

News and Events

Welcome to the The HopBarn's newsletter, which provides information and insights into The HopBarn, as well as offering further notification of up coming events and performances.

We hope that such information proves to be useful and informative to our readers, but if you would like to offer feedback and suggestions as to what to include or what to focus on, please feel free to e-mail or write in with your suggestions and we will try to accommodate them where best we can.

Stepping back over September and October

Daisy Chapman Duo 15th September 2018

Returning to The HopBarn after her first appearance in September 2015 courtesy of True Blue Music, Daisy Chapman presented songs from her third full-length studio album *Good Luck Songs*. Accompanied by Sue Lord on Violin, Daisy managed to create a true sense of intrigue and curiosity within her work as she drew on tragic tales, pursuing hope and the loss of an empire.

Often drawing comparisons with Regina Spektor whose satirical lyrics often convey the most mundane situations, but through a surreal and obscure perspective; Daisy manages rather skillfully to keep her distance through her distinct musical arrangements and attentive focus on her vocal capability.

Good Luck Songs retains the warmth and soul of Daisy's artistry, but offers only a slight hint of the melancholy associated with previous albums. Here, Daisy Blends to great effects her exquisite vocal harmonies with distinct and individual musical arrangements. This coupled alongside her outstanding musicianship as a pianist, it is clear that Daisy has the skill and proficiency as any musician to warrant her current success. Together with accompanist Sue Lord, this was an exhilarating evening full of joy and optimism despite some of the less than fortunate subject matter covered in many of her songs.



Daisy Chapman (foreground) and Sue Lord

The past three years have been hugely beneficial to Daisy as she continues to tour worldwide attracting an ever increasing and supportive following. Her personal and professional development was clearly evident from the start as she confidently presented her recent album, delivering each song with the knowledge that her work has truly been endorsed by the music sector and her dedicated followers. Essentially, this was

a different Daisy to three years ago, no need or sense of apology here, she is an artist who has risen above and gone beyond her early beginnings of performing to three people in a dark and dreary club on Manhattan's East Side, to an artist who is now totally in control of her profession and artistry.

Prior to the evening concert, Daisy and Sue agreed to talk with some young musicians who had applied to The HopBarn's *Plug In Tune Up* and who would themselves be performing the following weekend as part of this opportunity.

With both Sue and Daisy, two very different music pathways emerged. Interesting, for Daisy it was only after spending a number of years working in the advertising and marketing sector, making music in her spare time that she made the decision to dedicate her life to her music and leave her regular job. For Sue however, her choice was always to study music and follow this as her main career. For Sue, studying music at University is what she always wanted to do.

Having two very different progression roots into the music industry offered the young musicians a window, presenting important considerations whilst offering the positive as well as the negative considerations needed for both. Often for classically trained musicians, or young musicians who follow a more structured and formal music education, there is a very clear and laid out progression root into the industry. But for musicians such as Daisy, as well as many other singer-songwriters that play at The HopBarn, their chosen path is not always so defined and having both Sue and Daisy talk about their own personal journeys, was incredibly useful and informative.

Plug In Tune Up Sunday 23rd September

Following Daisy Chapman, The HopBarn hosted an evening dedicated to young musicians from across Nottinghamshire.

Plug In Tune Up was an open call submission

for young musicians aged from 12 to 21 and crucially, who were not pursuing a professional music education at a recognised university or conservatoire. Here, the opportunity of playing at The HopBarn, allowed each of the the young musicians to submit a set list of their own choice lasting up to 20 minutes.

This was the first time that The HopBarn had hosted an event primarily for young musicians and was instigated not only to provide a recognised platform in which they could play to an open audience, but to also (without their prior knowledge) to provide The HopBarn with potential support artists for future events.

Following the open call, The HopBarn was delighted that 5 soloists and 1 group applied for the event.



As a first for The HopBarn, it could not have been better. The standard and music proficiency of all the young musicians who took part, demonstrated the absolute passion and dedication for music in the region and that there was clearly a real desire by all the musicians to pursue this as a potential career direction.

The musicians who took part, were not simply learning music for enjoyment, but rather truly dedicated to their craft, each with their own distinct sound. The standard was exceptional all round, resulting in an evening that recognised quality and skill, and a mature approach despite the young age associated with the performers.

The set lists presented covered current and popular artists such as George Ezra, The Kasier Chiefs, some 90's classics such as Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit as well as

more obscure and perhaps unknown jazz works by Roy Hargrove, Pee Wee Ellis and John Lewis. There was also some classical piano works featuring Chopin and Rachmaninoff, and a number of songs that had been written and composed by the young musicians themselves.

Following the success of this event, it is hoped that Plug In Tune Up will be programmed again in September 2019, becoming a regular addition to The HopBarn Calendar. It was certainly an eventful evening!

Plug In Tune Up - Programme & Running Order

1.1 Alexander Bradford – Classical Piano / Guitar

Prelude in C# Minor, Op. 45 Chopin (piano)
Prelude in C# Minor Rachmaninoff (piano)

Invisible Alexander Bradford (guitar)
Time Alexander Bradford (guitar)
See You Later Alexander Bradford (guitar)

1.2 Sam Barker – Acoustic Guitar & Vocals

How I feel about you Sam Barker
Not you Sam Barker
(Unnamed) Sam Barker
Message to the media Sam Barker

1.3 Mara Iliescu – Vocals with Lucas Walters – Piano

A Thousand Years Christina Perri
Du lässt mich sein Helene Fischer
Smells Like Teen Spirit Nirvana

Interval (20 min)

2.1 Lucas Walters – Piano with Reuben Savage (Guitar) Barney McNamara (Bass) Ted Smiley (Drums) Alistair Beaven (Alto Saxophone)

The chicken Pee Wee Ellis
Isn't She Lovely Stevie Wonder
Strasbourg St Denis Roy Hargrove
Afternoon in Paris John Lewis

2.2 Sam Adams – Acoustic Guitar & Vocals

Shotgun George Ezra
Since you went to Spain Sam Adams
Hold my Girl George Ezra
Show me the words Sam Adams
Get Away George Ezra

2.3 Betsey Bircumshaw – Piano & Vocals

Survive About Vulnerability
Little Doll About Teenage thoughts & judgements
Tell Me About The cycle of relationships
Once For those scared of the future
For You About A Special Time
She Said She Said By Sarah Bareilles



1.1 Alexander Bradford from Southwell opened the evening with exquisitely played classical piano works by Chopin and Rachmaninoff. He then followed with some of his own songs on acoustic guitar demonstrating his versatility as a musician.



1.2 Sam Barker from Mansfield played a set entirely of his own work which was outstanding. Sam has been writing his own work for a couple of years, and it was obvious that he has the proficiency and maturity to pursue music as a career.



1.3 Mara Iliescu presented well known songs that have made an impression on her life. Having a Romanian heritage and being inducted into a German choir from the age of 3, Mara has an eclectic musical background.

Mara was accompanied by Lucas Walters on Piano



2.1 The Lucas Walters Quintet from Nottingham, is made up of Lucas Walters (Piano & Trumpet) Reuben Savage (Guitar) Barney McNamara (Electric Bass) Ted Smiley (Drums) and Alistair Beaven (Alto Sax). This dynamic quintet brought the loudest and energetic sound with their take on some well-known and some less known jazz numbers. These guys were clearly having fun and their music reflected their enthusiasm and enjoyment for playing together. A fantastic way to open the second half!



2.2 Sam Adams from Retford mixed some of his own work with several by renowned artist George Ezra. Having recently played at Sutton-On-Trent Festival, Sam was clearly in a confident mood and his energy for his music was clearly evident. Sam knows his stuff and delivered a fun and exciting set.



2.3 The evening was concluded by Betsey Bircumshaw, a singer-songwriter who is considerably maturer in her music than her years. Betsey's work draws on teenage experiences and peer-pressure and is highly emotive, delivered with exceptional music aptitude on the piano and in voice. Betsey is definitely someone to follow!

Xavier Velastin - Me and My Whale 4th - 9th September 2018



Me and My Whale has been featured on a number of occasions as part of The HopBarn's monthly News and Events Publication. Originally presented to Derby Theatre in 2017 as part of an open call submission for music and theatre makers, the work and its maker, Xavier Velastin were unfortunate in that they did not receive the full support given as part of this application process. Instead, due to the intriguing concept of the work as well as the potential for exploring The HopBarn's capability in supporting sound and digital technology, Xavier was initially offered a couple of days in residency at The HopBarn to explore the work and develop further its performance structure and content.

Having presented the work earlier this year in Manchester, the production was awarded Arts Council Funding to develop the work further with the intention of finalising a finished piece of theatre. As part of this Grant for Arts Application, The HopBarn was once again approached for rehearsal space in order that Xavier and his

collaborators could work intently on the production prior to its performance at The Stage @ Leeds, on Saturday 10th October and at Partisan in Manchester on the 20th and 21st October.

During the week at The HopBarn, Xavier brought in other collaborators including a dramaturg and a set designer to help refine the production and ensure that it conveyed the original concept and meaning. His on-going working relationship with actress Hannah Mook, also allowed a natural evolution of the piece and this on-going and ever-evolving attribute meant that Xavier's vision for the final piece was always being explored, questioned and adapted.

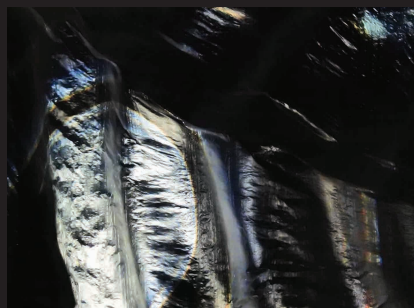
When witnessing the work being performed at Stage @ Leeds, it was with great pleasure to know that The HopBarn supported the work early on in its infancy as well as its on-going development over the course of this past year.

Me and My Whale offers something very different from a conventional piece of theatre. Largely a surreal and non-linear story that explores the relationship between a female submariner and a whale, Xavier's creation utilises sound and digital technology to create and record natural sounds captured throughout the production, and then play them back whilst digitally manipulating their structured effect. Here, bowls of water with microphones inside mimic the decent underwater as the submariner (played by Hannah Mook) dunks her head underwater and proceeds to blow bubbles with water splashing across the floor. The microphones capturing the sound, relay the effect to a computer that in turn manipulates the sound to give a deeper more ambient quality, mimicking (one would suppose) the deeper sounds heard as if you were diving deeper and deeper to the bottom of the ocean.

Further sounds are continuously created and manifested throughout the production. Not one (it is claimed) is a pre-recording, rather that the entire production relies on both Xavier and Hannah through their stage direction and characters, to produce sound directly and in-directly from their actions on stage. With the help of a number of digital technology tools and toys, many are manufactured although there are others that are simple and fun, such as the buuB...buuB...buuB...buuB vocalised by the pair as they enter the stage at the beginning,



Xavier Velastin (above) at the controls of *Me and My Whale* with Hannah Mook (Below) the female submariner who falls in love with a whale.



Using a bowl of water placed on an old acetate light projector, this technique was adopted to evoke the eye of the whale onto a plastic sheeting backdrop. Adding food colouring gave the illusion of the deep dark ocean where the whale lead his faithful companion.

seeking out, finding and discovering their environment as though they are using their voices as a sonar to map where objects are and how they can manoeuvre around them.

Hannah's presence as the submariner is captivating. A child like enthusiasm and excitement in discovering new games and toys presides over her perfectionistic approach as an actor. Each line, phrase and action is perfectly timed and delivered. Her engagement with the audience, and her absolute conviction in communicating with the whale (as though talking to an imaginary friend) draws the audience in and for the 60-minute performance duration, your attention is held completely

Xavier in supporting Hannah re-enact the relationship between the submariner and the whale offers a concrete and stable connection with the array of digital and computer technology. So often, when relying on computer technology, productions have come crashing down due to a 'technical glitch' but with *Me and My Whale*, your faith in Xavier and his extensive knowledge allows you to sit back and enjoy the work without fear that something disastrous is going to happen.

The play is enchanting, a totally surreal and compelling experience that offers something totally different from the norm. Its fun, often at times making the audience laugh, during other moments offering the audience romance whilst playing on human needs for personal connection, lust and desire. In the end though, Xavier draws on the tragic effects of sound used militarily for reasons that are known, but can't quite be believed. That sound can be manipulated and used as a weapon.

Xavier's has created something uniquely different and it is hoped that following the performance at Partisan in Manchester, further opportunities may arise in which the production has the chance to be seen by a wider audience.

A truly original piece of theatre.

November Focus

Winter Wilson



Stepping aside from their recent tour with folk legends Fairport Convention, *Winter Wilson* bring their beautiful and resonating album *Far Off on the Horizon* to The HopBarn on 17th November thanks once again to True Blue Music.

Already receiving critical acclaim by The Telegraph, Acoustic Magazine and FRoots, this new album charts the duo's eighth self-released album and continues to demonstrate their recognised aptitude and musical proficiency in tackling emotionally charged subjects such as the refugee crisis, inequalities in the benefit system and the on-going rise of right-wing activism spawned by Donald Trump.

These are not light hearted subjects although for Kip Winter and Dave Wilson, such material evokes perhaps a direct connection to experiences they themselves may have had over the years. Whether true or not you cannot help but have total belief that when they sing, they are singing always from their own personal experiences. Each song sung is conveyed with a real sense of humility, honest and humble resulting in an empathetic connection to many of the tragic circumstances that arise in their subject matter. It is impossible therefore to think that their work is not a personal reflection on their own life experiences.

Having being born in Germany and being raised in Holland, Germany, England and Scotland whilst also living briefly in France; Kip Winter recalls her music up-bringing singing songs during the long car journeys home to the Outer-Hebrides every summer. Such is her wider experience and connection to Europe that influences her musical direction and choice of song material.

For Dave Winter, having attended Boston Folk Club in the 1980's; his music career never waivered and to pay tribute to his music capability, many of his songs have been covered by other musicians, the most recognised *Storm Around Tumbledown* was covered by Vin Garbutt and Anthony John Clarke.

Winter Wilson released their first album over 22-years ago, and since then have earned a huge amount of respect internationally for their musical prowess. This husband and wife duo are able to blend vocal harmonies unlike any other and in many ways, it just seems so natural and so seamless, as though they were destined to be together. Along with Dave's poignant and thought-provoking lyrics, It all just works so perfectly.

It seems obvious that to experience Winter Wilson once is never enough and wherever they go, they inevitably get invited to return.

Catch them here at The HopBarn on 17th November before they embark on a tour to Australia in January 2019.

Winter Wilson
A True Blue Music Event
Saturday 17 Nov 2018
£13.52 (incl of booking fee)



Whats On - December 2018

Joshua Cook - *The Key of Now*

Sat 1st December 2018
Tickets £11 (+ booking fee)



Joshua Cook is an American troubadour specializing in roots rock'n'roll, hard R&B, electric blues, and rubber soul.

The Key of Now is the creative impulse by any other name.

Raised in the Deep South and the Great Plains, songwriter-vocalist-guitarist Joshua Cook emerged as a solo artist in San Francisco's psych-rock scene with blues-driven debut singles "All Bad Things" and "A Prayer for You". Since then he's released the studio album *Believe* and live album *The Night Chuck Berry Died*, with a new studio album nearing completion. He's produced over a half-dozen other artists in the Bay Area and across the United States; and toured sixteen countries on four continents to promote his original work.

His vitality simmers in conversation as it is when he's on stage, owning a sound he calls 'Rock 'N' Roll', Deep Soul, Hard Rock

- The Bay Bridged



Joshua Cook will be supported by Sam Barker from Mansfield and who took part in *Plug In Tune Up* at The HopBarn in September 2018. A talented song-writer and performer with much to offer despite his young age.



The Hopbarn

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- The Bay Bridged

Joshua Cook
& the key of now

Saturday 1st December 2018 / 7.30pm

Tickets £11(+booking fee)

book online at:

thehopbarn.org.uk

eventbrite.co.uk

WWW.KEYOFNOW.COM