



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](http://disruptiveevents.org)

**NEXT GHOST GIG: DETAILS TBC.**

UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTMINSTER



# GHOST GIGS

THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY

# SHELAGH MCDONALD

1 – 2PM, ONLINE

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



Shelagh McDonald

# SHELAGH MCDONALD

## SETLIST

- 1 INTRODUCTION (TOM)
- 2 HOW COULD SHE (TOM)
- 3 WHAT WOULD YOU BE (TOM)
- 4 INTRODUCTION TO SHELAGH
- 5 POLLY PRETTY POLLY
- 6 SILK AND LEATHER
- 7 CITY'S CRY
- 8 PEACOCK LADY
- 9 THIRTY DAYS IN JAIL
- 10 OPHELIA'S SONG

“A performer and composer with the poise of Joni Mitchell and the whimsy of Nick Drake. Charles Donovan, *The Independent*

# GHOST GIGS: POLYFOLK AT 50

## THE SHELAGH MCDONALD GHOST GIG IS OUR FIRST OF 2021 AND OUR NINTH IN TOTAL

Our first ghost gig of 2021, is a special one. Shelagh McDonald is something of an enigma. On a creative roll following the release of her critically acclaimed Stargazer album, the 24-year-old singer 'disappeared', leaving London and returning to Scotland. Apparently, this was the result of a bad LSD trip at a party, causing her to return to her disappointing parents' house in Glasgow, and finding herself cut off from her friends and the music scene she had left behind. Some 30 years later Shelagh found an article in a newspaper, detailing how she had disappeared, that no

one knew if she was alive or dead and that her records had been re-released without her knowledge. As Shelagh put it in *The Guardian*, 'It felt like reading my own obituary'. The concert itself took place in the Staff Dining Room (I) at 115 New Cavendish Street, this would have been behind the main refectory where the bigger gigs took place. It was promoted by Polyfolk, the student folk society. The recording is another gem recorded by Dusty Pulver who noted when he sent me this that 'This is only the second act – the first went missing 40 years ago and sadly, unlike some folk classics...'