

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME **2025**

HarmonicaUK
.....1935.....2025.....



harmonica.uk

Festival Programme

FRIDAY PROGRAMME

16.00-19.00

Bar: Social, meet and greet

19.00-20.00

Conference Hall: Annual General Meeting

20.00-Late

Conference Hall: Jam with the band

Bar: Social and Informal Jams

Last Call at the Bar is Midnight

SATURDAY PROGRAMME

08.00-09.30

Dinning Room: Breakfast

09.30-9:45

Conference Hall: Welcome

9:45-11:00 Session One

Conference Hall: Closed- Artist Sound Check

Seminar Room 1: Joe Powers: Beginning Corner Switching for Chromatic players

Seminar Room 2: Steve Baker: An Introduction to Country Tuning

Committee Room 2: Hilvert Scheper: Ensemble Performance

Committee Room 1: Trade Stalls

Bar: Competition Videos

11.00-11.30 Break

Bar: Tea and Coffee

11.30-12.45 Session Two

Conference Hall: Closed- Artist Sound Check

Seminar Room 1: Ricky Cool: Old Style Blues in 1st Position

Seminar Room 2: Mat Walklate: An Introduction to Traditional Music

Committee Room 2: Adam Glasser: Playing Jazz Standards

Committee Room 1: Trade Stalls

Bar: Competition Videos

12.45-13.45

Dinning Room: Lunch

13.45-15.00 Session Three

Conference Hall: Closed- Artist Sound Check

Seminar Room 1: Lee Oskar: Learn to play Low Rider with Lee Oskar

Seminar Room 2: Joel Andersson: Easy Thirds Tuning for Irish Music

Committee Room 2: Hilvert Scheper: Ensemble Performance

Committee Room 1: Trade Stalls

Bar: Competition Videos

15.00-15.30 Break

Bar: Tea and Coffee

15.30-16.45 Session Four

Conference Hall: Closed- Artist Sound Check

Seminar Room 1: Joe Powers: Chromatic Curious- for Diatonic players

Festival Programme

SATURDAY CONCERT

19.10-19.15

Conference Hall: Pre-seating

19.15-19.30

Conference Hall: General seating

19.30-19.40

Conference Hall: Welcome

19.40-20.30 First Set

Conference Hall

Mat Walklate

Joe Powers

20.30-21.00 Interval

Conference Hall & Bar

Drinks can be preordered for the interval. Glasses must not leave the bar.

20.30-22.45 Second Set

Conference Hall

Steve Baker

Lee Oskar

Encore

22:45-Late

Bar: Social and Informal Jams

Last Call at the Bar is Midnight

Seminar Room 2: Steve Baker: An Introduction to Natural Minor Tuning

Committee Room 2: Mat Walklate: Traditional Dance Tunes

Committee Room 1: Trade Stalls

Bar: Competition Awards

16.45-18.00

Bar: Social

18.00-19.15

Dinning Room: Dinner/Tea



SUNDAY PROGRAMME

08.00-09.30

Dinning Room: Breakfast

9:30-10:45 Session Five

Conference Hall: Chris Collis: Preparing for the delegates performance

Seminar Room 1: Joe Powers: Improve your Improv- For All Levels and Harmonicas

Seminar Room 2: Ricky Cool: Old Style Blues in 1st Position

Committee Room 2: Adam Glasser: Playing Jazz Standards

Committee Room 1: Trade Stalls

Bar: Joel Anderson: Harp Tech Workshop

10.45-11.30

Bar: Auction

Dining Room: Tea and Coffee

11.30-12.45 Session Six

Conference Hall: Chris Collis: Preparing for the delegates performance

Seminar Room 1: Mat Walklate: Advanced Traditional Techniques

Seminar Room 2: Steve Baker: What Country and Natural Minor tunings have in common

Committee Room 2: Hilvert Scheper Ensemble Performance Practice

Committee Room 1: Trade Stalls

Bar: Ricky Cool: Old Style Blues in 1st position performance practice

12.45-13.45

Dinning Room: Lunch

13.45-14.00

Conference Hall: Award Presentation

14.00-16.00

Conference Hall: Delegates Performance

16.00-16:10

Conference Hall: Closing Remarks



Paul Jones, President of HarmonicaUK since 2002



Workshop Session Three: Sat 13:45

Learn to Play Low Rider with Lee Oskar

Lee will share insights into the finer points of harmonica playing, as well as stories drawn from 43 years of Lee Oskar Harmonicas and his expansive musical career.

Bring along your own Major C Diatonic harmonica and learn to play this iconic song from Lee himself, who composed this megahit's unforgettable riff on his harmonica! A limited number of Lee Oskar Harmonicas will be available for purchase at the venue. Whether you bring or buy your Lee Oskar Harmonica, Lee will be happy to engrave his original signature on it!

Major Diatonic Harmonica Key of C



STEVE BAKER

Workshop Seesion One: Sat 9:45

An Introduction to Country Tuning

Country Tuning is the simplest possible modification of the standard Richter Tuning. You only need to change one note. This workshop is aimed at helping you recalibrate in order to choose appropriate note patterns.

Country Tuned Diatonic Key of C

Workshop Session Four: Sat 15:30

An Introduction to Natural Minor Tuning

The Natural Minor Tuning was first introduced by Lee Oskar in the mid 1980s. It's brilliant for playing tunes in minor keys in a wide range of styles, from blues to jazz, pop, reggae and much more. This workshop is also aimed at helping you recalibrate in order to choose appropriate note patterns

Hohner Steve Baker Natural Minor Key of A or Lee Oskar Natural Minor Key of Em

Workshop Session Six: Sun 11:30

What Country and Natural Minor tunings have in common

The tonal layouts in Country and Natural Minor tunings both use the 8 notes of the major scale exclusively, but each tuning starts at a different point in the scale. What this means for the player is that it's possible to play both these tunings not only in the major or minor key to which each is tuned, but also in the respective parallel minor or major mode. This workshop is a deeper dive into the note layouts and how take advantage of both tunings.



JOE POWERS

Workshop Session One: Sat 9:45

Beginning Corner-Switching – for Chromatic Players

Learn how and when to use this important technique to play melodies more smoothly and navigate note jumps with ease. Progress from basic tongue-blocking to full-blown corner-switching with exercises and simple songs. This workshop is ideal for players looking to expand their expressive phrasing abilities and add finesse to their chromatic playing.

Chromatic Harmonica- Key of C

Workshop Session Four: Sat 15:30

Chromatic Curious – for Diatonic Players

Curious about the chromatic harmonica? Whether you have one yet or not, you can join in and learn how your diatonic skills directly transfer over to the chromatic. Discover how the note layouts correspond and how the button works. Unlock the mysteries of the chromatic and build confidence as you explore its expressive potential.

Workshop Session Five: Sun 9:30

Improve Your Improv – for All Levels Learn about chord symbols and scales, and how to use them to navigate basic chord progressions. Explore several techniques for crafting creative solos and breaking free from the “blues rut.” Discover how to build melodic ideas that respond to the groove and mood of a tune. We’ll also experiment with phrasing, dynamics, and timing to help your improvisation feel more expressive and alive.

Chromatic or Diatonics Harmonica- Key of C



MAT WALKLATE

Workshop Session Two: Sat 11:30

An Introduction to Traditional Music

An introduction to traditional music via songs. The songs are less complex and 'busy' than the reels and jigs. Using the major, blues and dorian scales. via songs.



Workshop Session Four: Sat 15:30

Traditional Dance Tunes

Beginning to play traditional dance tunes: reels, jigs, polkas etc. Technique, embouchure, repertoire, tunings.

Workshop Six: Sun 11:30

Advanced Traditional Techniques

Ornamentation. Embellishment. Variation. Constructing sets. American traditional music.



RICKY COOL

Workshop Sessions Two and Five: Sat 11:30, Sun 9:45

Old Style Blues in 1st position

The workshops will focus on perform the Jazz Gillum song 'You Gotta Run Me Down.' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwqpJLnmDho>

All you need for the workshops is a harmonica in C. It will suit Diatonic, Chromatic, Tremelo, Trochilus and if there are any players with a Chord or Bass harmonica you would like to come along, they will be more than welcome.

Workshops 1 and 2 will cover the same ground so that participants can choose the workshop that best suits their chosen workshop schedule. Understanding the chord structure of the song; Riffing behind guitar and vocals; Soloing ideas. This will all be based around the C Major Scale, C Major Pentatonic and Blues Scales plus passing notes.

Any Type of Harmonica- Key of C

Workshop Session Six: Sun 11:30

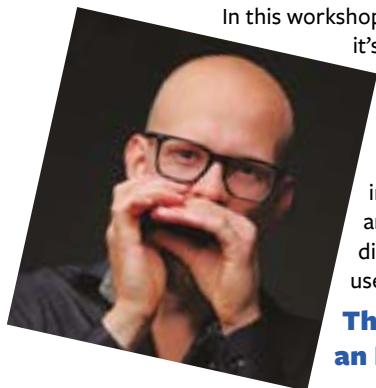
The plan for workshop 3 is to put together a performance of 'You Gotta Run Me Down' that we can present during the Sunday afternoon concert. We will play with a backing track that I am putting together that will allow for a number of solos as well as riffing and ensemble playing.



JOEL ANDERSSON

Workshop Session Three: Sat 13:45

Easy Third Tuning for Irish Music



In this workshop we'll be exploring Easy Third tuning. We'll look at how it's simple layout opens up new possibilities for many different musical styles, why it's such a unique tool for both diatonic and chromatic players, and how it can fit into your own music. Joel will also showcase how he uses it in his playing of Irish traditional music, and will include a mini concert, showcasing Joel's expressive style and interpretation of Irish melodies, followed by an open discussion about the harmonicas he plays, techniques he uses, and his overall approach to phrasing and rhythm.

This workshop doesn't require that you bring an Easy Thirds tuned harmonica

Workshop Session Five: Sun 9:30

Harp Tech Workshop

Further on from his recent Saturday Session, Joel will dive into what makes a custom harmonica a must have — how it's built, why it performs differently, and why you might want to consider owning one yourself.

Joel will also share practical tips and tricks to help you get the most out of your instruments, how to extend the lifespan of your harmonica, simple adjustments you can do to make them more airtight, and other easy ways to improve playability and response.

CREFFTAU CRIBARTH
HARMONICA CREATIONS

HILVERT SCHEPER

Ensemble Performance- Sessions One, Three and Six: Sat 9:45, Sat 13:45, Sun 11:30



In the ensemble workshops, we will try to play a well-known Christmas tune, "Little Drummer Boy", but with a very interesting twist; played to the rhythm of Ravel's Bolero, a particularly interesting challenge for chord- and bass- harmonica players.

The melody is not as easy as you may think; it provides a very interesting challenge for all harmonica players.

Written scores will be provided at the workshops, with different scores for the melody with counter-melody and the bass and rhythm.

The scores don't come with tabs, but the melody is easy to remember.

Little Drummer Boy to the rhythm of Ravel's Bolero is a unique experiment, mixing a common tempo 4/4 beat in the melody with a slow 3/4 rhythm for bass and chords is something that has never been attempted before, and feel free to make a recording of our performance together that you can post on your own social media as a personal special Season's greeting to your friends and family for Christmas.

These workshops are inclusive for all types harmonicas; chromatic, diatonic, and of course chord- and bass-harmonica players are most welcome.



ADAM GLASSER

Workshop Session Two and Five: Sat 11:30, Sun 9:30

Playing Jazz Standards

Based mainly on the 'great American songbook', the aim of this workshop is to assist you to develop a repertoire of jazz standards based on your own personal taste.



We will listen to a selection of excerpts from Larry Adler, Toots Thielemans and Stevie Wonder to contemporary players including Mathias Heise and RoniEytan. And look at ways to bring some of their magic into to our own playing.

I will offer short cuts demystifying the essential steps needed to play a jazz standard fluently on the harmonica., and we will also cover some key essential music theory - playing in different keys, improvising on chord changes, introducing the use of chord tones and pentatonic scales.

Suitable for all skill levels and harmonica type: diatonic (solo or richter) or chromatic in thr key of C.

BATTLE PLAN

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