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Musician magazine



# deirdre cartwright group

**FRI OCT 29th COVENTRY** Belgrade Theatre  
02476 553055 [www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk)

**WED NOV 3rd LONDON** Spitz (album launch)  
020 7247 9747 [www.blowthefuse.com](http://www.blowthefuse.com)

**THUR NOV 4th STAFFORD** Gumbles 01785 259144

**THUR/FRI NOV 5th-6th SHEFFIELD** Oneelevenclub  
0114 270 6160 [www.oneelevenclub.co.uk](http://www.oneelevenclub.co.uk)

**WED NOV 10th BRIGHTON** Komedia  
01273 647100 [www.komedia.co.uk](http://www.komedia.co.uk)

Following on from the critically acclaimed *Precious Things*, new album *Dr Quantum Leaps* was inspired by the scientific revolution currently and quietly taking place, and how this may change our view of the world and ourselves. Combining influences from classical piano to Hendrix, from Weather Report to Kate Bush with her exceptional live band.

**THE NEW ALBUM**  
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Blow The Fuse Records [www.blowthefuse.com](http://www.blowthefuse.com)  
AMD (Alternative Music Distribution)





Ticket Price includes a 3 Course selection from a table d'hôte menu

## Oct/Nov/Dec

Month	Date	Artist	Price	
October	15th	Andy Cooper's Piano Trio 8	£25	
	16th	Ian Shaw	£20	
	22nd	Elki Fitzgerald Songbook	£20	
	23rd	Acoustic Scotland	£20	
	28th	Harold Shipman	£20	
	30th	Clare Martin	£25	
	November	5th	Clare Martin	£20
		6th	Whiting & Co	£20
		13th	Barbara Miller	£20
		14th	Shaver Kane	£20
19th		The Daisy Club	£18	
20th		Ellie Rowan	£20	
27th		Joe Pasquale	£25	
28th		Chris Barber	£20	
29th		Clare Martin	£20	
30th		Johnny Hutchinson & Friends	£20	
December	5th	Strong Something Simple	£20	
	6th	The James Taylor Quartet	£25	
	12th	Xmas Newby Lunch 12 noon-2.30pm	£10.00	
	18th	Kate Pierson and the Stray Boys	£20	
	19th	Paul Zito	£20	
	26th	George Funn	£20	
	27th	Hadstone & Co featuring Thelma Houston	£20	
	31st	Xmas Sunday Lunch 12 noon-2.30pm	£10.00	
	31st	Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen	£20	
	31st	Frank Carter	£20	
December	1st	Helen Jones	£20	
	11th	Pasadena West Orchestra	£20	
	18th	Xmas Sunday Lunch 12 noon-2.30pm	£10.00	
	24th	The Fat Pack with Bob Long	£20	
	25th	The Fat Pack show for children and their families with a visit from Santa	£15	
	26th	The Fat Pack with Bob Long	£20	
	27th	The Fat Pack with Bob Long	£20	
	28th	The Fat Pack with Bob Long	£20	
	29th	The Fat Pack with Bob Long	£20	
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**Sat 29th Jan, Eastgate Theatre Peebles, 01721 722991**

**Sun 30th Jan, The Sage Gateshead, 0870 703 4555**

**Mon 31st Jan, The Arches Glasgow, 0870 240 7528**

**Tues 1st Feb, The Tolbooth Stirling, 01786 274000**

**Denys Baptiste**

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# NEWS



Respected JazzFM broadcaster Helen Mayhew brings her quiet authority to the BBC

JAZZFM'S PROGRAMMING has had a rough ride with many British jazz fans – but if anyone played a key role in keeping the original core audience listening it was broadcaster Helen Mayhew (above), whose mid-week shows kept 'real' jazz to the fore. Now the knowledgeable and personable presenter has moved to the BBC, and early signs indicate she's going to be a busy woman. Her BBC debut in October was a long interview with Pete King of Ronnie Scott's, and Mayhew is set to become one of Radio 3's *Jazz Line Up* regulars, alongside Claire Martin and Stacey Kent – Kent's growing commitments are making her appearances more sporadic. Helen Mayhew will also be taking over Radio 2's *Big Band Special* slot – the 25th anniversary of which falls at the beginning of next year – and also the BBC Concert Orchestra's slot on Fridays. Couldn't be happening to a nicer – or more jazz-savvy – person.

## Swinging in Portsmouth again

photo: © John Fordham

PORTSMOUTH JAZZ SOCIETY, which from 1981 to 1994 presented many major jazz names from both the American and British scenes, is up and running again and kicked off its new season with support from the City Council, with a concert by Stan Tracey's Quartet on October 4.

Dates at the Inn Lodge, Burrfields Road and a visit by Scott Hamilton on December 13 is certain to be a big draw. Info on the club's activities can be obtained by emailing [portsmouthjazz@btinternet.co.uk](mailto:portsmouthjazz@btinternet.co.uk). Wonder how long it'll take them to get around to booking one of Portsmouth's finest jazz exports, vibist supreme Roger Beaujolais?

## NEW ROLL FOR MAESTRO TOWNS

COLIN TOWNS, composer-leader of the star-studded *Mask Orchestra* and leading TV and movie-score writer, is on a creative roll this autumn – with a new album in the racks, and what some are regarding as the best jazz work of his life with *The Orpheus Suite* for Birmingham's Royal Ballet Company. The only shadow on Towns' horizon is the contraction of his personally-funded record label *Provocateur*, pulling in its horns over the coming months after a long, ambitious and expensive programme of UK contemporary-jazz releases over recent years, featuring Andy Sheppard, Julian Arguelles, Guy Barker and many others.

The Orchestra, with a premier-league lineup including Peter King, Alan Skidmore, Iain Dixon, Guy Barker and Ralph Salmins, gave the new piece its debut (on a programme that also included Duke Ellington's *Shakespeare Suite* and *Nutcracker Sweeties*) at Birmingham's Hippodrome on October 6. Following a show at London's Sadler's Wells, the package is due to run for three nights at Plymouth's Theatre Royal, on November 4, 5 and 6. The *Orpheus Suite* has been almost three years in gestation, Towns describes it as 'an exciting and a nerve-wracking project. Normally when I stand in front of a bunch of weird musicians and wave my arms about, I have a pretty fair idea of how they're going to handle it, even if I don't know exactly what they'll do. But working with 30 dancers as well, that's something else. But making music this way, as an open collaboration with all kinds of different interpreters, is my idea of heaven.' Amen to that.



CAN THIS MEAN the Arts Council might get behind the new *Vortex*? ACE Contemporary Music supremo Alan James (centre, above) joined the Babel Label's Oliver Weindling (left) and *Vortex* boss David Mossman (right) for a hard-hat inspection of the emerging premises in London's Dalston – a purpose-built *Vortex* music room over a street-level cafe is the centrepiece of one of mayor Ken Livingstone's prestigious new urban spaces. A special fundraising concert to help fit out the new room (set to open in spring 2005) is at the 606 Club on November 28, with Kenny Wheeler, Stan Sulzmann and many others. Call 0207 352 5953.



Colin Towns - current project mixing ballet dancers and jazz musicians is 'my idea of heaven.'

## Collier's Return

CELEBRATED UK composer Graham Collier is set to make a return visit to the UK from his adopted home in Andalusia for two major concerts with a fourteen-piece celebration band which features some of his longest-serving musical companions like John Marshall, Jeff Clyne, Art Themen, Harry Beckett, Ed Speight, Steve Waterman and Geoff Warren, as well as some of the UK scene's newer faces.

The programme hinges on a new commission from Birmingham Jazz, plus *Forty Years On*, a suite re-examining Collier's compositions over a 40-year career. The dates are November 13 at Birmingham's Adrian Boult Hall, and the Purcell Room on November 17 in the London Jazz Festival.



Graham Collier returns to Britain for two major gigs in November

## raps...

GEORGE FAME's Big Band CD is finally out. Many of those who were present at the live recording at London's Kentish Town Forum remember shuttling back and forth between the venue and the nearby Bull and Gate to keep tabs on that football match with Argentina in 1998 when Beckham was sent off. Now we can hear the bits we missed. Georgie threatened that it would be his memorial album, but he's not showing any signs of running out of steam that we can hear.

YOU HAVE TO HAND IT to Jazz FM's PR dept. In a recent pres release handing out praises to their presenters, who didn't get a mention? Why, jazzers Mike Chadwick and Campbell Burnap of course. Still, at least the divine Sarah Ward, now the solitary flag-carrier midweek, got a look in.

THAT GREAT UK BASSIST Roy Babbinton was playing with pianist Geoff Eales recently, and we couldn't help wondering why every band in town wasn't bidding for his services. Maybe there are just too many terrific bass players about.

GOOD PIECE in the *New Statesman* recently by one Viv Groskop, extolling the virtues of the superb Terry Wogan. Around 30 himself, Groskop made the obvious point that not everybody, even in his generation, gives a toss about iPods and iTunes and all the other 'kidult' preoccupations of the day. If only Wogan liked jazz...

THE WALSALL JAZZ ORCHESTRA which visited the Montreux Jazz Festival this year under the direction of John Hugues, had eight female members out of 17 players. If you want to read a fascinating and heartwarming tale of the ensemble's triumph over adversity, you can find it at [www.ostrichmusic.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.ostrichmusic.fsnet.co.uk)

SAD TO HEAR of the death of Kent trombonist Kenny Pyrke. Not exactly a household name but near the heart of most things musical in Kent for at least four decades, including a very fine big band in the late '60s and early '70s.

AN AMAZING JAZZ DVD catalogue, including lots of teaching material by US greats and some fascinating drum history (Sid Catlett, Ray Baudue, Gene Krupa, Panama Francis, Buddy Rich) check out [www.hudsonmusic.com](http://www.hudsonmusic.com) or call 01474 708055

## raps...