Friday 13 November 2026
7pm
Milton Court Concert Hall

Harlem Renaissance

Guildhall Big Band
Merton Music Foundation

directed by Matt Skelton

narrated by Kevin Le Gendre

Milton Court Concert Hall

Please silence your devices and lower the brightness of your display.

Eating is not permitted in the auditorium. Drinks are allowed inside the auditorium in polycarbonates.

Filming or recording of the performance is not permitted.

Latecomers will be able to enter the auditorium at a suitable break in the performance.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Founded in 1880 by the City of London Corporation.

Chair of the Board of Governors
The Hon. Emily Benn

Principal
Professor Jonathan Vaughan FGS

Vice-Principal & Director of Music
Armin Zanner FGS

Programme

William Benton Overstreet
There'll Be Some Changes Made
arranged by Jude Lane

Charlie Davis
Copenhagen
arranged by Don Redman

Horace Henderson
Hot and Anxious

Don Redman
Chant of the Weed

Lovie Austin
Down Hearted Blues
lyrics by Alberta Hunter
arranged by Jude Lane

Jelly Roll Morton
King Porter Stomp
arranged by Fletcher Henderson

Eddie Durham
Harlem Shout

Duke Ellington & Irving Mills
The Mooche
arranged by Jude Lane

Interval (20 minutes)

Duke Ellington, Harry Carney & Johnny Hodges
Cotton Club Stomp

Fats Waller & Harry Brooks
Black and Blue
lyrics by Andy Razaf
arranged by Jude Lane

Duke Ellington, Bubber Miley & Rudy Jackson
Creole Love Call

George Gershwin
Liza
arranged by Van Alexander

Edgar Sampson
Stompin' at the Savoy

Duke Ellington & Barney Bigard
Mood Indigo
arranged by Jude Lane

Fletcher Henderson
Hotter Than 'Ell

Access our digital programme for biographies, programme notes and more.

Scan the QR code or visit:
guildhall-programmes.co.uk/2026-11-13-harlem-renaissance

Guildhall School is provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation.

Guildhall Big Band

Woodwinds
John Kelly (clarinet)
Marceau Coppard (alto saxophone)
Sami Majid-Wood (alto saxophone)
Izzy Laing (soprano/tenor saxophone)
Aki Sims (tenor saxophone)
Sofiia Bilovil (soprano/baritone saxophone)

Trumpet/Flugelhorn
Xaver Schutti
Daniel Hammond
Max Gerrard
Sandy Watkin

Trombone
Henry Hanssen
Tom Wood
Tom Hornby
Max Lawrence

Guitar
Alex Allen
Joe Duncan

Piano
Douglas Wright
Louis Holley

Bass
Jonathan Vel
Sean Blake

Drums
Natan Kedzierski
Max Kroon

Merton Music Foundation

Woodwinds
Olivia Murphy^ (clarinet)
Heidi Chilcott (clarinet)
Jan Johannsson (alto saxophone)
Kiran Tandon (alto saxophone)
Rhea Tompsett (tenor saxophone)

Trumpet
Matthew Wright
Jacob Dorin
Zeb Tonkin^

Euphonium
Lilly Blackwell

Trombone
Hasan Tunalier

Guitar
Edward Treacy

Piano
Andre Makushchenko Ferraz
Hayden Le

Bass
Alex Young

Drums
Asher Merriman
Charlie Tompsett
Jay Han

^ *MMF Tutor*

Matt Skelton

Matt Skelton is a drummer equally at home in modern and vintage Jazz styles enjoying a diverse musical career that has already spanned three decades. He has accompanied many leading Jazz luminaries such as Harry 'Sweets' Edison, Conte Candoli, Bucky Pizzarelli, John Pizzarelli, Warren Vache, Scott Hamilton, John Hendricks, Kurt Elling, Curtis Stigers, Gregory Porter and most recently Georgie Fame. He has recorded and appeared with singers such as Marion Montgomery, Dame Cleo Laine, Claire Martin and Jessye Norman. In 2015 he toured in the USA and recorded with Seth Macfarlane. He was Sir Richard Rodney Bennett's drummer of choice and for eight years toured and recorded as a member of Stacey Kent's group, including her Grammy-nominated 2007 release *Breakfast on the Morning Tram* on BlueNote.

Matt Skelton is a founding member of the Grammy nominated John Wilson Orchestra. He regularly appears with the BBC Big Band and often with the BBC Concert, BBC Philharmonic and BBC Symphony orchestras including the *Last Night of the Proms* 2017. Traveling as John Wilson's drummer he has most recently performed with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Stockholm Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2018 Matt toured internationally with Sir Simon Rattle with the London Symphony Orchestra for various Leonard Bernstein centenary concerts, including performances of Bernstein's second Symphony, *The Age of Anxiety* and a concert version of *Wonderful Town*.

West End musical theatre credits include the 2015 Savoy revival of *Gypsy* and the Broadway transfer of *An American in Paris* at the Dominion theatre 2017. Recent film soundtracks include *Motherless Brooklyn*, *Catch 22*, *Four Kids and It* and *Blithe Spirit*.

At Guildhall School, Matt teaches for both the Jazz and Wind, Brass & Percussion departments.

Kevin Le Gendre

Kevin Le Gendre is an award-winning journalist, writer and broadcaster with a special interest in black music, literature and culture.

Over the past three decades Kevin has written about soul, funk, jazz and hip-hop, as well as African and Caribbean authors for many publications, including *Echoes* magazine (formerly *Black Echoes*), *Jazzwise*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, Qwest tv in France and *Times Literary Supplement Online*.

Kevin has contributed to BBC Radio 4's *Front Row* and also presents documentaries. He is the author of *Don't Stop The Carnival*; *Black Music In Britain* Vol 1 (2018) and his latest book is *Hear My Train A Comin': The Songs Of Jimi Hendrix*.

Kevin is currently a presenter on OneJazz.net, the global jazz radio station.

Forthcoming events

Guildhall Jazz Festival
18, 20, 21 & 22 November 2026
Milton Court

The creativity and originality of the Guildhall Jazz community are celebrated in the highly anticipated return of our Jazz Festival in November, presented in partnership with EFG London Jazz Festival.

Guildhall Session Orchestra presents Vangelis: 'Albedo 0.39'
21 November 2026
Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

Celebrate 50 years of award-winning, Greek composer Vangelis' groundbreaking, cosmic 1976 sophomore album, *Albedo 0.39*, in this special performance of exciting orchestral treatments, performed by Guildhall Session Orchestra and directed by Mike Roberts.

Part of EFG London Jazz Festival.

Guildhall Jazz Voices
2 December 2026
Milton Court Concert Hall

Join us for an uplifting evening of vocal virtuosity and rich harmonies from Guildhall's exceptional Jazz vocal ensembles directed by Scott Stroman, Clare Wheeler and Flora Medlicott.