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TWO gigs stand out this week around the clubs. The first is on Sunday night in the the Red Room at the Rescue Rooms, when Tennessee-born Hans Chew, pictured, and his band perform. Chew's music comes from what he calls "an expression of the soul" In which he believes that "death gives meaning to life, suffering gives meaning to love".

He is a self-taught pianist whose grandfather sang in a gospel quartet. His mother was into Hendrix and the Rolling Stones. His father only listened to classical music. Chew takes his influences also from musicians like James Booker, Professor Longhair, Dr John, Little Richard and Jerry Lee Lewis. His band consists of Chew on vocals and piano, Dave Cavallo on guitar, Richard Ortiz on bass and vocals and Jesse Wallace on drums and vocals.

The second gig is on Thursday at The Flowerpot in Derby, where legendary Alabama-born James Harman and the UK's lady of the harmonica Dana Dixon.

A run round the pub guides this week reveals that that Trent Navigation is offering The Big City Blues Band tonight. The band is based in Sheffield and find its origins in the breakup of The Hummingbirds Blues Band.

That hardworking band Boobadust is out again this week. On Sunday they are to be found playing the afternoon spot at The Vic Fest, Victoria Hotel, Beeston, and on Thursday they are taking the evening spot at The Manvers, Radcliffe on Trent. On Wednesday, The Flowerpot offers The Treacle Trio as part of its regular Wednesday acoustic night. The band plays acoustic roots and blues.

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