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Bedford Music Club presents

# BLACK VOICES

24-26 October 2025

All Saints Church, Queen's Park, Bedford  
and The Higgins

Black Voices brings together extraordinary artists to celebrate the richness of Black music. Through concerts, talks, community and educational events, we present music that illuminates stories of history, resistance, faith and joy.



## spotlight on beatrice nicholas

Join us for our opening concert Classic Women on Friday 24 October at 7.45pm. Beatrice Nicholas (piano) will be joined by Matayas Honecker (bass) and Matt Home (drums) in a programme that celebrates African American jazz stars who first trained as classical pianists. Beatrice will engage you with stories that illuminate the world of Lil Hardin, Margaret Bond, Nina Simone and others.

Pre-concert food and drinks will be available from 6.30pm and enjoy a free steel pans concert.



A sneak peak at Beatrice Nicholas and her jazz trio rehearsing Hazel's Boogie for their Classic Women concert on 24 October

## if you like Classic Women, you'll love

Reimagined Spirituals on the Saturday afternoon (25 October at 2pm). Beatrice will be joined by Leon Bosch in an award-winning programme of Spirituals arranged for double bass and piano, including Deep River, Swing Low, Sweet Chariot and Roll, Jordan Roll.



Leon Bosch plays Yihle Moya - a poignant reflection on the South African national anthem - at London's Wigmore Hall

## what's else is on?

Lots! Here's the Black Voices programme in full

<p><b>BLACK VOICES</b></p> <p><b>24 25 26 OCTOBER</b></p> <p>All Saints Church</p> <p>Queen's Park, Bedford</p>	<p><b>Fri 24th</b></p> <p>2:00pm <b>Peace on Earth</b> Local primary schools perform spirituals and Gospel Wonders (Reimagined Spirituals) Peace on Earth by Vox Urbane.</p> <p>3:30pm <b>Culture</b> Steel Pan Ensemble Reed Ensemble</p> <p>7:45pm <b>Classic Women</b> Beatrice Nicholas (piano), with Matt Home (drums) and Matayas Honecker (bass). A concert featuring female and LGBTQ+ jazz stars, including Nina Simone, Thelma Houston, Aretha Franklin, Shirley Bassey and more. Includes spirituals: Roll, Jordan Roll, Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, Deep River.</p>
<p><b>Sat 25th</b></p> <p>The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum</p> <p>11:00am <b>Hawatha to Hip Hop</b> How Black British hip-hop artist of Chicago Taylor Hovvay's reimagining of the Black British sound and culture (Black voices are heard) (Reed Ensemble concert).</p>	<p><b>Sat 25th</b></p> <p>2:00pm <b>Reimagined Spirituals</b> Beatrice Nicholas (piano) Award-winning programme of Spirituals arranged for bass and piano. Food for thought (Reed Ensemble)</p> <p>6:30pm <b>The Story Through Song</b> London Adventist Chorus New York (Reed Ensemble)</p> <p>10:00pm <b>DJ Lauren Smart</b></p>
<p><b>Sun 26th</b></p> <p><b>Community Hymn Singing</b></p> <p>10:00am</p> <p>Come and join local churches sing together with Vox Urbane's Vox Next Gen.</p>	<p><b>BEDFORD MUSIC CLUB</b></p> <p>Re:Past festival, scan the QR code and book your place.</p> <p>Follow us on <a href="#">Facebook</a>, <a href="#">Instagram</a>, <a href="#">Twitter</a>, <a href="#">LinkedIn</a>, <a href="#">YouTube</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.bedfordmusicclub.com">www.bedfordmusicclub.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@bedfordmusicclub.com">info@bedfordmusicclub.com</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/bedfordmusicclub">https://www.facebook.com/bedfordmusicclub</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/bedfordmusicclub">https://www.instagram.com/bedfordmusicclub</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/bedford-music-club">https://www.linkedin.com/company/bedford-music-club</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...</a></p> <p>Patroned by The Wixamtree Trust and The Frank Branston Charitable Trust</p>

## how can I get a ticket?

Tickets are on sale now through our online box office (booking fees apply).



Entry to all events is **free** to 18 years and younger and **very heavily discounted** for full time students and adults who buy a weekend pass.

## how can I help?

Want to work in arts and events management but are wondering how to get the right experience? Trying to enhance your CV for the next stage in your life? If you're entering Years 12 or 13 this month please download our information pack and get in touch.



Get your information pack here

## hold the date

We're planning something special for Christmas!

Put the **evening of 19 December** in your diary ... more in our next newsletter.

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## Thanks to our sponsors

Bedford Music Club is delighted to have received support from the **Frank Branston Charitable Trust** managed by the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation (BLCF). We also thank **The Wixamtree Trust**, the Borough's **Educational Improvement Strategy Group**, the **Gale Family Charity Trust** and **Making Music**. Thanks to this support we able to continue our work bringing cultural festival experiences to Bedford.



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