

## MUSIC NOTES



## Musical mix

MORE than 40 years of musical heritage is drawn on by a nine-piece monster of a band boasting some of the finest local musical talent.

The Karla Milton Collective comes with a hint of acid jazz, a sprinkling of rare groove, a handful of soul and a healthy measure of funk – and the results will be cooked up at Re-con tonight.

In their ranks they number a selection of Malvern musicians, including Hywel Pothecary on bass, Alex Albrow on guitar and James Elliot-Williams on drums.

Having formed the project in 2011, Karla (pictured above) said she wanted it be about “great music, performed by great musicians who are passionate about what we do” and in 2013, they seem to be doing that.

New single *Jack is Back* was released earlier in the year and their debut album is waiting in the wings.

Tickets are £4 on the door from 9pm. For more information, go to [facebook.com/Re.Con.Malvern/events](http://facebook.com/Re.Con.Malvern/events).

## You'll love Lewis

A GIG from an emerging musician will show how he's building a reputation as a talented guitarist and superb songwriter.

Lewis Boulton takes his trio to Great Malvern's Re-con on Saturday, August 31, when he will be accompanied by Rob Scott and James Elliott-Williams.

Having started his musical career in a high school rock band, he has gone on to perform as a session guitarist as well as gigging with sets of covers and writing new material within many genres.

Influenced by the likes of John Mayer and Jackson Browne, Lewis's musicianship is complemented by the emotional power of his vocals, giving contemporary blues an exciting new artist.

The music starts at 9pm in the Church Street venue. For more information, go to [facebook.com/Re.Con.Malvern/events](http://facebook.com/Re.Con.Malvern/events).

# Jason wins over the judges to boost his music career

A singer-songwriter has been highly praised in a nationwide competition. NEIL WATTS reports

**A**SINGER-songwriter is hoping to use a strong showing in a talent contest to boost his musical career.

Jason Mark Yates was “chuffed to bits” after his track *Reachin' Out* made it to the final 12 in the love song category of the UK Songwriting Contest in the face of stiff competition from more than 5,000 entrants.

The 53-year-old musician, from Hallow, near Worcester, has written nearly 100 songs in the last 18 months and the judges gave the competition entry a 9/10 rating.

Jason said: “It has given me a lot of confidence to do other things and it has opened up quite a few things. Every judge had to like your song for it to be in the final.



“This is quite something to be even considered at my age. It's a great opportunity.”

A spokesman for the contest said: “The UK Songwriting Contest directors and judges include some of the world's top Grammy, Emmy and BRIT Award-winning producers who have worked closely with such artists as Sting, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Kylie Minogue, Robbie Williams, Britney Spears and many others.

“There were more than 5,000 entries this year and we are pleased that Jason Mark Yates achieved such impressive results in this year's event and wish him every success in the future as a songwriter.”

His immediate future looks like being a busy one. Jason is rehearsing with Worcester musician Alex Turton, with the

pair planning to start gigging around the area soon.

He is also working with his California-based songwriting partner Darcy Jeavons on a song that will feature on a memorial TV show for the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

His music has been played on American Veterans Radio, which is based in Indiana and covers 40 different time zones to bring music to the troops every day of the year.

A further three songs of his own are currently being fine tuned along with one written by a musician in Australia.

For more information, go to <http://jasonmarkyates.com>

## Event will be showcasing local talent

A PACKED night of music will showcase a wide selection of talent.

Upfront Entertainments present their next event at the Gainsborough House Hotel, Bewdley Hill, Kidderminster, on Thursday, September 5, featuring the town's duo Two for One, starring Stevey Gee and Sammy Jo performing as Michael Buble, Olly Murs, Adele and Katy Perry.

Others due to appear are soul artist Mr Bobby K P Woods, vocalist Marty Elliot, local band the Jay Rivers Band and Eagles tribute band Take it Easy.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets are £3, with proceeds going to the under-15 girls Kewford West football team.

For more information and tickets, call Nicky Burrows on 07765 383700.

## A PURPLE PATCH FOR INDIGO KINGS



THE debut single from a vintage pop band has been a labour of love.

The Indigo Kings may live, rehearse and work in the Cotswolds but they are not just concentrating on the local music scene, instead they are aiming to reach dizzy heights with *When I Turn Out the Lights*.

Blending jazz, blues and a bit of classic 1950s pop, they play in a style comparable to the likes of Caro Emerald, Amy Winehouse and Paloma Faith. The seven-piece band are hoping the accompanying video based on a vintage *Blind Date* parody will be seen by the masses. Caroline Boucher, who shares

lead vocal duties with Talitha Cole, said: “It took several months, from the early days of getting funding and designing the storyboard, to booking a film maker, hiring actors, finding filming locations and props.” The single is available through iTunes, Amazon and Spotify. Visit [theindigokings.co.uk](http://theindigokings.co.uk).

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## Upton's under way

THE fourth Upton Music Festival gets under way today with a bigger and better offering.

The riverside town's Fish Meadow will be the home to the likes of soul singer Alexander O'Neal, Toyah Wilcox, the Wurzels, Worcester's Take Fat and Chesney Hawkes on the main stage until Sunday.

Stage two will be home to local talent such as Done By Sunrise, pictured left, Hennessea and Becky Rose, while the TOTP Variety Stage will welcome DJs such as Pat Sharp, musical acts and comedy. A firework show will light up the sky at 9.15pm on Sunday before Dave Finnegan and the Mighty Mustang Band close the festival at 11pm. Visit [uptonfestival.co.uk](http://uptonfestival.co.uk).

## Ready for battle

THE Battle Proms comes to Ragley Hall in Alcester on Saturday, August 31, promising a Spitfire aerial display, feats of daring by the Blades Aerobatic Team and mounted Napoleonic skill-at-arms displays, topped off by a full orchestral programme and a firework finale. Visit [battleproms.com](http://battleproms.com) or call 01432 355416.