

“THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT SPACE FOR POPULAR MUSIC”

MUSIC AT THE POLY AND GHOST GIGS

KEY EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC HAVE UNFOLDED AT THE ‘POLY’, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT SPACE FOR POPULAR MUSIC.

These events include Hendrix’s first performance in the UK and early rehearsals for Nick Mason and Roger Waters’ Sigma 6, later to morph into Pink Floyd. In the 1960s and into the 1970s Little Titchfield Street was an important venue, close to iconic spaces such as The Speakeasy and the UFO Club, and on the fringes of Sixties Soho. A new project mapping the musical history of the period 1970- 1992 (the Polytechnic of Central London years) was

started in 2019 and formed the basis of the Pop Politics and PCL event that took place on Friday 22 November 2019. The spiritual home of Ghost Gigs is the Soho Poly. Many of our projects draw on the spirit of the Soho Poly and its ethos of disrupting the everyday. The Found Sounds/ Ghost Gigs initiative taps into the rich live music legacy of the University of Westminster and its predecessor institutions. Recordings of concerts that took

place at the University have been sourced, and using these found sounds we hope to transport visitors back to the time these took place, where possible using the space they originally took place in, but sometimes disrupting space, using various locations around the University, and since CV-19, the virtual environment. We have so far had successful ghost gigs including New Order, redskins, Michael Claire, Fleetwood Mac and Ralph McTell.

MATT MORRISON AND GUY OSBORN
Soho Poly Project and Disruptive Events
disruptiveevents.org

NEXT GHOST GIG: DIS009 - SHELAGH MCDONALD 50TH ANNIVERSARY. DETAILS TBC.

UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER



GHOST GIGS

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

DONOVAN

1 – 2PM, ONLINE

LISTEN TO A RECORDING OF THE ORIGINAL PERFORMANCE, ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



DONOVAN POSTER
Original poster for the Donovan concert, supplied courtesy of Nigel Molden. Many thanks to Nigel Molden and Dusty Püver for their help with the materials for these ghost gigs

GHOST GIGS: POLYFOLK AT 50

DONOVAN IS THE FIFTH GHOST GIG OF 2020, AND THE EIGHTH IN OUR SERIES OF DISRUPTIVE EVENTS SO FAR.

which reached no 5 in the UK, and 1965's 'Catch the Wind' which peaked at number 4 in UK and 23 in the US. The set also included a song that did not see the recorded light of day until 1973, 'Sailing Homeward', and a series of traditional songs. These HMS Donovan, which had songs spanning 1968 to 1971. Two of the songs from this set, 'In An Old fashioned Picture Book' and 'Wooden Shoe' appear on this album of children's songs. Nigel Molden, author of The Centre of a Revolution worked the door for the event and noted; 'I have a very clear memory of the performance by Donovan which was outstanding in that he had the audience in the palm of his hand; potentially very long world tour, his band had embarked on a Belfast Child. During 1970 Donovan and Pete Seeger and The Yardsbirds, Collins, Art Garfunkel, Bert Jansch, by many artists including Shirley Irish folk song from 1909 covered Through the Fair', a traditional included his version of 'She Moves a gig took place at our New Cavenish Street site, with posters from the time noting that Polyfolk, the student folk society, were the organisers and promoters of the show. Tickets cost 15s (75p) or 10s (50p) if you were a student and holder of a polycard. The 10 songs on the setlist include two of Donovan's big hits 'Jennifer Juniper', written about Jenny Boyd, sister of Pottier singles, 'Jennifer Juniper', written potentially very long world tour,

DONOVAN

SETLIST

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 JENNIFER JUNIPER
- 3 CATCH THE WIND
- 4 SHE MOVED THROUGH THE FAIR
- 5 HAPPINESS RUNS
- 6 THE CRUNCH*
- 7 SAILING HOMEWARD
- 8 THE GARDEN
- 9 IN AN OLD FASHIONED PICTURE BOOK
- 10 WOODEN SHOE (WYNKEN, BLYNKEN AND NOD)
- 11 HAPPINESS RUNS (REPRISE)

* We are unsure if this is the exact title of this track. If anyone is able to identify it, we would be happy to hear from you.

