 Festival
- 63** Festival venue information
- 68** Shout Out & Thank You



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# WHAT'S ON, WHERE & WHEN

**YOUR COMPLETE FESTIVAL LISTING**

## THURSDAY 23 MAY

Time	Act	Location	Entry	Page
8.00pm	Tony Hadley Big Swing Concert	Blackmore Gardens	£45/£55	13

## FRIDAY 24 MAY

Time	Act	Location	Entry	Page
6.00pm	Martin McNeill Solo Blues	Rincon Coffee	Free	46
6.30pm	Tom Morgan Trio & Guest Louis Connor	The Blue Ball Inn	Free	46
8.00pm	Adam Sweet Band	Dukes Sidmouth	Free	46
8.00pm	Jeff 'The Horse' Horsey	The Radway Inn	Free	46
8.00pm	MF Robots & Roachford	Blackmore Gardens	£30/£45	14/15
8.00pm	Johnny Mars Blues Band	Sidmouth Conservative Club	£25	25
8.30pm	John Sumner Vocalist	G&O	Free	46

## SATURDAY 25 MAY

Time	Act	Location	Entry	Page
10.30am	Jazz Jam Session	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
10.30am	Everyone can play the Blues	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
11.00am	Betty Accorsi	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	32
12.00pm	Louis Connor Jazz Duo	The Elizabeth Hotel	Free	46
12.10pm	Moscow Drug Club	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	32
12.30pm	Johnny Mars Harmonica Workshop	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
1.20pm	Phil Dawson	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	33
2.00pm	Ian Matthews Rock vs Jazz Masterclass	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
2.30pm	Russell Sinclair & The Smokin' Locos	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	33
2.30pm	Blues Jam Session	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
3.00pm	Kieron Garrett Quartet	The Marine	Free	46
4.00pm	Mark Harrison Band	The Swan Inn	Free	46
4.00pm	Ian Shaw	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	35
4.00pm	George Cooper Masterclass	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
8.00pm	Tom Morgan Trio Plus & Guest Louis Connor	Dukes Sidmouth	Free	46
8.00pm	Vince Lee Blues & Sophie Lord	The Radway Inn	Free	46
8.00pm	Stompin Dave Electric Duo	The Balfour Arms	Free	47
8.00pm	Roberto Fonseca	Blackmore Gardens	£30/£45	17
8.30pm	Vicki Campbell Trio	G&O	Free	47



## SUNDAY 26 MAY

Time	Act	Location	Entry	Page
11.00am	Pete Josef	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	36
12.00pm	Harry Dowell	G&O	Free	47
12.10pm	Kirris Riviere & The Delta Bruit	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	36
1.00pm	Charlie Hearnshaw Jazz Trio	14 Miles East	Free	47
1.00pm	Jesse Molins Guitar Duo	The Chatterly Café	Free	47
1.00pm	Ian Shaw Vocal Workshop	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
2.00pm	Soul of The City Gospel Choir	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
1.20pm	Lady Nade	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	37
2.30pm	The Jazz Defenders	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	37
3.00pm	Martin McNeill Solo Blues	The Marine	Free	47
3.00pm	Craig Milverton Jazz Workshop	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
4.00pm	Snowboy & The Latin Section	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	39
4.00pm	History of the Blues	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
4.00pm	BBQ: MJB Funk & Soul Review	The Volunteer Inn	Free	47
4.00pm	BBQ: Silence in the Court of Blues	The Kings Arms, Otterton	Free	47
8.00pm	Ruby Turner	Blackmore Gardens	£30/£45	19
8.00pm	Craig Milverton & Joanna Eden	Sidmouth Conservative Club	£25	25

## MONDAY 27 MAY

Time	Act	Location	Entry	Page
10.30am	Sam Massey Trumpet Workshop	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
10.30am	Blues Jam Session	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
11.00am	Orquesta Mambarito	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	40
12.10pm	Steve Banks Quintet	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	40
12.30pm	Superlocrian Concert	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
1.20pm	Jonah Hitchens	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	41
2.00pm	Family Drumming Session	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Sold Out	51
2.30pm	Toby Lee	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	41
2.30pm	Jazz Jam Session with Superlocrian	Sidmouth Parish Church	Free**	50
3.00pm	Ben Carr Duo	The Marine	Free	47
4.00pm	Acantha Lang	Blackmore Gardens	£12.50*	47
4.00pm	Martin McNeill Blues Guitar Workshop	Sidmouth Methodist Church	Free**	51
4.00pm	Jazz Cocktails: Kieron Garrett Quartet	Harbour Hotel, Sidmouth	Free	47
8.00pm	Elles Bailey & Mica Millar	Blackmore Gardens	£25/£45	20/21

\*Blackmore Gardens daily line-up:  
£12.50 per day 11.00am – 5.30pm or  
£25 for 3 days, more on the door  
\*\* Free education programme tickets,  
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# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

**It all began in 2022 when we launched the very first festival, coinciding with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in early June, which was incredibly well-received.**

Based on the success of year one, we then took a leap of faith and presented the 2023 festival on a larger scale, which took place between May 26th and 29th, featuring an array of international acts at Blackmore Gardens.

The feedback was tremendous, and the weather gods were with us in 2023, making the overall festival atmosphere wonderful. We know that we have something special, and there are not many festivals of our style and variety specialising in the music that the festival presents, certainly not in the SouthWest.

As always, this year you can expect to experience the best in Jazz, Swing, Blues, Roots, RnB, Soul Funk, Latin, and Cuban music, with an eclectic program of headline ticketed concerts featuring acclaimed artists and a wide range of free live music performances at locations within the town featuring established and emerging music talent from the region and further afield.

Headline evening concerts take place on the outdoor stage in Blackmore

Gardens, and artists performing this year included Tony Hadley and his 'Big Swing Band', a vibrant double bill with respected British Soul singer Roachford and MF Robots, Roberto Fonseca and his all-star band from Cuba, Ruby Turner and, to close the festival, a stunning double bill with award-winning British female singer-songwriters Elles Bailey and Mica Millar.

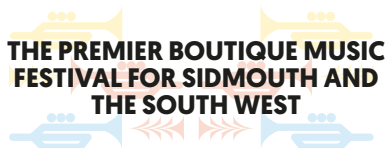
Additional ticketed events include two very special intimate concerts at the Sidmouth Conservative Club



with the legendary American Blues harmonica player Johnny Mars and his band on Friday, May 24th, and a unique evening of top-class Jazz with pianist Craig Milverton and singer Joanna Eden as they celebrate two of America's Jazz greats Oscar Peterson and Ella Fitzgerald with a show called 'An Oscar for Ella'.

Our commitment is to bring well-being through the power of music, an artistic program of quality, diversity, and inclusivity that will engage the whole community, enhance tourism, and bring economic and cultural benefits to the beautiful town of Sidmouth and the region of East Devon.

Our program this year also includes many fabulous free music events at local fringe venues, free street music, and for the first time, we have introduced a wonderful free education program which takes place over three days at Sidmouth Parish church and Sidmouth Methodist church between Saturday, May 25th, to Monday, May 27th.





Our program includes Jazz and Blues Jams, a vocal workshop, Jazz and Blues masterclasses, a seminar on the history of the Blues, an uplifting performance with Soul of the City Gospel Choir, a drum masterclass and drumming for kids, a blues harmonica workshop, and more.

Blackmore Gardens once again plays host to our three days of exceptional and diverse live music program taking place between Saturday, May 25th, to Monday, May 27th. Gates open at 10:00 am with live music taking place from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm on each of the days.

There will be a wide range of food concessions at Blackmore Gardens throughout the festival including Thai and Caribbean flavours, stone-fired pizzas, mouth-watering Mediterranean food, world salads, savoury and sweet pancakes, fully loaded fries with a multiple choice of toppings, gourmet burgers, and of course, you can satisfy your thirst with a comprehensive bar run by award-winning Branscombe Brewery.

Visit our merchandise stand to grab a festival T-Shirt or Tote Bags and support our artistes further and purchase a CD or vinyl to take home and continue listening. We also have the Funky Bin Man pop-up vinyl store with an eclectic selection of jazz, funk, and soul records and CDs.

There is fantastic shopping available within the town, take a stroll along the seafront Esplanade or take in the breathtaking views and coastal walks.

There is so much to hear and see – we are here to make your weekend a memorable one!

We gratefully acknowledge and thank all our festival partners, patrons, advertisers, and venues for their support and for sharing our exciting vision.

Thank you for being part of something special and enjoy your visit to Sidmouth and the festival.



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# TONY HADLEY

**We proudly present an exceptional evening headline concert with the incredible Tony Hadley, at the 2024 Sidmouth International Jazz and Blues festival.**

Tony will be performing some of the greatest swing songs from a classic era of music, alongside stylish reworkings of his own classic hits. Repertoire will include songs made famous by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, and Frank Sinatra; alongside solo songs as well as Spandau hits like 'True' and 'Gold' that introduced the world to his iconic voice.

Tony will be joined as ever by his fabulous band and, alongside a swinging brass section.

Tony says: "My love of swing music began when I was young. The preparation for Sunday lunch was never without the classic sounds of Sinatra, Bennett and many more... Then years later, when we formed our first band at school which eventually would become Spandau Ballet, I was reminded by my parents that although I loved punk rock, if I were serious about pursuing a career as a professional singer, never to forget the classic jazz vocalists.

I want audiences to enjoy a night of amazing songs from an incredible era of music alongside some great

songs from my own repertoire."

Tony is London born and bred, he thought his future lay in medicine until as a young lad he won a holiday singing competition and decided his vocation was to sing.... The rest is history! Tony

went on to front 80s New Romantic band Spandau Ballet, earning himself the accolade of being one of pop music's greatest vocalists.

The band had numerous chart-topping singles

and albums all over the world, including the epic "Through the Barricades" and of course the international number one "True" and the unofficial London Olympics theme "Gold".

**PERFORMING SOME OF THE GREATEST SWING SONGS FROM A CLASSIC ERA OF MUSIC AS WELL AS REWORKED VERSIONS FROM HIS OWN REPERTOIRE!**

## INFORMATION

- Tickets: From £45.00 (Children under 5 free, under 12 half price).
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm.
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
- No food and drink is permitted into the venue, with the exception of water.
- Please bring appropriate clothing for cool evenings.
- Terms and conditions apply.

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**YAMAHA**  
*Make Waves*

**The festival is delighted to welcome the Soulful and Funky sounds of MF Robots as they perform a special double bill evening show on Friday 24 May at Blackmore Gardens with Roachford.**

Collaborating for the first time while recording and performing with one of the UK's most commercially successful Acid Jazz bands The Brand-New Heavies in 2013, founder and drummer Jan Kincaid and vocalist Dawn Joseph discovered immediate musical chemistry and began writing songs together right away.

They soon left the band to concentrate on their own work, starting MF Robots (Music for Robots) and releasing an eponymous debut in 2018.

The band have toured the world and were personally asked by Lenny Kravitz to support him on his last European Arena tour – The band's latest record 'Break the Wall' is out on BBE Records and including contributions from studio legends, Gail Anne Dorsey (David Bowie) and Cory Wong (Vulfpeck).

MF Robots – their name, a subtle dig at how generic today's music climate has become – based around Joseph's effusive vocals, mindful of soul's golden age but no revival, and Kincaid's killer

rhythms. Touchstones for Joseph are Anita Baker, Gladys Knight, and Whitney; their classicism viewed here through a modern lens.

Dawn Joseph is a vibrant personality, both on and off stage, with a rich musical past – she started out playing bass with Phil Collins' band and has sung with acts as diverse as Kylie Minogue, Michael McDonald and CeeLo Green – she is a part of that lineage that connects Rick James, Nile Rodgers, and Grace Jones. Her attire, which she designs and makes herself, is flamboyant and colourful and she carries herself with a flair and verve.



## INFORMATION

- Tickets: From £30.00 (Children under 5 free, under 12 half price).
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm.
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
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**We are delighted to welcome the talented Andrew Roachford and his incredible band to perform a special double bill evening of fabulous music at Blackmore Gardens.**

Roachford has become one of the most compelling and consistent rock and soul artists the UK has produced, since Cuddly Toy (a mainstay of radio airplay for over three decades) reached number four in the charts back in 1988.

He has released 10 studio albums and several greatest hits collections, been sought-after as a songwriter by the likes of Michael Jackson, Joss Stone and Chaka Khan, and consistently toured on his own and with contemporaries including Terence Trent D'Arby and The Christians.

For the past nine years, he has been part of Mike + the Mechanics, recording with Mike Rutherford's post-Genesis band and playing live with them across the world. In 2019, Roachford received an MBE for Services to Music.

When the Princess Royal asked him what he does, Roachford replied "I try to evoke emotions from people through music."

And so, in 2020, Andrew Roachford found himself writing and recording new music for his album

"Twice in a Lifetime". The single "High on Love" reached an impressive 5 weeks of Radio 2 A-list airplay, the track echoes Womack and Womack in both its celebration of the purity of love and the acknowledgement that love can often come from

a dark place. To coincide with the album release, Roachford embarked on a run of UK & European dates throughout 2021 and 2022.

Roachford is someone who channels the energy of James Brown before going

on stage each night, and who, on record, summons up the spirit of everyone from Al Green to Joe Cocker.

When he sings, you listen.

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### INFORMATION

- Tickets: From £30.00  
[Children under 5 free, under 12 half price].
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm.
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
- No food and drink is permitted into the venue, with the exception of water.
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**Direct from Havana, Cuba the festival is thrilled to welcome Roberto Fonseca and his 'All-Star Band' to perform a special evening concert at Blackmore Gardens on Saturday 25th May.**

From his early days as a junior virtuoso pianist at the Buena Vista Social Club, Roberto Fonseca has been an accomplished and adventurous performer.

Previous releases have seen him blend traditional styles with a variety of modern influences. 2012's '7 Rayos' offered a cocktail of Cuban sounds, classical music, West-African instruments, electronic music and spoken word poetry.

He has worked with Baba Sissoko and Fatoumata Diawara in Africa on 2015's 'At Home' album. Most recently, on 2019's 'Yesun' he collaborated with Ibrahim Maalouf and Cuban rap's rising star Danay Suárez.

His latest album, 'La Gran Diversión', is a tribute to Cuban music's golden era, rejoicing in the wild nights of La Havana and Cabane Cubaine, Paris' most famous cabaret of the 1930s. Reverting to tradition might be mistaken for a step backwards by Fonseca but this is an album that bursts with vivacity in its takes on traditional styles. The Mambo, Rumba and Bolero are captured with real verve.

'La Gran Diversión' is a joy throughout, brimming with emotion and the best ensemble playing, an evocative trip to Cuba without the carbon footprint or the technological challenge of having to invent a time machine.

Regardless of whether you know your mambo, rumba or bolero steps, put your glad rags on – you won't be able to resist swaying your hips to melodies played by the man who many believe personifies the revival of Cuban music.

**ROBERTO FONSECA IS ONE OF THE  
WORLD'S GREAT PIANIST AND ONE  
OF THE FINEST OF CUBA'S NEW  
GENERATION OF MUSICIANS**

## INFORMATION

- Tickets: From £30.00  
[Children under 5 free, under 12 half price]
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
- No food and drink is permitted into the venue, with the exception of water.
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**The festival proudly presents Ruby Turner in concert on Sunday 26 May at Blackmore Gardens. Ruby Turner is a national and international treasure, having already been awarded with the prestigious Gold Badge Award, for her contribution to British music.**

Ruby Turner was born in Jamaica and grew up in Montego Bay. Her Grandfather sang the lead in one of the Island's Gospel Groups. Moving to England when she was nine, Ruby has lived here ever since.

Her career to date has always had many unexpected twists and turns with major tours, theatre, and TV appearances, and touring with Jools Holland, the future continues to look positive.

On 4 June 2012 Ruby performed 'You Are So Beautiful' with Jools Holland at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert outside Buckingham Palace in London. In autumn 2012 Ruby was a guest judge on BBC 'The Choir: Sing While You Work with choirmaster Gareth Malone' and in 2013 Ruby was a guest judge on BBC 'Songs of praise gospel choirs' competition. In June 2016 Ruby was awarded an MBE.

Four albums and a "Best of" Compilation Album were all released to critical acclaim over the next

few years making Ruby a household name.

This period went on to spawn the hits 'I'd Rather Go Blind,' 'If You're Ready' (Come Go with Me) and in the American R'n'B chart, the Number 1 hit single 'It's Gonna Be Alright' – one of less than ten British records to achieve this!

To date, Ruby has released 17 albums plus the BBC's 'Live from Glastonbury', as well as appearing on releases by the likes of Brian Ferry, UB40, Steve Winwood and Mick Jagger. She is also one of the main singers in Jools Holland's R&B Orchestra, and features on many tracks on his Albums.

**SOUL, GOSPEL, AND R&B,  
RUBY TURNER IS TRULY  
THE GENUINE ARTICLE**

## INFORMATION

- Tickets: From £35.00  
[Children under 5 free, under 12 half price]
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
- No food and drink is permitted into the venue, with the exception of water.
- Please bring appropriate clothing for cool evenings.
- Terms and conditions apply.



EVENT PARTNERS

**Vitesse**



SIDMOUTH DESIGN



**We are delighted to welcome the award – winning Elles Bailey to perform at the festival’s main outdoor stage as part of our special double bill festival finale on Monday 27 May at Blackmore Gardens with Mica Millar.**

Elles Bailey is a Blues and Americana artiste who rises like a rocket in the music sky by day, both on the European and the American side of the Atlantic. Elles Bailey wanders unchallenged and freely between the various styles of roots music and receives awards both as best Blues artiste and as best Americana artiste.

She has received formidable recognition on home soil recently, both from the Blues and Americana community.

She has accomplished the feat of winning both the UK Blues Awards and the UK Americana Awards. When you listen to her music it makes perfect sense. In that sense, she is like a young British version of Mavis Staples.

The starting point for Elles Bailey’s music lies somewhere between Memphis and Nashville, with songs that draw feeling from swampy blues and soul while conveying it with a messy country attitude

Elles Bailey is a human dynamo with a powerful voice that wanders the worlds of Americana and

Blues and accomplishes the feat of garnering recognition and accolades in both.

The year 2020 started with a bang for the widely touring singer as “Little Piece of Heaven”, written with famed Memphis and Nashville giants Bobby Wood and Dan Auerbach (of The Black Keys), picked up “UK Song of the Year” on UK Americana Awards. ‘Little Piece of Heaven’ is taken from her chart-topping album ‘Road I Call Home’ which was released to rave reviews and awarded ‘Album of the Year’ at the UK Blues Awards.

The album rocketed onto both the Official UK Country Charts and the UK Americana Charts and reached No.1 on the Amazon Blues Bestseller list.



**INFORMATION**

- Tickets: From £25.00 (Children under 5 free, under 12 half price)
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
- No food and drink is permitted into the venue, with the exception of water.
- Please bring appropriate clothing for cool evenings.
- Terms and conditions apply.



# MICA MILLAR

A DOUBLE BILL WITH ELLES BAILEY

**The festival is delighted to welcome the incredibly talented Mica Millar and her band to perform a special festival finale evening show on Monday 27 May at Blackmore Gardens.**

Releasing her debut album 'Heaven Knows' to critical acclaim in 2023, Mica Millar has quickly become one of the brightest new stars of British Soul music, picking up Jazz FM's prestigious 'Soul Act of The Year 2022' award alongside a nomination for 'Breakthrough Act of The Year' and featuring on the front covers of iconic Blues & Soul Magazine, amidst international radio support and an array of five star reviews and acclaim from the likes of Echoes, The Daily Express, Record Collector, Music Week, The Official Charts and Word Play.

Since embarking on her first national UK tour in April, Mica has headlined two sold out nights at London's infamous Jazz Cafe and a sell-out headline show at Cheltenham Jazz Festival plus a performance with The BBC Concert Orchestra televised on BBC4. Mica has also supported soul legend Lionel Richie for two nights at Blenheim Palace.

Mastered at the iconic Abbey Road Studios, 'Heaven Knows' is self-written, arranged and produced, exploring themes of human nature, spirituality, love, oppression, inequality, and empowerment, drawing

inspiration from a plethora of vintage soundscapes, most notably, soul, blues, gospel, and jazz.

Mica has received support from the likes of Trevor Nelson (BBC Radio 2), Craig Charles (6 Music), Victoria Jane (BBC Radio 1), Clive Anderson (BBC Radio 4: Loose Ends), Good Morning, Sunday and Jazz FM who supported with Album of The Week and a continued string of A-listed singles.

Mica's distinct vision is one that's earned her renowned credibility within the industry and it's her creativity, drive and attention to detail that has made 'Heaven Knows' the album it is – a timeless

collection of modern soul showcasing a confident new artist, quickly establishing herself as a new and unique voice in British Soul music.



## INFORMATION

- Tickets: From £25.00 (Children under 5 free, under 12 half price)
- Gates 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair.
- Rugs on the ground will not be permitted.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and food concessions available on site.
- No food and drink is permitted into the venue, with the exception of water.
- Please bring appropriate clothing for cool evenings.
- Terms and conditions apply.

EVENT PARTNERS

**Vitesse**



SIDMOUTH DESIGN

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SOFT SERVE

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CAKES

ESPLANADE   
EX10 8NP





# LIVE AT THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB



## FRIDAY 24 MAY

8.00PM

### THE JOHNNY MARS BLUES BAND *THE FINEST DELTA AND CHICAGO BLUES EXPERIENCE*

**Johnny Mars, known for his soul-stirring blues harmonica and vocals, has enthralled global audiences for decades.**

Performing with a talented ensemble, attendees can expect the pinnacle of Delta and Chicago blues. Johnny's career spans major festivals and tours in the USA, Australia, Europe, and the UK, where he now resides.

Influenced by harmonica legends like Little Walter and Junior Wells, Johnny seamlessly blends acoustic and electronic techniques, reminiscent of his 1980s fame.

Adored for his evolving vocal prowess, his repertoire extends beyond hits like "Johnny B. Goode" to include classics like Ray Charles's "Georgia" And spirituals like "Amazing Grace," often embellished with improvised harmonica riffs.

Raised on jazz and the sounds of Muddy Waters, he joined his first blues band at fourteen in New York. From Woodstock to forming the Johnny Mars Band in California, his life reflects a lifelong commitment to the blues.

## SUNDAY 26 MAY

8.00PM

### CRAIG MILVERTON & JOANNE EDEN *AN OSCAR FOR ELLA*

**The Craig Milverton Quartet and vocalist Joanna Eden pay homage to the legendary pairing of Oscar Peterson and Ella Fitzgerald in "An Oscar for Ella."**

This celebration of two jazz icons features timeless classics like "Tenderly" and "Dream a Little Dream." Joanna, hailed as one of the UK's finest singer-pianists, engages audiences with her versatile style spanning jazz, soul, bossa nova, and blues. With six solo albums and performances alongside luminaries like Van Morrison and Tom Jones, she commands stages with warmth and charisma. Craig, acclaimed as Britain's closest to Oscar Peterson, dazzles with his virtuoso piano skills and extensive jazz repertoire.

As a sought-after accompanist, his trios have backed American soloists like Scott Hamilton and Warren Vache, solidifying his status as a jazz luminary.

## INFORMATION

- Tickets: £25.00.
- Doors 7.00pm, performance 8.00pm.
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar.
- No food or drink to be brought into the venue
- Terms and conditions apply.

• FOOD SERVED LUNCHTIME & EVENING •



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We would love to welcome you to St John's School in Sidmouth.

Children can attend St John's from the age of 2½ until they are 16. Whilst the majority are local day pupils, St John's also offers a vibrant boarding experience which can be 'full', 'weekly' or 'flexi'.

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**ST JOHN'S SCHOOL**  
SIDMOUTH, UNITED KINGDOM



# THE BEATING HEART OF THE FESTIVAL



**A hidden escape in the centre of Sidmouth, Blackmore Gardens is beautiful, enclosed, and sheltered. You will find sunny lawns with specimen trees and warm south facing borders, to areas of deep shade. All areas of the garden are easily accessible by paved footpaths.**

This wonderful park is the perfect venue to host our three days of exceptional outdoor music performances on our dedicated performance stage with five artistes daily, from Saturday 25 to Monday 27 May.

Blackmore Gardens is an ideal spot to spend a day in sunshine listening to outstanding live music, with a fantastic bar and a wide variety of catering concessions.

To keep the little ones entertained we will be providing children's games and entertainment during the three days of live music. For the daytime music you are welcome to bring a blanket or folding chair and spend the day with family and friends, in a relaxing environment listening to superb live music throughout the day from 11.00am - 5.30pm, gates open at 10.00am, so come early and grab the best spot.

We then close the site for a short period whilst we set up for our evening headline concerts and gates re-open at 7.00pm for all the evening shows. Artistes

performing in the evenings include Tony Hadley, Roachford, MF Robots, Roberto Fonseca, Ruby Turner, Mica Millar and Elles Bailey.

## FOOD & DRINK CONCESSIONS

**The festival has arranged a diverse range of quality food concessions from local and regional producers for you to enjoy:**

- ✔ Licensed bar by Branscombe Brewery, serving beers, wines, spirits, and soft drinks.
- ✔ Coffee and espresso Martinis by Rincon Coffee
- ✔ Savoury and sweet Pancrêpes.
- ✔ Fully loaded Fries with Mexican toppings pulled pork and much more.
- ✔ Delights from the grill and sweet treats from Fat Fox Foods.
- ✔ You cannot beat a Big Bear Gourmet Burger.
- ✔ Delicious wood-fired pizzas from Pizza Butlers.
- ✔ A taste of the Caribbean from Fancy That.
- ✔ Mouth-watering Thai Cuisine from Thai Food to Go.
- ✔ World Food with Mediterranean salads and grilled fish and meat.
- ✔ Delicious ice creams courtesy of East Devon Ices.



## SIDMOUTHJAZZ.COM FOR FULL PROGRAMME AND BOOKING

Visit a musical haven at the Funky Bin Man's' pop-up record shop in the gardens from Friday, May 24th to Monday, May 27th, explore a treasure trove of classic vinyl and CDs. Specialising in Rare Groove, Funk, Soul, Jazz, Latin, and beyond, there is something for every music lover.

It is not permitted to bring food and drink into Blackmore Gardens, apart from water and ideally in reusable bottles (no glass is allowed on site).

The festival is committed to reducing its carbon footprint at every opportunity and we collaborate with suppliers and partners that have this same ethos. We have implemented several recycling policies, including reusable cups at our main bar that can be purchased for just £1.00 and are yours to keep. You are welcome to bring your own drinking cup to be filled at the bar.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ✚ No food and drinks to be brought into the park, confiscated items will be looked after for collection later.
- ✚ Bag checks will be operated on entrance by our security team.
- ✚ Licensed bar and food concessions on site.
- ✚ Reusable cups in operation at the festival main bar.
- ✚ Wheelchair access.
- ✚ Toilet facilities.
- ✚ Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.
- ✚ Well-behaved dogs are permitted; owners must take full responsibility for their welfare and behaviour.

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL IF YOU CAN ALL DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED AND ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE BEST LIVE MUSIC

Whilst this year there is an entrance fee to the gardens these prices are heavily subsidised, to encourage accessibility and represents exceptional value for the high – quality music that we are proud to present.



Presenting a vast and vibrant programme of music during the festival is not possible without financial support from various partners and the generous support of our festival attendees.

The festival secures grant funding, sponsorship from the local business community and support from individuals, which is greatly appreciated however, even with this support as a festival we still rely upon the generosity of those that attend to kindly donate which enables us to ensure that we meet our ever-increasing costs and that we are able provide you with the best possible music experience.

You can make a much-appreciated donation at Blackmore Gardens in cash or by card. You will see our lovely volunteers with donation buckets and donation boxes at entrances.

Thank you for supporting the festival and live music.



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*‘One-Man Blues Band’*

**Vince Lee Blues  
& Sophie Lord**

Saturday 25 May 8.00pm

*‘Classic Blues’*

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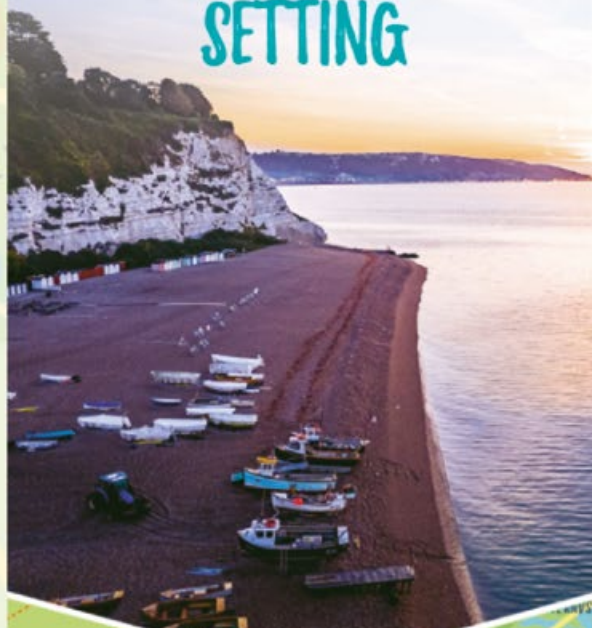
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# SATURDAY

DAYTIME STAGE



11.00AM

## BETTY ACCORSI

ITALIAN SAXOPHONIST, MULTI-  
INSTRUMENTALIST, AND COMPOSER

**Betty Accorsi, an Italian saxophonist, multi-instrumentalist, and composer, now resides in the UK. Trained at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatoire in Milan, she's explored diverse musical realms from contemporary ensembles to progressive rock with Psicosuono.**

Pursuing jazz, Betty pursued an MMus at Trinity Laban Conservatoire, studying under London jazz luminaries like Jean Toussaint and Bruno Heinen.

Seeking a broader artistic approach, she completed her master's at Goldsmiths University, graduating with distinction. Betty leads two active projects: Sloth in the City, an acoustic duo blending jazz with Celtic folk, and the Betty Accorsi Quartet, known for blending Wayne Shorter, folk, and punk.

Her latest album "Growing Roots," featuring renowned pianist Daniel Hewson, Scott MacDonald on drums, and Andy Hamill on bass, released on July 15, 2022.



12:10AM

## MOSCOW DRUG CLUB

30'S BERLIN & HOT CLUB FRANCE

**Moscow Drug Club is a whimsical amalgamation of 1930s Berlin Cabaret, Hot Club de France, Nuevo Tango, and Gypsy Campfire, wandering into the darkness of Eastern European streets in search of a mythical jam session between Django Reinhardt and Tom Waits.**

Their repertoire blends original compositions with classics by Jaques Brel, Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits, and Eartha Kitt, creating an intoxicating musical journey.

With performances at prestigious venues and festivals like WOMAD, Royal Albert Hall, and Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival, Moscow Drug Club invites you to step into their darkly comic world with a wry smile. Witness their "transcendent" and "knockout" performances that are "heady" and "inspiring." Join the adventure—mind the stairs and immerse yourself in their captivating sounds.



1.20PM

## PHIL DAWSON

VERSATILE GUITARIST AND COMPOSER

**Phil Dawson, a versatile guitarist and composer from the UK, works across African, Brazilian, Jazz, and Funk genres. In London, he has collaborated with luminaries like Hugh Masekela and Tony Allen, with a jazz emphasis.**

Proficient on guitar and Fender Rhodes, Dawson leads a group known for its seamless flow, enriched by flute virtuoso Rowland Sutherland. Percussion, inspired by Brazilian rhythms, features prominently. Khadijatou Doyneh of The Heliocentrics also contributes.

Phil's debut album on Funkiwala/Kudos showcases Afro- and improv-infused compositions. He collaborates with iconic African musicians and London bands like Lokkhi Terra and Dele Sosimi, earning praise from BBC's Gilles Peterson and Jazz FM's Chris Phillips.



2.30PM

## RUSSELL SINCLAIR & THE SMOKIN LOCOS

FORMIDABLE GUITARIST AND  
BLUES AFICIONADO

**Russell Sinclair is a celebrated figure in the South West blues scene, leading The Smokin' Locos from Plymouth.**

They grace numerous venues across Devon, Cornwall, and the wider South West, alongside appearances at countrywide music festivals. They appear regularly at Bristol's iconic 'Old Duke.' Russell, a formidable guitarist and blues aficionado, leads a dynamic ensemble that emphasizes collective creativity on stage. He introduces The Smokin' Locos' philosophy, where line-up changes foster innovation and diversity, reflecting both deliberate choices and logistical considerations. This approach keeps performances dynamic and fresh, incorporating new sounds and ideas to captivate audiences.

4.00PM

## IAN SHAW

AWARD WINNING JAZZ PIANIST,  
SINGER & SONGWRITER

See page 35 for information



### INFORMATION

- Tickets: £12.50 day, £25 for 3 days, more on the door (Under 12's free)
- Gates 11am, performances from 12pm, site closes 5.30pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and concessions on site
- No food or drink to be brought into the venue, with the exception of water
- Terms and conditions apply

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EVENT PARTNERS



**Vitesse**



**Catch Ian Shaw's captivating performance on the outdoor music stage on Saturday, May 25th.**

Ian, accompanied by his stellar band, will be enchanting the audience with songs from his highly acclaimed album, 'Greek Street Friday.'

Joining him are Jamie Safir on Piano and Keyboards, Alex Haines on Guitar and Slide Guitar, Edwin Ireland on Double Bass, Ian Thomas on Drums, and backing vocalists Matt Kent, Mica Townsend, and Polly Gibbons.

The songs featured in 'Greek Street Friday' offer autobiographical glimpses into 1980s London and New York, exploring themes of love, loss, basement bars, poets, friendships, and faraway places. The music, soulful, funky, and bold, draws inspiration from Shaw's early musical influences including Bowie, Steely Dan, Al Jarreau, early Elton John, Billy Joel, and Rickie Lee Jones. Co-written by pianist Jamie Safir, Shaw recorded the album earlier this year, with Safir also serving as producer.

With a remarkable career spanning three decades, Ian Shaw isn't just a gifted jazz singer but also a talented pianist, songwriter, presenter, record producer, and actor. His contributions to jazz have earned him two BBC jazz awards (in

2004 and 2007), a Parliamentary award in 2018, and numerous nominations, including from Downbeat Magazine (2017) and Jazz FM (2013 and 2019). For over a decade, Ian has hosted the weekly Ronnie

Scott's Radio Show on Jazz FM, syndicated worldwide. He has recently ventured into podcasting with "Not Even Music," now in its third series.



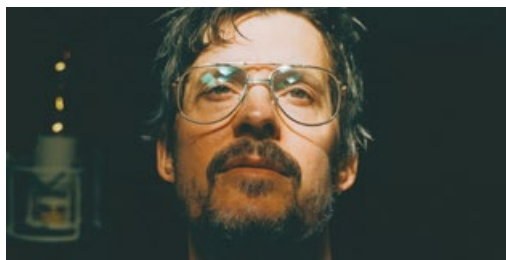
**INFORMATION**

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# SUNDAY

DAYTIME STAGE



11.00AM

## PETE JOSEF

A REVERED MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST  
AND PRODUCER

**Five years have elapsed since the release of Pete Josef's debut album "Colour," a sensation that reverberated worldwide among music aficionados and critics alike.**

The anticipation for its follow-up has been palpable among his steadily growing fanbase. "I Rise With The Birds," justifies the wait.

Emerging from Bristol's vibrant music scene, Pete Josef has evolved into a revered multi-instrumentalist and producer, seamlessly blending jazz, soul, pop, and electronic elements. Collaborating with luminaries like Manu Delago, Rag'n'Bone Man, and Roni Size, he has honed his craft.

Josef enlists longtime Bristol collaborators and new-found musical inspirations, resulting in a tapestry of lush orchestral arrangements, subtle electronic nuances, and heartfelt performances. Despite the grandiosity of the compositions, they retain the intimacy and sincerity synonymous with Pete Josef's artistry.

### SUPPORT YOUR FESTIVAL

The festival's subsidised music programme & free education programme would not be possible without the generous support from businesses, grants and individual donations. Please consider additional support and see one of our volunteers to make a cash or card donation.



12:10

## KIRRIS RIVIERE & THE DELTA BRUIT

AUTHENTIC BLUES REMINISCENT OF  
THE DARK SOUTHSIDE CHICAGO  
CLUBS

**Emerging from Bristol's dynamic blues scene, this exceptional band has swiftly carved out a niche with their soul-stirring melodies, electrifying stage presence, and a critically acclaimed debut album released just last November.**

Kirris Riviere, a veteran of the blues circuit for over a decade, leads the charge with his unmatched passion and talent. Pete Warner on drums, teamed with Evan Newman on keys, along with Bryan Jones on bass and Alastair Toms on lead guitar, the ensemble delivers a captivating performance that resonates deeply with audiences.

La Hora Del Blues in Barcelona commends their genuine approach to the blues, stating, "Deserves recognition for their authentic blues reminiscent of the dark southside Chicago clubs. Very impressive."



1.20PM

## LADY NADE

TRIBUTE TO THE TIMELESS LEGACY OF  
NINA SIMONE

**Don't miss 'Lady Nade Sings Nina Simone' – a tribute to the timeless legacy of Nina Simone. Lady Nade, renowned for her exceptional vocal talent and standing tall in the UK music scene, promises an unforgettable experience.**

Lady Nade's unparalleled voice draws comparisons to the legendary Simone, showcasing her own distinctive style. Recognized for her vocal prowess, Lady Nade pays homage to those who shaped her journey, particularly Nina Simone, an icon of the twentieth century.

Simone's music, a beacon of liberation and empowerment, continues to resonate globally, with millions touched by her recordings. Lady Nade, acknowledging Simone's pioneering spirit, celebrates her enduring legacy alongside esteemed UK musicians.



### INFORMATION

- Tickets: £12.50 day, £25 for 3 days, more on the door (Under 12's free)
- Gates 11am, performances from 12pm, site closes 5.30pm
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- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and concessions on site
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- Terms and conditions apply



2.30PM

## THE JAZZ DEFENDERS

THE MOST EXCITING BRITISH JAZZ  
GROUP

**Led by George Cooper, one of the UK's premier jazz pianists, The Jazz Defenders are ardent champions of Blue Note jazz, infusing their compositions with raw energy and vibrant melodies.**

With electrifying performances at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club and other esteemed venues, they captivate audiences with their modern interpretation of classic hard bop, blending soul, jazz, hip hop, and groove seamlessly. Cooper, the group's visionary, has collaborated with a diverse array of artists, including Hans Zimmer, U2, and MF Doom.

The ensemble, comprising Jake McMurchie (tenor sax), Nick Malcolm (trumpet), Ian Matthews (drums), Will Harris (bass), and George Cooper (piano/keyboards), boasts some of the UK's finest talent. Praised by Jamie Cullum and lauded as the "most exciting British jazz group" by Music Republic Magazine UK, The Jazz Defenders deliver gutsy, enthralling performances that mesmerize audiences worldwide.

4.00PM

## SNOWBOY & THE LATIN SECTION

EUROPE'S PREMIER AFRO-CUBAN JAZZ  
ENSEMBLE

**See page 39 for information**



# Renewable Energy at Fords

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EVENT PARTNERS



**There is no denying the pyrotechnic prowess of Snowboy And The Latin Section, reigning as Europe's premier Afro-Cuban Jazz ensemble. Since their inaugural release in 1985, they have unleashed 16 albums and enraptured audiences across 22 countries, from the Netherlands to Australia, Japan to Scotland.**

Snowboy's percussive virtuosity has resonated alongside an illustrious array of Jazz and Latin luminaries including Airtó Moreira, Deodato, Makoto Kuriya, Herman Olivera, Flaco Jimenez, Jon Lucien, James Taylor Quartet, Big John Patton, and Incognito, among others. Moreover, he stands at the helm of this celebrated Afro-Cuban Jazz collective, comprising the UK's most dynamic and passionate Jazz and Latin musicians.

Their music, a fusion of Salsa, Mambo, and Latin Jazz, encapsulates the infectious spirit of 1970s New York block parties, paying homage to icons such as Eddie Palmieri and Tito Puente. Their latest album, 'New York Afternoon', soared to the summit of the

Latin Jazz chart and secured the sixth position on the Jazz chart on Amazon. It also claimed the top spot as the Salsa album on Colombia's radio station

'Salsa Exitos Del Mundo' for two consecutive weeks. Additionally, their tracks have been embraced by Jazz and Salsa aficionados worldwide, receiving extensive airplay across various radio stations.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience the electrifying rhythms and vibrant energy of Snowboy and The Latin Section live on stage!

**"A FUSION OF SALSA, MAMBO, AND LATIN JAZZ, ENCAPSULATING THE INFECTIOUS SPIRIT OF 1970S NEW YORK BLOCK PARTIES"**

**INFORMATION**

- Tickets: £12.50 day, £25 for 3 days, more on the door (Under 12's free)
- Gates 11am, performances from 12pm, site closes 5.30pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and concessions on site
- No food or drink to be brought into the venue, with the exception of water
- Terms and conditions apply



# MONDAY

**DAYTIME STAGE**



11.00AM

## ORQUESTA MAMBARITO

**SCORCHING SALSA TUNES**

**London's Orquesta Mambarito electrifies the Sidmouth International Jazz & Blues Festival 2024 with their scorching salsa tunes.**

Their 12-member ensemble ignites the stage with fiery renditions of 70s classics from New York, Colombia, and Puerto Rico, boasting infectious Latin Caribbean rhythms, bold horn sections, and captivating vocals.

Led by bandleader David Strahan, Mambarito emerged during the lockdown, crafting online salsa classics recordings and gaining a fervent following within London's salsa and Latin dance communities. Their debut single, "The Mambarito Mambo," produced by Colombian musician Dorance Lorza, is now available on major streaming platforms.

Praised for their vibrant energy and irresistible groove, Mambarito's performances are hailed as unparalleled within the salsa scene, drawing both music aficionados and dance enthusiasts alike.

### SUPPORT YOUR FESTIVAL

The festival's subsidised music programme & free education programme would not be possible without the generous support from businesses, grants and individual donations. Please consider additional support and see one of our volunteers to make a cash or card donation.



12:10

## STEVE BANKS QUINTET

**POWERFUL MODERN JAZZ, DEEP CONTEMPORARY GROOVES**

**In 2023, Steve Banks made a significant mark in the jazz world with his debut album "Emboldened," released on Stoney Lane Records.**

Praised for its distinctive sound, the album showcases powerful modern jazz, deep grooves, and expressive improvisation from a quintet of celebrated UK musicians. Banks, alongside his remarkable ensemble, will perform tracks from "Emboldened" and unveil new compositions.

The Steve Banks Quintet features Banks on guitar, Sam Crockatt on saxophone, Rebecca Nash on piano, Henrik Jensen on bass, and Mark Whitlam on drums.

Critics laud the album's heartfelt compositions and honest performances, with BBC Music Magazine hailing it as a "chronicle of hard-won optimism." With its captivating originality and panoramic sound, "Emboldened" promises an invigorating listening experience, deserving of wider recognition in the jazz community.



1.20PM

## JONAH HITCHENS BAND

**SOULFUL INTENSITY AND  
PSYCHEDELIC GROOVE**

**Jonah Hitchens epitomizes musical fusion, seamlessly blending soul, funk, psychedelia, and jazz into an electrifying concoction.**

Imagine if Curtis Mayfield and Jimi Hendrix collaborated – Jonah’s sound embodies that same soulful intensity and psychedelic groove. Leading his dynamic 8-piece ensemble, Jonah delivers soulful vocals, mesmerizing guitar riffs, and boundless charisma.

Fresh from the studio, Jonah debuts a thrilling new show, previewing tracks from his forthcoming LP, ‘Sunset Circus,’ laden with retro vibes and nostalgic influences spanning the vibrant 60s to the laid-back 70s. Influenced by the likes of Bill Withers, Parliament, and Pink Floyd, Jonah’s music is a high-speed journey through musical eras. Get ready for a musical joyride at 100mph!



### INFORMATION

- Tickets: £12.50 day, £25 for 3 days, more on the door (Under 12’s free)
- Gates 11am, performances from 12pm, site closes 5.30pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair
- Wheelchair access.
- Licensed bar and concessions on site
- No food or drink to be brought into the venue, with the exception of water
- Terms and conditions apply



2.30PM

## TOBY LEE

**YOUNG BLUES ARTIST OF THE YEAR  
2024**

**At just 19, Toby Lee boasts a musical journey that spans beyond his years. From receiving a ukulele from his grandma at six to becoming a sensation with a get-well jam for BB King at ten, Toby’s talent has taken him far.**

He made waves in the West End production of School of Rock and won an Olivier Award. Toby’s online jams landed him on global TV shows like TFI Friday and Ellen Degeneres. He’s shared stages with icons like Buddy Guy and Joe Bonamassa, and his album “Aquarius” hit number one.

Now, with a Gibson artist endorsement and a signature amp, Toby is gearing up for the release of his first original album, “House on Fire,” and a packed 2024 tour, including shows with Jools Holland.

Just last month Toby won the prestigious accolade of Young Blues Artist of the Year at the British Blues Awards.

4.00PM

## ACANTHA LANG

**A SOULFUL FORCE BORN IN THE  
HEART OF NEW ORLEANS**

**See page 43 for information**

# Everything you'd expect from a great local pub



## **The Balfour Arms is a fantastic community pub that you would be proud to call your local.**

Our chef's are very proud of the food they produce, from the children's food through to the best steaks, grills and burgers. Check the menu and have a look at the extensive range of good, home cooked food. There is going to be something for everyone.

The fantastic restaurant is table service and can also be hired as a function room for all events from weddings and engagements, funeral receptions, birthday parties to children's parties. Hire of the function room is free, and we will ensure that it is decorated exactly to your specifications.

There is great entertainment from live music, open mic nights, karaoke and more. Not forgetting Sky Sports and BT Sport showing all the great sporting events. Look out for family

entertainment, summer parties and barbecues. We have a great outdoor area with covered patio, children's play area and outdoor games.

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



EVENT PARTNERS



**Introducing Acantha Lang: a soulful force born in the heart of New Orleans, now gracing the vibrant streets of London with her mesmerizing melodies. On the 30th of June 2023, Acantha unveiled her much-anticipated debut album, “Beautiful Dreams”.**

A journey of triumph and talent, Acantha’s rise to acclaim has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Her recent U.S. television debut on CBS Saturday Morning captivated over 3 million viewers, marking a significant milestone in her burgeoning career. A gifted songwriter,

Acantha’s collaborations include work with Grammy-nominated artist Robert Randolph, earning her praise and endorsements from industry legends like Joe Bonamassa and Robert Elms. Notable tastemaker Craig Charles hailed her as “brilliant” and “destined for world domination” in the liner notes of his compilation album, “The Craig Charles Trunk of Funk Volume 2,” featuring Acantha’s hit single, “He Said/She Said.”

Her accolades span continents, from receiving the “New Artist of the Year Award” at the Soul Tracks Readers’ Choice Awards to being crowned “Blues Artist of the Year” by none other than Jools Holland at the Boisdale Music Awards. A proud member of the Recording Academy’s (Grammy) 2022 class, Acantha’s

single “It’s Gonna Be Alright” garnered attention on the first round of ballots for the 65th Grammy Awards nominations.

Acantha’s music resonates globally, boasting over 1.6 million streams and securing coveted spots on top Spotify playlists, including “Best Retro Songs of 2021” and “Best Funk Songs of 2022.” Stateside, she earned acclaim with KCRW’s “Top Tune of the Day” for her single “Ride

This Train” and captivated audiences on iHeart’s Night Traxx radio out of Houston, Texas.

“Beautiful Dreams” is Acantha’s magnum opus, seamlessly blending Stax-inspired funk

with the soulful hues of Southern blues. “Acantha’s storytelling prowess, rooted in age-old blues traditions and infused with contemporary relevance, promises an unforgettable listening experience.”



**INFORMATION**

- Tickets: £12.50 day, £25 for 3 days, more on the door (Under 12’s free)
- Gates 11am, performances from 12pm, site closes 5.30pm
- No seating is provided, please feel free to bring a folding chair
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# FRINGE VENUES

## FREE EVENTS

Experience superb FREE live music and warm hospitality at an array of fringe venues during the festival between Friday 24 to Monday 27 May. Please see the details below of the venues and the music that is being presented. For venue address details see page 63.

### FRIDAY 24 MAY

6.00PM

#### MARTIN MCNEILL SOLO BLUES

*The Best Bottleneck Blues*

RINCON COFFEE

TICKETED – ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED

6.30PM

#### TOM MORGAN TRIO PLUS SPECIAL GUEST LOUIS CONNOR

*Cool Jazz and Vocals*

THE BLUE BALL INN



### SATURDAY 25 MAY

12.00PM

#### LOUIS CONNOR JAZZ DUO

*Acoustic Jazz Vocals & Guitar*

THE ELIZABETH HOTEL

3.00PM

#### KIERON GARRETT QUARTET

*Cool Modern Jazz*

THE MARINE



8.00PM

#### ADAM SWEET BAND

*Broody Blues & Roots Rock*

DUKES SIDMOUTH

4.00PM

#### MARK HARRISON BAND

*Roots & Blues at Its Finest*

THE SWAN INN

8.00PM

#### JEFF 'THE HORSE' HORSEY

*Incredible One-Man Blues Band*

THE RADWAY INN

8.00PM

#### TOM MORGAN TRIO PLUS SPECIAL GUEST LOUIS CONNOR

*Cool Jazz and Vocals*

DUKES SIDMOUTH

8.30PM

#### VOCALIST JOHN SUMNER

*'Songs from the American Songbook'*

G&O

8.00PM

#### VINCE LEE BLUES & SOPHIE LORD

*Classic Blues*

THE RADWAY INN





**SATURDAY 25 MAY** CONTINUED

**8.00PM**  
**STOMPIN DAVE ELECTRIC DUO**  
*Authentic Blues*  
THE BALFOUR ARMS

---

**8.30PM**  
**VICKI CAMPBELL TRIO**  
*Jazz & Soul Classics*  
G&O

---



**SUNDAY 26 MAY**

**12.00PM**  
**HARRY DOWELL**  
*Jazz Standards Trio*  
G&O

---

**1.00PM**  
**CHARLIE HEARNshaw JAZZ TRIO**  
*Cool Jazz Brunch*  
14 MILES EAST

---

**1.00PM**  
**JESSE MOLINS GUITAR DUO**  
*Cool Afternoon Jazz Guitar*  
THE CHATTERY CAFÉ

---

**3.00PM**  
**MARTIN MCNEILL SOLO BLUES**  
*Chicago & Delta Blues*  
THE MARINE

---

**4.00PM**  
**BLUES BBQ: SILENCE IN THE COURT OF BLUES**  
*Cutting Edge Blues*  
THE KINGS ARMS, OTTERTON

---

**4.00PM**  
**MJB FUNK & SOUL REVIEW**  
*Funky Jazz Barbeque*  
THE VOLUNTEER INN

---

**MONDAY 27 MAY**

**3.00PM**  
**BEN CARR DUO**  
*Passionate Blues Guitar*  
THE MARINE

---

**4.00PM**  
**KIERON GARRETT QUARTET**  
*Cool Afternoon Jazz & Cocktails*  
THE HARBOUR HOTEL

---





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We are a pub that serves food not a restaurant that sells drinks there's a big difference in our opinion and the local community spirit alongside seasonal visitors makes this a great pub to enjoy a few drinks and maybe take in some food.

Our Sunday roast is amongst the best locally with our signature slow roast brisket taking centre stage alongside a selection of other meat and veggie alternatives and 10 different vegetables with our Sunday fayre.

**To find out what is happening at The Volunteer Inn this week please visit our Facebook page @volleysid**

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# FREE EDUCATION EVENTS

Join us at the **2024 Sidmouth International Jazz and Blues Festival, East Devon** for our **three-day music education programme of events which takes place between Saturday 25 to Monday 27 May, and which also falls over the end May bank holiday weekend.**

Our dynamic education programme is free to attend and provides learning, inspiration, participation and is open to everyone of all ages and abilities. Whether you are an accomplished musician, super star in the making, or just starting out in music then we do hope that you will join us in Sidmouth, East Devon during the festival.

## WHAT'S ON AT SIDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH

### SATURDAY 25 MAY

#### JAZZ JAM SESSION

**10.30AM – 1.00PM**

The first of our curated Jazz Jams with an in-house band to support performers that wish to attend and participate. It will be supported by a house band of experienced performers to support attendees who wish to participate.

#### DRUM MASTERCLASS ROCK VS JAZZ WITH IAN MATTHEWS

**2.00PM – 3.00PM**

Having been a full-time member of British rock band Kasabian for 20 years, Ian Matthews continues to be one of the most influential drummers in the UK.

#### COMPOSITION & IMPROVISATION MASTERCLASS WITH GEORGE COOPER

**4.00PM – 5.00PM**

With a varied and comprehensive list of musical credits including Hans Zimmer, Nigel Kennedy, U2, MF Doom, Slum Village, The Brand-New Heavies and many others. The session will open to be open to Q&A after George demonstrates his unique approach to composing and improvisation.

### SUNDAY 26 MAY

#### VOCAL WORKSHOP WITH AWARD – WINNING JAZZ SINGER IAN SHAW

**1.00PM – 2.00PM**

Come and sing with multi-award winner and Sidmouth headliner, Ian Shaw. An experienced session singer, as well as an original and internationally respected jazz vocalist, Shaw has worked alongside some of the greatest choirs and orchestras in the world - and will fill this one hour session with technique and learning skills.



#### JAZZ WORKSHOP – JAZZ PIANIST & COMPOSER CRAIG MILVERTON

**3.00PM – 4.00PM**

Join jazz pianist Craig Milverton in this educational workshop offering the opportunity to gain experience in lyric interpretation and improvisation techniques, ensemble playing and group dynamics and much more.

### MONDAY 27 MAY

#### SAM MASSEY TRUMPET WORKSHOP

**10.30AM – 11.30AM**

Devon-based trumpet player Sam Massey will host a workshop for trumpet players of all ages focussed around developing jazz style and improvisation skills.



#### SUPERLOCRIAN CONCERT

**12.30PM – 1.30PM**

Led by highly regarded composer Sam Massey, this six-piece wind ensemble contains some of the country's leading jazz soloists, orchestral players, and world-class session musicians.

#### JAZZ JAM SESSION WITH SUPERLOCRIAN

**2.30PM - 5.00PM**

The second of our curated Jazz Jams with an in-house band to support performers that wish to attend and participate.



# FREE EDUCATION EVENTS FOR ALL TO ATTEND SATURDAY 25 TO MONDAY 27 MAY

## EVENT PARTNERS



## WHAT'S ON AT SIDMOUTH METHODIST CHURCH

### SATURDAY 25 MAY

#### EVERYONE CAN PLAY THE BLUES WORKSHOP

**10.30AM - 11.30AM**

This workshop will cover the elements, styles and communication in a blues band. You will be taught by music tutor Daniel Shaw. Bring an instrument to join in the workshop!

#### JOHNNY MARS – THE GIFT OF MUSIC BLUES HARMONICA WORKSHOP

**12.30PM – 1.30PM**

Join Johnny for an hour of handy tuition in the basics of the blues harmonica. You will be given expert and friendly instruction in vital techniques from an expert.



#### BLUES JAM SESSION

**2.30PM – 5.30PM**

This open curated Blues Jam will be offered at two points over the festival weekend. It will be supported by a house band of three experienced performers to support attendees who wish to participate.

### SUNDAY 26 MAY

#### SOUL OF THE CITY GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT

**2.00PM – 3.00PM**

Join us for a special uplifting and inspirational performance with the finalists of the BBC Gospel Choir of the year which is led by Choir Director Emma Watson.



#### THE HISTORY OF THE BLUES – ROOTS & ROUTES TO THE BLUES SEMINAR

**4.00PM – 5.00PM**

What we owe to Music of Black origin and how it has permeated our popular music culture. This will be a brief route through the roots of blues, illustrated with short demonstration performances of a few classics by Dan and Alice of the Shalings.

### MONDAY 27 MAY

#### BLUES JAM SESSION

**10.30PM – 1.00PM**

This open curated Blues Jam will be offered at two points over the festival weekend. It will be supported by a house band of three experienced performers to support attendees who wish to participate.

#### FAMILY DRUMMING WORKSHOP WITH DRUM DEVON

**2.00PM – 3.00PM**

Family Drumming Workshop with James from Drum Devon. Rhythmic fun times for the whole family! Bring your kids, their friends, your friends, your grandmother, uncles & aunts, bring everyone for this fun-filled drumming session. No experience necessary.

#### BLUES GUITAR MASTERCLASS WITH MARTIN MCNEILL

**4.00PM – 5.00PM**

He will take you through many of the techniques at the heart of Mississippi and Chicago blues, demonstrating the work of players including Elmore James, Fred McDowell, Robert Johnson, John Lee Hooker, and Muddy Waters.



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# IN AND AROUND SIDMOUTH



**Sidmouth, nestled along the Jurassic Coast, boasts a unique blend of seaside charm and rural tranquility. Poet Laureate John Betjeman captured its essence as “a town caught still in a timeless charm.”**

This East Devon gem, with its friendly faces and stunning landscapes, has long been a favorite among families and tourists seeking a beach getaway. From its dramatic cliffs to its Blue Flag beaches, Sidmouth offers a plethora of attractions to suit every visitor.

Whether you're into water sports, leisurely cream teas, coastal walks, or festivals, there's something for everyone. Its royal connections add to its allure, with Queen Victoria herself enjoying holidays here during her childhood.

The town's highlights include the Connaught Gardens, named after Queen Victoria's son, and the picturesque seafront. Sidmouth's bustling town center, lined with Regency-style hotels and stylish eateries, further enhances its popularity as a tourist destination.

Its beach, perfect for sunbathing and rockpooling, is a safe haven for coastal exploration year-round. Exploring beyond Sidmouth reveals more treasures.







As part of the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the region boasts stunning landscapes and a rich history.

Visitors can enjoy traditional shops, eateries, and blue plaque trails in Sidmouth's bustling town center. For dog lovers, Sidmouth offers plenty of dog-friendly places to explore, ensuring furry friends are part of the adventure.

Additionally, the town's floral beauty has earned it the title of Britain's top floral seaside town, while nearby villages like Ottery St Mary and Beer offer further exploration opportunities.

Nature enthusiasts can embark on the South West Coast Path, England's longest footpath, for breathtaking coastal views. And no visit to the area is complete without a trip to The Donkey Sanctuary, where rescue donkeys await to charm visitors with their unique personalities.

In essence, Sidmouth is a coastal haven offering a perfect blend of relaxation, exploration, and natural beauty. Whether you're seeking a peaceful retreat or an adventure-filled getaway, Sidmouth and its surrounding areas have something special to offer.

**For more information, visit [www.visitsidmouth.com](http://www.visitsidmouth.com).**





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**The sun shone down on the town of Sidmouth on the late May bank holiday 2023, and it was buzzing. The 2023 Sidmouth International Jazz and Blues Festival was a triumph.**

Event founder Ian Bowden and his team, Vicki, Kate and all the volunteers, built upon the success of 2022 and produced four days of amazing, crowd-pleasing music. Local people came in droves and enjoyed free music each afternoon in Blackmore Gardens.

On four consecutive evenings there were concerts featuring Curtis Stigers, The Brand New Heavies, Mud Morganfield, and Courtney Pine. The audiences lapped it all up, dancing in the aisles and clapping along. The atmosphere was electric.

Daytime highlights included stunning sets from artistes including Hannah Williams and The Affirmations, The Violet Jive, Indira Roman, Connor Selby, Dom Pipkin and the Ikos, All Jazzed Up, The Big

Smoke Family and a surprise set from Roland Gift & the Blacks, the voice of the Fine Young Cannibals.

An event like this does not happen without meticulous planning and sheer hard graft. Ian and his team energised the local businesses who supported the event wholeheartedly and sponsored many events. The whole town came together as one and, combined with the team's enthusiasm and dedication

to music, the whole four days went off splendidly.

As people were leaving after the concerts all you could hear was how much they had loved it all.

Christopher Holland, Sidmouth's town clerk,

talked about how the festival had come about and the effect it has had on the town: "During the dark days of the pandemic lockdowns, a festival organiser contacted Sidmouth Town Council about running a high-quality international jazz and blues festival in the town. For a town that relies on a vibrant tourism





economy, it was perfect timing to help revive the economy of a pandemic-hit community.

“Turn the clock forwards three years and we’ve now had two incredibly successful festivals which have provided an excellent all year-round effect on the economy. Growing in 2023, this professionally run event has helped more people than ever to experience quality music in the beautiful setting of the Devon town of Sidmouth.

“Encompassing many smaller venues, using pubs, cafés, restaurants, and halls as well as the main stage in the beautiful Blackmore Gardens, the event sets out to create a vibrant musical atmosphere throughout the town and succeeds in bucket loads!

“From pubs putting on events as part of the festival to street music and the local concessions offered at the main stage in Blackmore Gardens the town has been buzzing”

It’s been quite a journey from those cold days of lockdown meetings outside to 2023 but the festival is now firmly part of the Sidmouth calendar of high-quality annual events. Here’s to 2024!”

So yes, here’s to 2024 – and its here! Myself (you’ll see me and my camera lens a lot – give me a huge smile and your best jazz hands!) and the entire team are excited to be back and look forward to making this year a roaring success too!



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SIDMOUTH



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---

**Saturday 25th May**

3.00pm

Kieron Garrett Jazz Quartet

**Sunday 26th May**

3.00pm

Martin McNeill Solo Blues

**Monday 27th May**

Benn Car Blues Duo

---

We are a charming coastal pub nestled along the esplanade of the Devonshire town of Sidmouth. Our soul-soothing sea-fronted pub offers an exquisite menu, with food for all the family, within a stylish and vintage west-country setting.

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swaninnsidmouth.co.uk  
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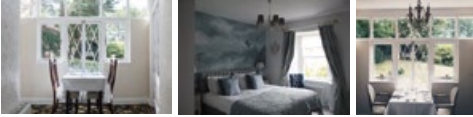
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Email: [stay@9riverside.com](mailto:stay@9riverside.com)  
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1 Chapel Mews is a cosy and centrally located two-bedroom mews cottage that can accommodate up to four people.

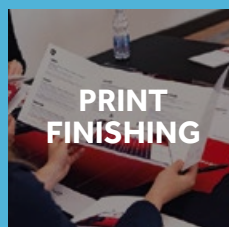
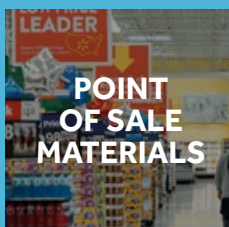
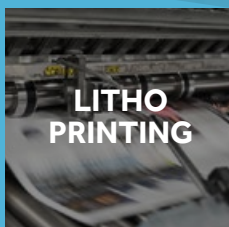
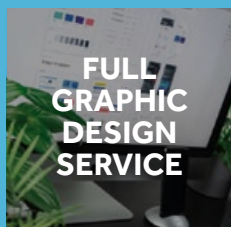
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# THE BLUE BALL, SIDFORD



## A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU

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The Blue Ball, Stevens Cross, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 9QL  
[www.blueballsidford.co.uk](http://www.blueballsidford.co.uk)   [info@blueballsidford.co.uk](mailto:info@blueballsidford.co.uk)



# A SHOUT & THANK YOU

**FROM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR – IAN BOWDEN**

**We are immensely proud to enrich people's live through the universal language and power of music that we present throughout the festival**

It is time for a SHOUT OUT to the businesses, individuals and funding partners who have gratefully supported the 2024 Sidmouth International Jazz & Blues Festival.

The festival would not be possible without the generous support of grant funding, local and regional sponsors, advertisers, patrons and of those that attend and support the festival.

Now established as an annual highlight in the Sidmouth and South West calendar the festival's vision is to continue to build organically, present the best possible high – quality music and to make learning and music as accessible as we can.

Special thanks to the town of Sidmouth, Sidmouth Town Council, Visit Sidmouth, Sidmouth Design, Vitesse PSP, Molyneu(x) Financial Planning, Charles Stanley Wealth Managers, Lyme Bay Winery, Sweetcombe Cottage Holidays, Yamaha Pianos, WBW Solicitors, The Royal Glen Hotel, Bradleys Estate Agents, South Western Railway, Sidmouth Hotels & Inn (Dukes Inn, The Elizabeth Hotel, The Kingswood Hotel & Self Cater Sidmouth), Sid Valley Radio, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce, East Devon District Council, Big Lottery Community Fund, Creative East Devon Fund, Keith Owen Fund, Devon, Torbay Music Education Hub, Dan Shaw at Strode College, Irve Griffiths, Pete Scott, Sidmouth Methodist church, Sidmouth Parish church, Bradfords Building Supplies, Branscombe Brewery, Sidmouth Rugby Club, Greendale Group and Kings Leisure.

We thank our media, tourism partners, Sidmouth Tourist Information Centre, Visit Sidmouth, Visit Devon, Visit South Devon, East Devon Excellence, Visit Exeter, 660 South West, Sidmouth Herald, Devon Life, East Devon News, BBC Radio Devon, Sid Valley Radio, Radio Exe, Devon Air and Jazz FM.

We extend our gratitude to all the venues within Sidmouth and the nearby area that have kindly participated and hosted live music.

A very special thank you goes to Paul and Stephanie Townsend, Edward Willis Fleming, Hugh Phillimore, patrons that remain anonymous, Jim at Jim Design for all our high – quality festival branding, Paul at Ascent Media for our printing requirements, Sign Vision for signage, all the wonderful musicians that are performing during the festival, our amazing team of festival volunteers, Jane Mills, Karen and Finley Dawes, Melanie O'Brien, Emma Cronin, KT and Martin Bruce, Greg Towning our official photographers, festival volunteer coordinators Lisa McFall and Jacqui Blackmore, Simon Strange, Leo Kindred, Lucy, Susan and Peter Morris, Alex Dodd, Rachel and Charlie Portlock, our core festival team, our professional suppliers and our concession partners.

Gold medals for passion, commitment and endurance must go to the two festival directors, Kate Glover, artiste liaison, hospitality and social media, Vicki Haxton, administration, finance and social media, Matt Roe the festival's production manager and his incredible technical team and Adam Chudley the festival's site manager.

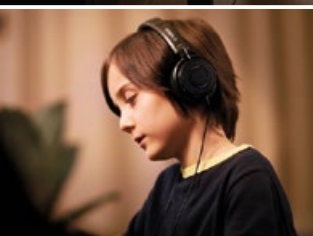
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