

## Theatre

# Noah: An ace in the opera pack

### THE STABLES

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**Noah Stewart is live at The Stables this evening, the start of a mammoth week for live music at the Wavendon venue.**

The quite brilliant Harlem tenor is one of opera's aces in the pack, and the *So In Love* show marks his welcome return to the musical hub.

The bastion for the new generation of opera lovers told us what can be expected at the date: "...favourites from some of the most beloved melodies of opera and some wonderful songs from the world of Broadway and music theatre," he said.

"I'm thrilled to be returning and can't wait to share this new program with all of you!" On Stage 2, **Tinderbox** will ignite. The award-winning acoustic duo boast a 'honey-like vocal' and 'intricate finger-style guitar technique' between them.

When the cameras stop rolling, the hype dies down and the record deal is terminated (as they frequently are), many an X-Factor winner has faded into obscurity.

Not so for **Joe McElderry**. Six years since he took the title, and he is still working well. It'll not be because of that Sycostuff though, but because he's a likeable fella with a genuine-

ly superb voice.

Listen for yourself – he is live at the venue tomorrow night. Stage 2 hosts guitar duo **Ben Smith and Gareth Pearson**, from 8.45pm.

The **Bon Jovi Experience** rock up on Saturday night. Surely that is self-explanatory enough for you, without us having to explain that it'll be a night full of rock anthems like *Livin' On A Prayer*, *You Give Love a Bad Name* and *Blood on Blood*. Oops, we just did. There are *Live Jazz Matters* on Sunday morning with **Rossano Sportiello, Steve Brown and Dave Green**. Join them in Stage 2 from 11.30am.

**Albert Hammond** will play for you on Sunday evening. He has spent the past 50 years writing hit songs, and those same songs have been responsible for more than 360 million record sales worldwide, with more than 40 chart-toppers among them.

What do Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash, Whitney Houston, Tina Turner and Neil Diamond have in common? Albert has worked with them all.

Join him for the *Songbook* tour date and enjoy smashes, thrashes and hits including *It Never Rains in Southern California*, *The Free Electric Band* and *The Air That I Breathe*. Stage 2 will be occupied by the wonderfully titled **The Monfiscats and Tinlin**.

Pianist and singer Milly

Riquelme and guitarist Tom Tooney (who also played with The Zombies and the Colin Blunstone Band) will join forces before the Tinlin brothers cut loose a mix of music with leanings to the classical as much as the modern.

**Josh Rouse** – 'one of contemporary music's most engaging singer-songwriters' – arrives at the start of the new week. He is midway through a UK tour in support of his new record, *The Embers of Time*. "It's my surreal ex-pat therapy record," he says.

While recording the disc he admits to a mid-life crisis and sought the help of the only English-speaking therapist in Valencia, the place he has called home for the past decade.

"I'd been living in a different country for a long time, and becoming a father and being someone who travels a lot, I was having a hard time," he admitted.

Tuesday's date by **The Fureys** is sold-out, but **Blue Rose Code** (or Ross Wilson to his pals) will be live on Stage 2, while scene stalwart **Ruby Turner** has shifted all tickets for her date on Wednesday night.

Stage 2 is still booking for the **Christina Martin Band**.

The Canadian singer-songwriter is touring her fifth album *It'll Be Alright*.

Book on 01908 280800 or take a peek online – head over to [www.stables.org](http://www.stables.org).



NEW GENERATION: Noah Stewart (main) and fellow Stables visitors Albert Hammond (top) and Josh Rouse

## Heathcliff? It's me, Cathy

### MK THEATRE

Northern Ballet sweeps into Milton Keynes Theatre on Tuesday with a powerful revival of *Wuthering Heights*, writes **Georgina Butler**.

Emily Brontë's tragic masterpiece tells the passionate tale of Cathy and Heathcliff. Inseparable as youngsters, their childish affection evolves into an all-consuming love.

When their lives take different paths, their intense connection becomes an obsessive and devastating force as unruly and dangerous as the windswept Yorkshire moors surrounding them.

This untameable love story was the first production Artistic Director David Nixon OBE choreographed for the company after he joined in 2001.

Premiered in 2002, *Wuthering Heights* was also celebrated composer Claude-Michel

Schönberg's first ever ballet score. He created the production's rousing accompaniment af-



ter his incredible success with musicals *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*.

*Wuthering Heights* will see Northern Ballet's dancers at their dramatic best.

The company is renowned for bringing famous stories to life through a unique blend of modern ballet, accomplished storytelling and

live music.

Ticket-holders should prepare to be immersed in Cathy and Heathcliff's turbulent romance. It's going to be a wild night out!

> Not forgetting the little ones, Northern Ballet is continuing its series of enchanting short ballets for children with *Elves & the Shoemaker*. A poor but kind-hearted shoemaker discovers that overnight his very last piece of leather has been transformed into the most magnificent pair of magical shoes. But just who is the mysterious maker?

Northern Ballet's *Wuthering Heights* runs at Milton Keynes Theatre from Tuesday until Saturday May 2.

Performances of child-friendly ballet *Elves & the Shoemaker* take place on Friday (May 1), at 12 noon and 2pm. Call the Box Office on 0844 871 7652 or visit [www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes](http://www.atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes)

## Classic battle of the sexes



### STANTONBURY THEATRE

Timeless classic *Lysistrata* will be staged at Stantonbury Theatre tonight, complete with cantankerous-looking puppets!

This is the story of one lady brave enough to take men on at their own game: outright war.

The battle of the sexes begins as *Lysistrata* persuades all Greek women to withhold sexual practices from their menfolk, in return for an end to the Peloponnesian war.

This outrageous and visually stunning production claws together physical comedy, puppetry and mask work.

Call 01908 324422 to book.

### AN INTENSE CONNECTION: Cathy and Heathcliff

