

# Music What's On



Contact Dave Barry on 01723 383859 or e-mail [dave.barry@scarborougheveningnews.co.uk](mailto:dave.barry@scarborougheveningnews.co.uk)

● Erik Mongrain



## Great guitarist knows no musical boundaries

THIS diminutive Canadian guitar virtuoso has become famous for his two-handed lap-tapping technique but, for most of this performance at the Cask, he restricted himself to the traditional guitar position used by mere guitar mortals.

Yet he still managed to produce the sound of a several musicians from just one instrument.

Seated on the small stage, head bowed in concentration, he strikes both the strings and body of the guitar to combine melody, accompaniment and percussion simultaneously.

Like many great artists his music knows no boundaries, each solo somehow combining the best of pop, folk, flamenco, jazz and classical music in an entrancing mix.

At times his guitar sounded remarkably like a kora - the 21-string lute played extensively in West Africa. At others it resembled a classical ensemble.

The audience at the Cask were clearly entranced by his playing,

### REVIEW

Erik Mongrain  
Cask Inn  
Review by Mark Horsley

somehow remaining completely silent throughout each number while erupting into rowdy applause and wonderment at the conclusion of each.

With every seat taken long before the performance started, late-comers had to strain to catch a glimpse of the artist at work but none seemed disappointed or frustrated.

Perhaps the loudest applause followed an amazing encore in which he reverted to the lap-tapping technique that has made him so famous.

Laying the guitar across his lap he treated us all to a truly virtuosic performance in which the sounds of the guitar seemed to build and build, his fingers striking nearly every string and body part to produce a resounding finale reminiscent of the finest concert pianist.

## Versatile performer brings several genres to the stage

MULTI-FACETED singer-songwriter Helen Watson plays at the Cask next Tuesday.

Helen is a unique performer whose idiosyncratic songs cross the boundaries of several musical genres including blues, soul, jazz and folk.

Over an extensive career she has performed and recorded with many well-known artists including Joe Cocker, Andy Fairweather-Low, Christine Collister, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt and Snake Davis.

Helen began her career in the late 60s. She became the singer with blues band Loose Lips and later a member of Manchester quartet Well Knit Frames.

Her singing and songwriting abilities earned her a recording contract with EMI. Her first album, Blue Slipper, was produced in Los Angeles by Glyn Johns and featured musicians such as Albert Lee, Little Feat and Bernie Leadon.

Helen became a member of vocal ensemble Hell Bent Heaven Bound, with whom she toured Europe, the USA and Canada. A short time later she joined the female supergroup Daphne's Flight.

In more recent years she has per-

formed regularly with the Burden of Paradise ensemble, alongside Snake Davis.

Earlier this year Helen produced a stunning new album in collaboration with another member of the Burden of Paradise combo, guitarist Mark Creswell. It shows off her versatility to perfection.

The promoter says: "She may look like your favourite schoolteacher but she sounds like a cross between Joan Armatrading, Roberta Flack and Amy Winehouse, somehow mixing blues, dance, trance, country and soulful melodies into one cohesive whole".

The support act next Tuesday is local singer-songwriter Anna Shannon, who was Radio York's songwriter of the year in 2006. Anna has performed at folk clubs and festivals throughout the country. She has released four albums and is working



● Helen Watson

on her fifth.

Anna is scheduled to start at 8.15pm, followed by Helen at 9pm.

This event is being promoted by Scarborough Blues Club; a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers.

Tickets cost £8 in advance (from Mojo's) and £10 on the door.

## Wideboys' bass



THE Wideboys will inject a big shot of bassline garage and electro house into Boleyn's nightclub this weekend.

The duo have been taking the UK remix and production scene by storm, says Phillip "Chilli" Eddon, one of the resident DJs who will get everyone in the mood, along with Ryan.

Chilli says: "It's a pleasure to warm up for such big name DJs and bring this sort of talent to Scarborough.

It gives the local clubbers a bit of a difference and a nice surprise to see big-name DJs.

"Ministry of Sound will bring along full decor with dancers, fire breathers and stilt walkers."

It starts at 10pm Saturday and runs until 5am Sunday.

### KARAOKE

#### THURSDAYS

The Sun; Nick Nax at the Prince of Wales.

#### FRIDAYS

Nile Hollis at the Pickwick; the Duchess; the Sun; the Albert; Frenchie at the Old Vic; Nigel C at the Sunrise; Mutley's at the Wellington; Dave the Singing Landlord at the Eastway in Eastfield; Dino at the Blacksmith's Arms in Cayton; Carolyn at the Tow Bar at Cayton Bay; Spanna at the Dotterel in Reighton.

#### SATURDAYS

Nigel C at the Sunrise; Mutley's at the Wellington.

#### SUNDAY

DJ Ray at the Northway (4pm); Mike at the Ship.

On the seafront, karaoke is laid on by the Lord Nelson every night of the week and all day Saturday and Sunday; and by the Newcastle Packet on Thursday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday.

## Bells and a band

LAST Saturday, Ayton Village Hall resonated to chimes as the St Mary's Handbell Ringers performed a medley of tunes which employed the full register of tones, from bass to treble.

The campanologists, whose ages ranged from about 10-70, demonstrated remarkable powers of concentration, rhythm and dexterity.

These attributes were appreciated by the many novice members of the audience who responded to an invitation to 'have a go' before the interval.

By contrast, Jazz Train let rip with boundless energy, enthusiasm and decibels, as they performed traditional and modern jazz classics, to the evident delight of the toe-tapping and applauding audience.

The band is comprised of talented young musicians from Scarborough Area Music Centre, trained and conducted by Howard Clough.

#### TOMORROW

Scarborough Library: pianist Frank James at 12.30pm.

#### FRIDAY

Filey, Evron Centre: Maria and Vincent Billington with Phillip Mindenhall at 12.30pm.

#### SATURDAY

Stephen Joseph Theatre: Bones Apart at 7.30pm.

#### THU NOV 27

Scarborough Library: contralto Sally Daley and pianist Vincent Billington at

### CONCERT LISTINGS

12.30pm.

#### AROUND THE REGION

Malton, Suddaby's Crown pub: Midnight Special tomorrow.

Whitby, Sneaton Castle: Rhodes Trio on Sat.

Whitby Pavilion: pianist Vincent Billington next Wed (12.30pm).

Bridlington, Burlington Meth-odist Church: pianist and comedian Colin 'Fingers' Henry next Tue (12.30pm).

Burton Agnes Hall: RevRay jazz trio on Sat.

Hovingham, village hall: the Shed presents Led Bib on Sat - CANCELLED.

York University: St John Passion tonight, tomorrow and Fri.

York, Early Music Centre: Emily Smith (folk) next Tue.