

Five best gigs

By Tim Cumming

Sheelanagig tonight
Acoustic world-folk dance mayhem, and about the only place where you'll hear Western swing combined with Arabic melodies, and klezmer with Irish reels. The five-strong band have two albums behind them, the most recent, *Baba Yaga's Ball*, recorded at Peter Gabriel's Real World studios. *Old Duke, Bristol*



London Community Gospel Choir tonight to Mon
The premier gospel choir in Britain celebrates its 25th year with a Christmas residency at the Jazz Café. The 30 singers and five-strong band are led by the founder, Rev Basil Meade, but are they really all going to fit on the Café's stage? *Jazz Café, London NW1*

Roy Ayers Ubiquity Wed to 5 Jan
Back in London for his seasonal 11-night residency, "the godfather of acid jazz", who also goes under the moniker Sunshine Man, comes armed with his West Coast vibes, showmanship and regular band, featuring the saxman Ray Gaskins. *Jazz Café, London NW1*

The Ray Gelato Giants tonight, Sun, Thur & Fri
He played at Paul McCartney's wedding back in 2002, but don't hold that against him. The country's king of jive and swing is making up for it with a string of pre-Christmas dates at the Soho jazz club. They sold out their last dates here in the summer, so don't hang about. *Ronnie Scott's, London W1*

Acoustic Alchemy tonight & Sun
The smooth-textured contemporary-jazz Brits, who've been recording for 20 years, are now fronted by Greg Carmichael and Miles Gilderdale on acoustic guitars. They return for a Christmas residency at the Soho pizzeria, on the back of their latest album, *This Way*. *Pizza Express Jazz Club, London W1*

Album of the week

By Tim Cumming

Dhafer Youssef & Wolfgang Muthspiel: Glow
(Material Records) £11.99

This collaboration between the Tunisian singer and oud player Dhafer Youssef and the Austrian guitarist Wolfgang Muthspiel is a treasure. Against Muthspiel's guitars and electronic washes, Dhafer's vocals – wordless and occasionally overwhelming, almost scary – take the music to some extraordinary places. This is a new music, and a new place entirely.



To order any CD seen or reviewed in The Independent call **01634 832 789** (all prices quoted include UK p&p)

JAZZ, BLUES & WORLD

SATURDAY 22

London

▶▶ **Acoustic Alchemy** See Five Best, left. 10pm, £25. *Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean St, W1 (020-7734 3220)* ☉ *Tottenham Court Rd.*

Julia Farino Trio Standards and originals. 1pm & 5.45pm, free. *Royal National Theatre Foyer, South Bank, SE1 (020-7452 3400)* ☉ *Waterloo.*

▶▶ **The Ray Gelato Giants** See Five Best, left. 9pm, ends 31 Dec, £36. *Ronnie Scott's, Frith Street, W1 (020-7439 0747)* ☉ *Leicester Square.*

The Jive Aces Jazz and swing. 12.30pm, free. *Royal Festival Hall, The Ballroom, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, SE1 (0871-663 2500)* ☉ *Embankment.*

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys Louis Jordan and Eddie Cleanhead-influenced rhythm'n'blues, jump jive and jazz. 7.30pm, £10. *100 Club, Oxford Street, W1 (020-7636 0933)* ☉ *Oxford Circus.*

Faebhean Kwest Parisian swing. 6pm, £5, free before 8pm. *Le Quecumbar, Battersea High Street, SW11 (020-7787 2227)* BR: *Queenstown Road, Battersea.*

▶▶ **London Community Gospel Choir** See Five Best, left. 7pm, ends 24 Dec, £20. *The Jazz Café, Parkway, NW1 (020-7534 6955)* ☉ *Camden Town.*

Tina May with the Robin Aspland Trio The vocalist sings chanson, swing and more with the piano trio. 8.30pm, £10. *Bull's Head, Lonsdale Road, SW13 (020-8876 5241)* BR: *Barnes Bridge.*

Y606 Club Xmas Party with Samara Brazilian samba, Latin jazz and soul. 8pm, £12. *606 Club, Lots Rd, SW10 (020-7352 5953)* ☉ *Earl's Court.*

Bristol

▶▶ **Sheelanagig** See Five Best, left. 8.30pm, free. *The Old Duke, King Street (0117-927 7137)*

Top Shelf Jazz Arthur Foxaque's early jazz and swinging speakeasy. 9.30pm, £3. *Tantric Jazz, St Nicholas Street (0117-940 2304)*

Cardiff

Laura Collins Winter warmers from the songbook of Nat King Cole. 6pm, free. *Foyer, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay (0870-040 2000)*

Leicester

Courtney Pine Jazz, reggae, hip-hop and drum'n'bass. 8pm, £17.50, £12 in adv, concs £12. *Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue, Belgrave (0845-310 3344)*

Oxford

Jim Dvorak, George Haslam, Richard Leigh Harris & Steve Kershaw Avant-garde quartet. 7.30pm, £8, concs £6. *The Burton Taylor Theatre, Gloucester Street (01865-305305)*

SUNDAY 23

London

▶▶ **Acoustic Alchemy** See Five Best, left. 7.30pm, £25. *Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean St, W1 (020-7734 3220)* ☉ *Tottenham Court Rd.*

Big Band Metheny The saxophonist Simon Gilby leads an 18-piece big band. 1pm, £8. *Bull's Head, Lonsdale Rd, SW13 (020-8876 5241)* BR: *Barnes Bridge.*

Laurie Morgan Trio Drums-led jazz jam. 2pm-5pm, £4. *Downstairs at The King's Head, Crouch End Hill, N8 (020-8340 1028)* ☉ *Finsbury Park.*

Cambridge

Andy Bowie Quartet: Swinging Sundays Sax-led jazz. 8.30pm, free. *Elm Tree, Orchard St (01223-363005)*

Colchester

Sussex Jazz Kings Festive music. 7.30pm, £10. *Colchester Jazz Club, Stanway Rovers Football Club, New Farm Road (01206-501891)*

Kingston-upon-Thames

Protect the Beat The groovers promote their new album. 8.30pm, free. *Boaters Inn, Lower Ham Road (020-8541 4672)*

Nottingham

Teddy Fullick Quintet Featuring the piano maestro Bob Hudson. 1.30pm, free. *The Lion, Mosley St (0115-960 3450)*

Roade

Tad Newton's Jazz Friends Christmas Jazz Party With the sax man Jonny Boston. 12noon, £6. *Ex-Service-man's Club, London Rd (01604-858549)*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Bristol

Cass Caswell's Monster Trio The veteran double-bassist. 8.30pm, free. *The Old Duke, King Street (0117-927 7137)*

Cambridge

Jazz Jam The trumpeter Paul Stubbs hosts. 9pm, free. *The Elm Tree, Orchard Street (01223-363005)*

Isleworth

Don Weller, John Horler, Andy Cleynert & Trevor Tomkins Bespoke quartet. 8pm, free. *Coach and Horses, London Road (020-8560 1447)*

BOXING DAY

London

▶▶ **Roy Ayers Ubiquity** See Five Best, left. 7pm, ends 5 Jan, £25, £20 in adv. *The Jazz Café, Parkway, NW1 (020-7534 6955)* ☉ *Camden Town.*

Joe Burt Experience Bass- and vocal-led jazz. 8.30pm, £10. *Bull's Head, Lonsdale Road, SW13 (020-8876 5241)* BR: *Barnes Bridge.*

Eriko Ishihara Duo The singer-pianist from Tokyo. 5.45pm, free. *Royal National Theatre Foyer, South Bank, SE1 (020-7452 3400)* ☉ *Waterloo.*

Bristol

Andy Couzins Guitar, harmonica and vocals. 9pm, free. *Tantric Jazz, St Nicholas Street (0117-940 2304)*

Penarth

Keith Little Band Swing and jump jive. 9pm, free. *The Windsor, Windsor Road (029-2070 2821)*

THURSDAY 27

London

Stewart Curtis Klezmer Trio Clarinet-led traditional Jewish music. 5.45pm, free. *Royal National Theatre Foyer, South Bank, SE1 (020-7452 3400)* ☉ *Waterloo.*

G-Funk A heady mix of funky R&B and Tracey Hamlin's vocals. 7.30pm, ends 28 Dec, £25. *Pizza Express Jazz Club, Dean Street, W1 (020-7439 8722)* ☉ *Tottenham Court Road.*

Bristol

Kirsten Fellowes Jazz and folk from the singer. 9pm, £3. *Tantric Jazz, St Nicholas Street (0117-940 2304)*

Kettering

Beer Parlour Jivers Jazz, honky tonk and hillbilly ensemble. 9pm, free. *The Stirrup Cup, Woodlands Avenue (01536-513973)*

Plymouth

Roger Marks Armada Jazz Band Light-hearted New Orleans trad. 8.30pm, free. *The Odd Wheel, Knighton Road (01752-862287)*

FRIDAY 28

London

Natalia Farran The stylish Spanish chanteuse. 9pm, £5, concs £3. *Octave, Endell Street, WC2 (020-7836 4616)* ☉ *Covent Garden.*

Femi Temowo Trio Straight-ahead jazz. 9.30pm, free. *T-Solo Restaurant & Jazz Bar, Norwood Road, SE24 (020-8678 6604)* BR: *Herne Hill.*

Bristol

Robin Reece Jazz Band Swing, blues, Latin and ballads. 12.30pm, free. *The Old Duke, King Street (0117-927 7137)*

Tantra Double-bassist Mike Wilsh's in-house combo. 9pm, £3. *Tantric Jazz, St Nicholas Street (0117-940 2304)*

Cheltenham

Peter Gill & Graeme Budd The piano pair play boogie and jazz. 8pm, £5. *The Wheatsheaf Inn, Old Bath Road (01242-525371)*

Oakham

Welland Valley Stompers Classic Dixieland jazz outfit. 8.30pm, free. *The Falcon Hotel, High Street East (01572-823535)*