

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

MUSIC AT THE POLY AND GHOST GIGS

AT THE LITTLE TITCHFIELD STREET SITE, NOW HOME TO WESTMINSTER LAW SCHOOL, KEY EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF POPULAR MUSIC HAVE UNFOLDED.

These 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 some of the fruits of this adorn

the walls today and form the basis of the Pop Politics and PCL event that took place on Friday 22 November. The space we are in today is known as The Soho Poly. For more on the space see the handouts on 'Pop, Politics and PCL' or 'Digging deeper: Martin Stephenson at the Soho Poly'. Many of our projects draw on the spirit of the Soho Poly and its ethos of disrupting the everyday. 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. We have so far had successful ghost gigs featuring Fleetwood Mac and New Order, and redskins.

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

NEXT GHOST GIG: MAUREEN KENNEDY MARTIN, THURSDAY 5 MARCH, 1 – 2PM, SOHO POLY BASEMENT



GHOST GIGS

MICHAEL CLAIRE

LISTEN TO A RECORDING OF THE PERFORMANCE, ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

1 – 2PM, WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY
THE SOHO POLY PROJECT, RIDING HOUSE STREET, W1W 7BY

GHOST GIGS: POLYFOLK AT 50

2020 SEES TWO 50TH ANNIVERSARY POLYFOLK GHOST GIGS

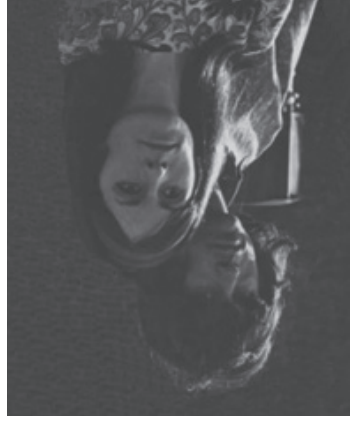


For these Ghost Gigs we encourage people to explore the room whilst the music plays. You will be the first people to hear these recordings, in the space where they were first recorded and 50 years to the day since they were first performed.

Clark photographs of the Soho Poly Theatre on display, you are also able to see, amongst other things, the full list of gigs that took place at the Poly, the outputs from our fanzine workshop, and some climate change materials from our Greenpeace event. Feel free to stay for as long as you wish – no need to stay for the whole time. Michael Claire was the name of a duo formed in 1968 by Michael Milner and Claire Hart. They were well received in various

folk clubs in London, and later in 1970 toured Milner's native US. Apparently Tom Waits first performance was opening for them in San Diego. Ian Anderson expressed bewilderment that they had not received more success and Karl Dallas wrote for Melody Maker: "Their sound is so solid, with tight vocal harmonies backed with great blocks of sound from the little for other accompanists to do".

This recording was made and supplied by *Dusty Fulver, President of Polyfolk Society 1969-1970*. Many thanks to Dusty for ongoing help and support with this project.



MICHAEL CLAIRE SETLIST

SETLIST FROM SOHO POLY BASEMENT 19 FEBRUARY 1970

- 1 INTRO
- 2 SWEET SUMMER BLUE AND GOLD
- 3 BORN IN THE COUNTRY
- 4 DESPERATION WALTZ
- 5 THE CONTINUING STORY OF HAMELIN
- 6 VAMPIRE RAG
- 7 PIECES OF ALICE
- 8 DILL PICKLE RAG
- 9 SINGULAR VERSE
- 10 ICKABOD
- 11 BLUES BAND BABY
- 12 GOIN' TO FRISCO
- 13 REQUIEM FOR REYNARD
- 14 WEDDING OF QUEEN GUINEVERE