

CITY OF DERRY
JAZZ
& BIG BAND FESTIVAL

1-5 MAY 2025

cityofderryjazzfestival.com



Ireland's best Jazz Festival lights up the Walled City this May Bank Holiday weekend, Thursday 1st - Monday 5th May 2025.

Now in its 24th year, the City of Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival promises an unforgettable celebration, drawing over 100,000 music lovers to experience world-class performers. This year's stellar line-up features Grammy winner **Billy Ocean** headlining, **Una Healy** with **Luke Thomas**, **The Garage Boys**, the electrifying **Mr. Wilson's Second Liners**, **The Red Stripe Band**, **Ska Beats**, **Angela & her NOLA Brass Band** and many more international artists.

For full listings and all Festival info, visit
www.cityofderryjazzfestival.com.

The information in this programme is correct at the time of printing. The City of Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival organisers reserve the right to make programme changes.

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Billy Ocean

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 May

Millennium Forum 8pm £49.50

The Grammy Award-winner makes his debut at the Millennium Forum as the headline act for the City of Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival. In a career spanning decades, Billy has sold over 30 million records, collecting multiple Gold and Platinum discs with hits including 'Love Really Hurts Without You,' 'Red Light Spells Danger,' 'Caribbean Queen,' 'Get Outta My Dreams, Get Into My Car,' 'Suddenly' and of course, 'When The Going Gets Tough'.

Support from Tessio.

Tickets at cityofderryjazzfestival.com/tickets



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Contact:
Chaitlin Shole &
Cheamhar an tSraitha Binn
Derry City & Strabane
District Council

JAZZ HUBS

Our much-loved Jazz Hubs are back! This year, we're bringing the ultimate jazz experience to three fantastic venues - **Bennigans Bar**, **The Playhouse** and **The Guildhall**. Sit back, unwind, and soak up the vibrant sounds of live jazz in the heart of the city.

BENNIGANS BAR JOHN ST.

Renowned for its weekly jazz programme, expertly curated by pianist and owner John Leighton, Bennigans is the go-to spot for authentic live jazz. Throughout the five-day festival, the bar will host multiple performances daily, showcasing an incredible lineup of talent.

Tickets can be purchased at www.bennigansbar.com

Wednesday 30 April

Garage Boys 🕒 8pm 💷 Free

Thursday 1 May

John Leighton Trio & Jam Session 🕒 5pm 💷 Free

'The Rubber Plants' Led Zeppelin tribute 🕒 10pm 💷 £15

Friday 2 May

Joseph Leighton Trio & Jam Session 🕒 4pm 💷 Free

Murray Brothers Quartet 🕒 8pm 💷 £15

Chief Keegan 🕒 11pm 💷 £15

Saturday 3 May

John Leighton Trio & Jam Session 🕒 4pm 💷 Free

Kevin Brady Trio feat. Bill Carrothers 🕒 8pm 💷 £15

Jack McHale Trio 🕒 11pm 💷 £15

Sunday 4 May

Lucian McCauley Trio & Jam Session 🕒 4pm 💷 Free

Shuffle Boil Quartet 🕒 8pm 💷 £15

Sara Oschlag 🕒 11pm 💷 £15

Monday 5 May

The Men Who Knew Too Much 🕒 4pm 💷 £5 on the door

THE PLAYHOUSE ARTILLERY ST.

This year, The Playhouse is bringing a stellar lineup of top jazz acts to the festival. From captivating performances to an exciting jazz-infused play, there's something for every jazz lover to enjoy.

Book Now: www.derryplayhouse.co.uk or contact The Playhouse Box Office at 028 7126 8027.

Thursday 1 May

No Citation 🕒 8pm 💷 £25 / Concession £22

An acclaimed play with original songs by Kyron Bourke, presented by Teatro Nua Productions. Legendary piano man Jeremy d'Wolfe McCarthy faces his final judgment in the derelict Dimitri's Piano Bar, haunted by ghosts from his past. Featuring musicians Linley Hamilton, Stephen Davis, Hammy Hamilton & Colman Dooney.

Friday 2 May

Tom Ollendorff 🕒 8pm 💷 £15

Celebrating the release of his critically acclaimed album 'Open House.'

Saturday 3 May

Victoria Geelan: The Story of Sarah Vaughan 🕒 2pm 💷 £15

Feat. Neil Burns (piano), Rohan Armstrong (double bass) & Andrew McCoubrey (drums).

Little Black Book 🕒 8pm 💷 £15

Feat. Robert Mitchell (keys), Zayn Mohammed (guitar) & Laurie Lowe (drums).

Sunday 4 May - Rising Stars Stage

Katalizt 🕒 2.30pm 💷 £5

Sara Oschlag 🕒 8pm 💷 £15

Feat. Arnie Somegy (bass), Darren Beckett (drums) & Mark Edwards (piano)

Monday 5 May - Festival Closing Gig

Albuca feat. Phil Robinson & House of Jade 🕒 6pm 💷 £15

Book Now at www.derryplayhouse.co.uk



Robert Mitchell

Robert Mitchell is an award-winning pianist, keyboard player, composer, songwriter, festival curator, poet, and author. He has recorded fourteen albums, 3 poetry collections and participated in over 100 projects as a sideman and has performed in more than 40 countries. Apart from being a pianist, composer and innovator, he is a festival creator and curator as well as a highly respected educator. Robert also leads TRUE THINK, Epiphany3 and the Flame. He is a professor at Guildhall School of Music & Drama (Jazz Piano), Mentor/Task Force Member at Black Lives In Music, YMM teacher, Steinway Artist, EDI Lead at Music HE and recently taught/returned to the Paris Conservatoire and Pole Sup.

"Robert Mitchell is one of Britain's finest and most versatile pianist-composer-improvisors" The Wire Magazine

Sara Oschlag

Danish-born, Brighton resident, Sara Oschlag is one of the UK's premier jazz vocalists. A featured vocalist with the Ronnie Scott's Jazz Orchestra, she appeared with Pete Long's Echoes of Ellington Big Band, Arnie Somogyi's Mingus repertoire band, Scenes in The City and duetted with US trumpet/vocal star Benny Benack III. She has graced leading venues and festivals, including Ronnie Scott's Love Supreme, and Jazz at The Lincoln Center. Sara has sung at jazz festivals across Europe and has built up a YouTube presence of over 12 million views. Her latest album, 'YEAH!', recorded at Echo Zoo, showcases her original lyrics and features top UK musicians, including Mark Edwards, Arnie Somogyi and Darren Beckett.

Albuca feat. Phil Robson

The band brings a fresh perspective to jazz standards, both classic and contemporary, with innovative arrangements. They completed their first tour in the spring of 2019 and recorded their debut album in one live room at Echo Zoo Studios, produced by legendary guitarist Adrian Utley, of iconic Bristol band Portishead. Between them, they have led their own critically acclaimed projects, having recorded and performed with many of the world's leading jazz musicians including Gregory Porter, Jamie Cullum and a wide array of international stars including Radiohead, Tom Jones, Amy Winehouse, Katie Melua, Van Morrison and Sting, to name but a few. This gig will be a special one featuring the amazing guitarist, Phil Robson.

Kevin Brady

One of the most interesting & unique jazz trios to have emerged in the last ten years is the International collaboration between Irish jazz musician Kevin Brady, U.S. pianist/composer Bill Carrothers & bassist Dave Redmond. Formed in 2006, Brady's trio quickly gained acclaim for their dynamic and musical approach to contemporary jazz. Touring extensively across the USA, Europe, the UK, China and the Azores, they have built a global reputation as a compelling live act. Their debut album, *Common Ground* (2007) was followed by *Zeitgeist* (2009), which earned widespread praise and radio play. Their latest studio album, *Ensam* (2016), blends original compositions with fresh takes on standards like 'The Night We Called It a Day'. Showcasing the trio's versatility, *Ensam* explores a common theme while spotlighting each musician's artistry in unique ways.



OPENING EVENT

City of Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival presents

'The Live Launch' - Classic Jazz at the Guildhall

Thursday 1 May - Guildhall 6pm Free

The Mayor, Cllr. Lilian Seenoi Barr, along with local Jazz legends will officially open this year's Jazz Festival. Enjoy performances from **The Paul McIntyre Quartet** with **George Hasson, John and Fiona Trotter, Jim Whiteside, Jim McDermott, Joseph Leighton** and **Colum Arbuckle**. Everyone is welcome to enjoy top quality Jazz in stunning surroundings! Donations are welcome at the event, in aid of the Mayor's Charity, The Bud Club.

Entry is limited and granted on a first-come, first-served basis.



'Radio, Romance & Rock 'n' Roll'

Colum Arbuckle - Official Book Launch

Thursday 1 May - Guildhall, Whittaker Suite 5pm

Radio, Romance & Rock 'n' Roll' is a literary journey through the life of musician, radio presenter and producer, **Colum Arbuckle**. In this captivating autobiography, Colum recounts his extraordinary experiences playing with the Gay McIntyre band, Ireland's first Showband, The Clipper Carlton, The Emerald Showband in America, forming rock band Toe Jam with Gerry Anderson and Jim Whiteside and many intimate behind-the-scenes moments of radio broadcasting for BBC Northern Ireland. With humour, warmth, and candid reflections, Colum shares his encounters with legendary musicians, the trials and triumphs of his personal relationships and his enduring commitment to playing music. A must-read for all music lovers. Books will be available to purchase at the event.

An Afternoon with the Mayor & The Jive Aces

Friday 2 May - Guildhall, Main Hall

2pm - 4pm £5 donation at door

Come along and enjoy the big band sound of the Jive Aces hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Lilian Seenoi Barr. Event will be first come, first serve and you will receive a complimentary drink on arrival. All proceeds in aid of the Mayor's Charity, The Bud Club.



JAZZ HUB AT THE GUILDHALL

Relax, unwind, and immerse yourself in the vibrant sounds of live jazz in the heart of the city. A family-friendly space where you can enjoy great music, grab a drink from the bar, and even hit the dance floor. The perfect spot to soak up the festival atmosphere!

Saturday 3 May - Guildhall, Main Hall

2pm - 4pm *Martin John & The Fellas*

5pm - 7pm *The Roaring Forties*

8pm - 10pm *The Swing Commanders*

Sunday 4 May - Guildhall, Main Hall

12.30pm - 1.30pm *Mr. Wilson's Second Liners*

2pm - 4pm *The Jive Aces*

5pm - 7pm *Swingtime Starlets*

8pm - 10pm *Jiveoholics*

Una Healy & Luke Thomas present 'Fly Me to the Moon'

Friday 2 May - St. Columb's Hall

🕒 7.30pm 🎟 £29.50 + booking fee

Million-selling artist and former Saturday's singer Una Healy will perform alongside Luke Thomas & The Swing Cats paying tribute to some of the most iconic artists of the last century including Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong and more. Expect to hear swing and jazz classics like 'Fly Me To The Moon', 'Mack The Knife', 'Moon River', 'Sing Sing Sing', 'Beyond The Sea' and many more.

EY Jazz Lounge

Saturday 3 May & Sunday 4 May - St. Columb's Hall

🕒 11pm - 12.30am 🎟 £10

The St. Columb's Hall "Late Night Jazz Club" returns featuring Jam Sessions hosted by the Paul McIntyre 'house band'. Doors open at 10.30pm each night. Hosted in the old Orchard Cinema at St. Columb's Hall, this venue has a wealth of musical history - the perfect late-night atmosphere for the Jazz Festival Club Jam Sessions.

Tickets at cityofderryjazzfestival.com/tickets



Shape the future
with confidence



Reborn - Morgan Roussel

Saturday 3 May - Nerve Centre

🕒 7pm 💷 £15 + booking fee

A fusion of jazz, blues and classical from one of France's finest composer-musicians. After a successful solo career, Morgan Roussel returns with a bold new project, showcasing his technical mastery and artistic daring. Leading the performance with bass and percussion, he embraces his role as orchestrator, unveiling a sound marked by intensity and individuality, as the musical heir to Michel Petrucciani.

BIIRD

Sunday 4 May - Nerve Centre

🕒 8pm 💷 £25 + booking fee

Presented by Stendhal Festival and the Nerve Centre, we welcome Irish trad supergroup **BIIRD**! Bursting onto the scene in 2024, this 11-piece powerhouse has quickly made a name for itself with a spellbinding fusion of traditional airs, infectious energy and undeniably danceable tunes.

Tickets at cityofderryjazzfestival.com/tickets



The Tibbs

Friday 2 May • Sandinos

🕒 9pm 🎟 FREE

Dutch soul sensations The Tibbs bring their electrifying garage soul to the City of Derry Jazz Festival in partnership with the Superfly Funk and Soul Belfast. Blending Rhythm & Blues, Funk, Jazz, Pop, and Ska with the golden-era sounds of Detroit and Philly soul, The Tibbs deliver a fresh yet nostalgic groove. Fronted by powerhouse vocalist Roxanne Hartog and backed by a dynamic horn section, their latest album, 'Keep It to Yourself', has been hailed as a "Vintage Soul Scorcher" (Clash Magazine) and featured on Craig Charles' Best of 2024 Show on BBC Radio 6. Don't miss this chance to experience The Tibbs live - soul music at its finest!

Support from DJ Pete Brady.



JAZZ AT NEW GATE ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE

Big Band Jazz with Britannia Band

Thursday 1 May - New Gate Arts & Culture Centre 7.30pm £ £10

The Britannia Concert Band presents the timeless sounds of Big Band music. Featuring classic arrangements made famous by legends like Glenn Miller, the performance will also include tributes to Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, Herbie Hancock and Dave Brubeck.

Women in Black

Friday 2 May - New Gate Arts & Culture Centre 7.30pm £ £12.50

Experience the captivating sound of an exciting new trio featuring Ursula McHugh (vocals), Dee Doherty (piano) and Jude Murphy (double bass). Their repertoire showcases exquisite melodies and timeless love songs from the Golden Era, reimagined with a modern twist.

Old Sea Legs

Saturday 3 May - New Gate Arts & Culture Centre 8pm £ £12.50

Crawling with vivid imagery and sharp storytelling, this is the solo project of Ian Bermingham, former frontman of The Eskies. Blending folk, gypsy, shanty, and vaudeville influences, his unique sound defies labels.

Fraser Fifield's 'Secret Path Trio'

Sunday 4 May - New Gate Arts & Culture Centre 7pm £ £12.50

A true virtuoso, Fraser Fifield blends Highland bagpipe tradition with soprano saxophone influences, crafting a unique whistle technique. Joined by Paul Harrison (keyboards) and Tom Bancroft (drums), **the Secret Path** promises an adventurous, genre-defying musical journey.

Tickets at cityofderryjazzfestival.com/tickets

LORE & The Dublin Gospel Choir

Thursday 1 May 🕒 8pm 💷 £22.50

The Dublin Gospel Choir & Lore have teamed up for a unique musical collaboration. Having shared the stage with music industry heavyweights such as Rod Stewart, John Legend, Kodaline and Take That, the Dublin Gospel Choir are best known for their gospel, soul and R'n'B repertoire and their creative interpretation of contemporary pop and rock numbers. Lore, hailing from Derry, will bring their soulful harmonies and finely crafted songs to our stage for the first time.

Nathan Carter

Friday 2 May 🕒 8pm 💷 £34.50

Expect a sensational night of live music and entertainment as Nathan performs a selection of his greatest hits.

Paul Casey - Rea-magined

Monday 5 May 🕒 8pm 💷 £29.50 + booking fee

Rea-magined is an expertly crafted show, featuring the classic hits of 40 million album-selling Chris Rea, faithfully performed in Rea's unmistakable style - with a modern twist - by his long-time collaborator, Paul Casey.

Tickets at cityofderryjazzfestival.com/tickets



JAZZ ALFRESCO

Enjoy some great music and beats on the streets during this year's festival. Featuring an array of bands and musicians from far and wide, they are sure to bring the city's streets to life with their wonderful talents.

GAY McINTYRE STAGE *Guildhall Square*

Saturday 3 May

Ardnashee School Choir & Band 🕒 12noon

St. Cecilia's Jazz Band 🕒 1.15pm

St. Columb's College Brass Band 🕒 2pm

EA Brass Band 🕒 3pm

Foyle College Brass Band 🕒 4pm

An Grúpa Beag 🕒 5.15pm

Sunday 4 May

Jim McDermott & Friends 🕒 12noon

Palais Swing Band 🕒 2pm

Roaring Forties 🕒 4pm

Mission Impossible 🕒 6pm

CRAFT VILLAGE STAGE

Saturday 3 May

Calgach Singers 🕒 11am

Dougie Breslin Band 🕒 12noon

Harry Connolly Band 🕒 1pm

Limavady Big Band 🕒 3pm

Garage Boys 🕒 5pm

Sunday 4 May

Bradley/Neilson Quintet (Jazz Lads 'n' Dads) 🕒 12noon

Angela & her NOLA Brass Squad 🕒 1pm

Martin John & the Fellas 🕒 3pm

Pure Fresh 🕒 5pm



Angela & her NOLA Brass Squad

Fri 2 May - Millennium Forum Steps 🕒 7.15pm

Sat 3 May - DLD Second Line Parade 🕒 11am

Millennium Forum Steps 🕒 3.45pm

Guildhall Taphouse 🕒 10.30pm

Sun 4 May - Craft Village 🕒 1pm

Richmond Centre Steps 🕒 4.30pm

Top Tier Brass Band

Thurs 1 May - Guildhall Taphouse 🕒 9.30pm

Fri 2 May - Shipquay St., Waterloo St., Waterloo Pl. 🕒 7pm

Sat 3 May - DLD Second Line Parade 🕒 11am

City Centre 🕒 2pm

Legenderry Pop Up Market

Sat 3 May - Guildhall Square 🕒 11am - 6pm

Sun 4 May - Guildhall Square 🕒 12noon - 7.30pm

Mr. Wilson's Second Liners

Fri 2 May - Shipquay St., Waterloo St., Waterloo Pl. 🕒 5pm

Guildhall Taphouse 🕒 10.30pm

Sat 3 May - DLD Second Line Parade 🕒 11am

Sun 4 May - Guildhall, Main Hall 🕒 12.30pm

New York Brass Band

Fri 2 May - Guildhall Sq. 🕒 6.30pm

Sat 3 May - DLD Second Line Parade 🕒 11am

Shipquay St., Waterloo St., Waterloo Pl. Guildhall Taphouse
🕒 3pm

Sun 4 May - Millennium Forum Steps 🕒 3pm

Boom Strutt Brass Band

Sat 3 May - DLD Second Line Parade 🕒 11am

Sat 3 May - City Centre 🕒 2pm

Cathedral Quarter 🕒 4pm



JAZZ IN THE COMMUNITY

May Day Rally

Saturday 3 May • 2pm - 3pm

The annual Derry Trades Council May Day March, to mark International Workers Day, will gather at Waterside Train Station at 1.30pm, departing at 2pm. The march will make its way through the town to the Guildhall (by the Factory Girls Sculpture on Harbour Square) where speeches and songs will begin at 2.30pm.

DLD Second Line Parade

Saturday 3 May - Castle Street • 11am

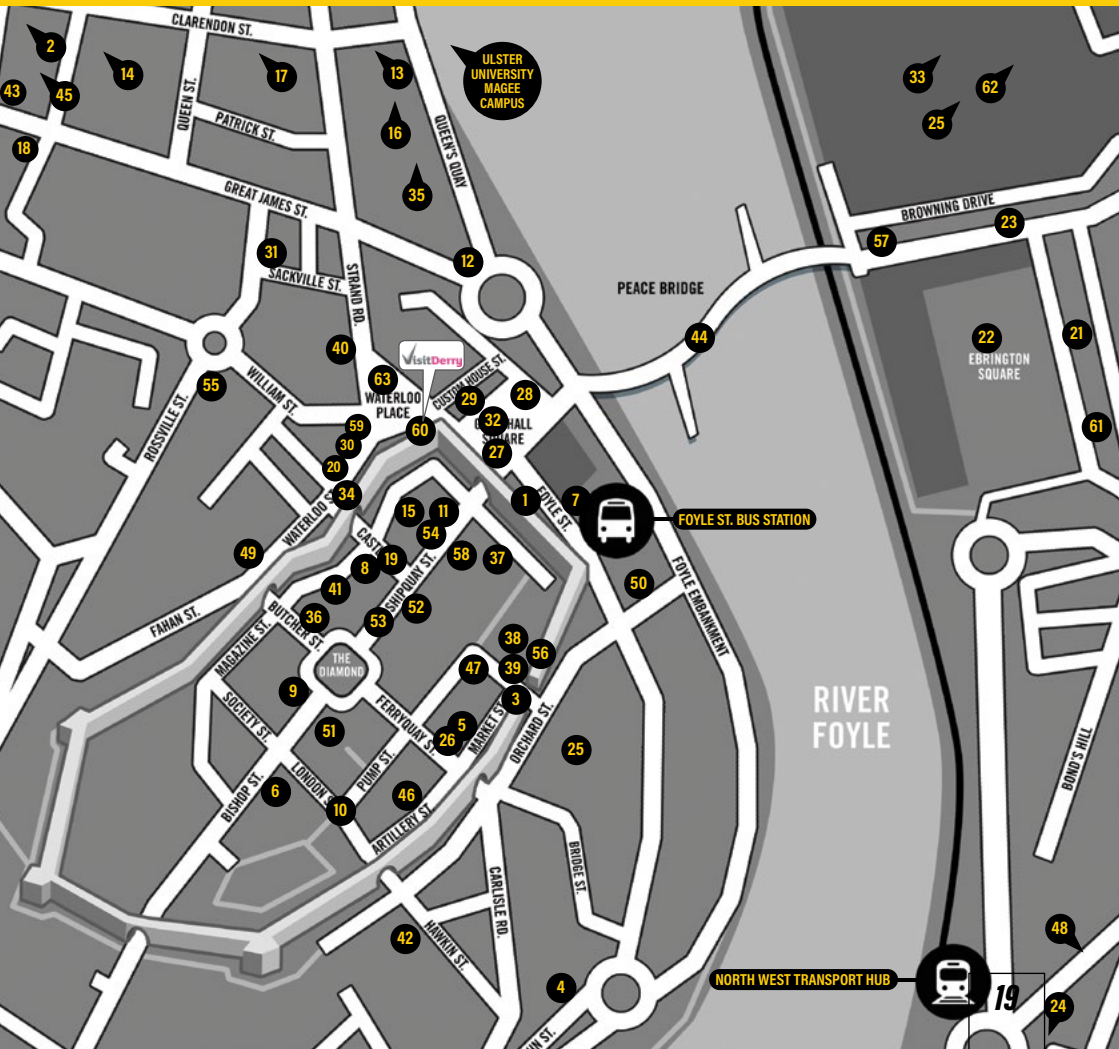
Calling all musicians, dancers, hip shakers and jazz makers! Second Line NI is back this year with our annual DLD Second Line Jazz Parade! It's that time again! Time to dust off the feathers and umbrellas, grab the good shoes and meet us on Castle Street. We're looking forward to bringing back some dearly loved bands and some new faces! All ages and instruments are welcome. Come celebrate over 12 years of class and style in our streets.

If you fancy joining in for the tunes contact Amanda Koser-Gillespie at ajkgillespie@gmail.com.

Education Programme

Live Music Now will bring jazz to over 1,200 young people through fun workshops in 8 local schools ahead of the City of Derry Jazz Festival. From March to May, post-primary pupils will join interactive 'Jazz Labs' led by jazz pianist John Leighton, singer/saxophonist Meilana Gillard, singer Victoria Geelan and pianist Neil Burns. These sessions introduce jazz through engaging performances of classic standards.

JAZZ FESTIVAL MAP



JAZZ FESTIVAL MAP

1 AOH	25 Foyleside Shopping Centre	49 Rocking Chair
2 The Argyle Bar	26 The Gate Bistro	50 Sandinos
3 Badgers Bar	27 Gay McIntyre Stage, Guildhall Sq.	51 The Sandwich Co.
4 Bennigans	28 The Guildhall, Main Hall	52 Shipquay Boutique Hotel
5 The Bentley	29 Guildhall Taphouse	53 Shiquay Street
6 Bishop's Gate Hotel	30 Gweedore Bar	54 Silver Street
7 Blackbird	31 Jack's Bar	55 Spaghetti Junction
8 Brickwork	32 Legenderry Pop-Up Market	56 St. Columb's Hall
9 Brass Neck	33 Link 47	57 Stitch & Weave
10 The Cathedral Quarter	34 Lizzie O'Farrells	58 The Thirsty Goat
11 The Cellar @ Silver Street	35 The Magnet	59 Tracy's Bar
12 City Hotel	36 Maldron Hotel	60 Visit Derry
13 Collon Bar	37 The Metro	61 Walled City Brewery
14 The Cosh Bar & Grill	38 Millennium Forum	62 Waterfoot Hotel
15 Craft Village	39 Millennium Forum Steps	63 Waterloo Place
16 Da Vinci's	40 Nacional de Cuba	
17 Daly's Bar & Bistro	41 Nerve Centre	
18 Derby Bar	42 New Gate Arts & Culture Centre	
19 DLD Second Line Parade	43 The Park Bar	
20 The Dungloe Bar	44 Peace Bridge	
21 Ebrington Hotel	45 The Phoenix Bar	
22 Ebrington Square	46 The Playhouse	
23 The Embankment Bar & Grill	47 Richmond Centre Steps	
24 Everglades Hotel	48 The Ritz Bar	



What's on Derry Strabane

whatsonderrystrabane.com

HERE FOR ARTS & CULTURE

f i y x

March

Sat 29th & Sun 30th • **North West Angling Fair**

May

Thurs 1st-Mon 5th • **City of Derry Jazz & Big Band Festival**

Sat 17th • **Battle of the Atlantic 80th Anniversary**

Sun 18th • **Strabane Lifford Half Marathon**

Sat 24th • **Mayor's Supercar event**

Sat 24th • **Mayor's Variety Show**

Sun 25th • **Mayor's Afrobeat Celebration**

June

Sat 7th • **Summer Jamm in Strabane**

September

Sun 7th • **Waterside Half Marathon**

Fri 19th • **Culture Night**

October

Tues 28th - Fri 31st • **Derry Halloween**

Fri 31st • **Strabane Halloween**

November

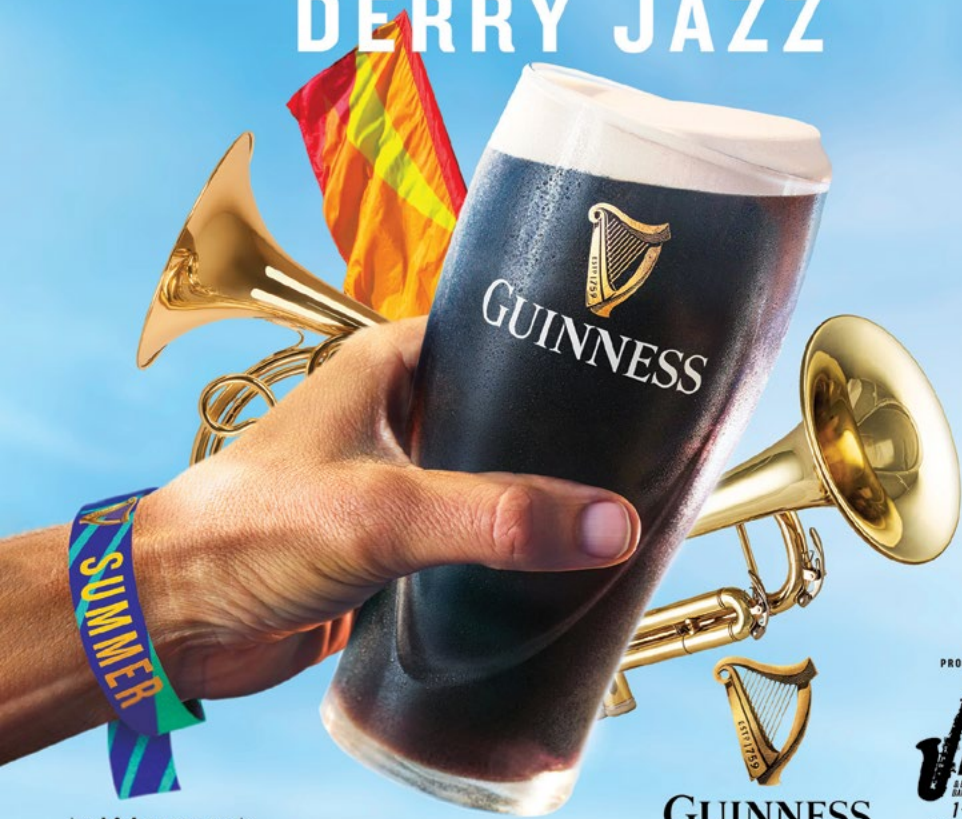
Fri 14th-Sun 16th • **Guildhall Craft Fair**

Fri 21st • **Christmas Lights Switch On Derry**

Sat 22nd • **Christmas Lights Switch On Strabane**



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GUINNESS

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