



# TOY HEARTS NEWS

July 2009

## Kitchen Garden Cafe Summer Specials



For July and August, the monthly Country Cookin'™ Acoustic Review at the Kitchen Garden Cafe in Kings Heath promises something a little different. In place of the usual out-of-town guests and local songwriters, the summer special shows will feature two full Toy Hearts sets with favourites from the band's first 2 albums as well exclusive debut performances of eagerly awaited new material from the forthcoming EP release which the band are scheduled to start recording in August. With a working title of 'The Jazz and Blues EP', the band's new material explores the Western Swing and Continental Stomp that

already plays a part in both their live set and albums.

Taking part in the Transatlantic Bluegrass Exchange while the Toy Hearts are on their Fall USA Tour, September's Country Cookin'™ show will feature Jeff and Vida. Originally from New Orleans and now based in Nashville, Jeff and Vida make music that is real and true, playing songs that you long to hear late at night on the interstate, in poolhalls and smoky whisky bars and now, in organic garden centre/cafes in Kings Heath.

### The Toy Hearts Summer Specials

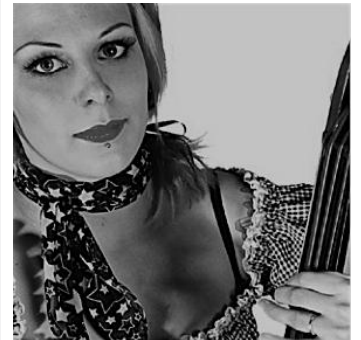
Sunday 19th July

Sunday 16th August

### Jeff and Vida's Country Cookin'™ Acoustic Review

Sunday 20th September

## Bex Bones Beats Brad to Bass...



Taking the helm on bass while Bradley moonlights, Bex Bones, borrowed from Nate Pilgrim and The Magnificatz, brings a rockabilly edge to The Toy Hearts sound - catch her at these shows:

- Aug 15 - Katie Fitzgeralds, Stourbridge
- Aug 29 - The Green Note, London
- Aug 30 - The Regent Centre, Newtown
- Oct 14 - Travellers Rest, Derby

## Birmingham Town Hall Show - tickets on sale now!



Part of Birmingham Town Hall's 175th Anniversary celebrations, The Toy Hearts are set to take part in a birthday shindig to remember on Sunday October 11th, celebrating not only the venue's anniversary but also the diversity of Birmingham's eclectic music scene with three of the city's hottest acoustic bands.

Fresh back from their USA tour, The Toy Hearts will be joining a bill with energetic folk ensemble The Old Dance School and Birmingham's favourite turbocharged gypsy-punk band, The Destroyers.

Tickets are on sale now from the [Birmingham Town Hall website](#).

# Bluegrass in the Heart of Birmingham



The centrepiece of Birmingham's buzzing Convention Quarter, Brindley Place's open-air bandstand has been the venue for a series of summer evening concerts showcasing the finest talent on Birmingham's live music scene.

Marking Birmingham's hosting of the 100th Annual International Rotary Convention, The Toy Hearts brought their brand of Bluegrass and Western Swing to The Water's Edge on June 23rd.

Playing to an attentive and appreciative international audience in town for the convention, the band

played a rare 3-piece set followed by a selection of Toy Hearts favourites. Guitarist Sophia Johnson commented "we love playing hometown shows, especially open air ones, and this was a great chance to bring something new to Brindley Place. In fact, we had a couple from Florida, who watched the entire show, say how surprised they were - they never expected to come to Birmingham and hear Bluegrass!".



## Hold The Front Page...



July sees Bluegrass Europe, the official magazine of the European Bluegrass Music Association, feature The Toy Hearts as their cover artists. The band attracted the attention of the EBMA's Richard Hawkins when they attended the IBMA International Summit meeting

in Nashville in 2008. The magazine features an in-depth interview with the band exploring The Toy Hearts' approach and the secrets behind cracking the American and European Bluegrass markets as a British act.

The Toy Hearts continue their busy European touring schedule, playing 3 festivals in France in July and supporting The Steep Canyon Rangers on the first ever Bluegrass Jamboree tour of Germany in December.

[www.bluegrass-europe.com](http://www.bluegrass-europe.com)

## The Toy Hearts hit Coastline

Marking the beginning of The Toy Hearts' 2009 summer festival season, Coastline Bluegrass Event was held over 5/6/7 June at Plas Uchaf Farm, near Llandudno. The band were enthusiastically received for their 2 live sets and also hosted hands-on workshops - a dobro session from Stewart,



focusing on bar slants and, controversially, not only playing in the key of G, while the later full-band performance and songwriting workshop provided an opportunity for fans to get a glimpse into the workings of a bluegrass band. The workshop was also the debut for one of the bands latest songs, Tequila and High Heels. Sophia and Hannah were thrilled to meet the next generation of pickin' gals and were especially impressed with their Toy Hearts scrapbook - the girls would like to give a special shout out to Saoirse, Niamh and Mia.



# Gig Guide

## July

Date	Venue
01/07/2009	Patrick Kavanaghs
03/07/2009	The Holly Bush
04/07/2009	Maverick festival
05/07/2009	Berck country rock festival
09/07/2009	The Fighting Cocks
11/07/2009	Ely Folk Festival
12/07/2009	Staunton Country Park
18/07/2009	The Museum
19/07/2009	The Kitchen Garden Cafe
26/07/2009	Country Rendez-vous Festival
31/07/2009	EWOB France

City
Birmingham
Hereford
Suffolk
Berck, France
Stottesdon
Cambridgeshire
Hampshire
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Birmingham
Craponne sur Arzon, France
La Roche-sur-Foron, Rhone Alps

## August

Date	Venue
06/08/2009	The Prom
15/08/2009	Katie Fitzgeralds
16/08/2009	The Kitchen Garden Cafe
23/08/2009	Cafe @ Royal Albert Hall
28/08/2009	Shambala festival
29/08/2009	The Green Note
30/08/2009	The Regent Centre

City
Bristol
Stourbridge
Birmingham
London
Northamptonshire
Camden, London
Newtown, Wales

## September

Sep-09	USA Fall Tour
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## October/November

Date	Venue
10/10/2009	Bluegrass Plus Club
11/10/2009	The Town Hall
14/10/2009	The Travellers Rest
18/10/2009	The Kitchen Garden Cafe
06/11/2009	The Chindit
13/11/2009	The Floors
22/11/2009	The Kitchen Garden Cafe
25/11/2009	The Prom
28/11/2009	Common Folk Club
01/12/2009	Bluegrass Jamboree Tour

City
Croydon
Birmingham
Derby
Birmingham
Wolverhampton
Tenbury Wells
Birmingham
Bristol
Pelsall, Walsall
Germany

