

## BJF Newsletter No 12 February 2021

# BERT JANSCH VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

6 - 25 MARCH 2021 | 9 X 3-HOUR WORKSHOPS (ON ZOOM) @£50 FOR EACH SESSION  
(£10 off each session when booking more than one at the same time)

Our three Bert Jansch specialists lead workshops at the following UK times:

**Jon Riley** Saturdays, 3.00pm -6.00pm (6,13, 20 March)

**Dariush Kanani** Sundays, 5.00pm-8.00pm (7, 14, 21 March)

**Paul Wassif** Thursdays 6.00pm-9.00pm (11, 18, 25 March)

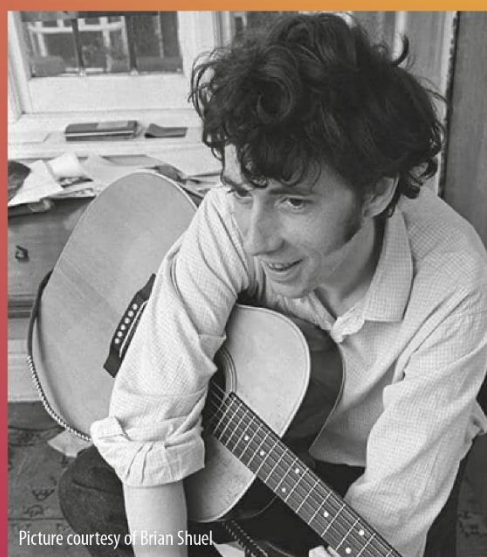
They take you through the intricacies and secrets of Bert's style looking at his elements riffs and vamp, hammer-ons and pull-offs, and going through some of Bert's iconic songs.

**For all guitarists who can fingerpick and read tab or notation**

**Week 1** the blues

**Week 2** traditional

**Week 3** Bert's own compositions



Picture courtesy of Brian Shuel

### JON RILEY

**Saturdays: 3.00pm-6.00pm**

**Week 1** Blues | Sat 06 March

Come Back Baby  
Black Cat Blues

**Week 2** Trad | Sat 13 March

Reynardine  
The Road Tae Dundee

**Week 3** Own | Sat 20 March

Needle of Death  
One for Jo

### DARIUSH KANANI

**Sundays: 5.00pm-8.00pm**

**Week 1** Blues | Sat 07 March

Strolling Down the Highway  
Singing the Blues

**Week 2** Trad | Sat 14 March

Blackwaterside  
Wishing Well

**Week 3** Own | Sat 21 March

High Days  
Chambertin

### PAUL WASSIF

**Thursdays 6.00pm-9.00pm**

**Week 1** Blues | Thu 11 March

My Pockets Empty  
Key to the Highway

**Week 2** Trad | Thu 18 March

Rosemary Lane,  
The Auld Triangle

**Week 3** Own | Thu 25 March

Fresh as a Sweet Sunday Morning  
Build Another Band

(Subject to change)

**Book now at <https://bertjanschfoundation.org/workshops>**

When booked, you will be sent the Zoom links to join the workshop. Download free copy <https://zoom.us/>



Presented on 'Zoom' by Bert Jansch Foundation with Bert Jansch Studio,  
Cheese and Grain, Frome, supported by Young Somerset.  
Any queries contact [dariush@bertjanschfoundation.org](mailto:dariush@bertjanschfoundation.org)





## In this issue:

- **Virtual Guitar workshops 6 – 25 March 2021**
- **BJF Young musician Dariush Kanani**
- **Join Sam for the Jam – Bert at the Bar**
- **BJF Young musician Sam Grassie**

## Online Workshops are back in March

**9 more workshops / 3 teachers / 3 hours each / @ £50 each**  
(£10 off each one if booking more than one workshop at the same time)

### **This time our workshop leaders – all authorities on Bert Jansch music:**

(A 'Dream Team' says Colin Harper, Bert's biographer)

**Dariush Kanani, Jon Riley, Paul Wassif**, as well as teaching Bert's special elements, rifs and vamps, plus iconic Bert songs – in:

**Week 1** – They will all teach Bert's Blues songs

**Week 2** – They will tackle 'Trad' material.

**Week 3** – They impart the secrets of Bert's own compositions.

See the flyer above for which songs each teacher will be using and book as many workshops as you like. There is a £10 discount off each workshop when booking more than one at the same time. There are limited numbers for each session - so **BOOK NOW!**

**BOOK HERE** <https://bertjanschfoundation.org/workshops>

Each workshop only has a small number of participants so you will get individual attention and come away playing some of Bert's iconic songs.

Once you have booked your sessions, and your booking is confirmed, you will be sent the Zoom link/s and other details to join the workshop.

(If you have not yet done so, please download a free copy of zoom at <https://zoom.us/>)

These workshops are suitable for guitarists of all ages and backgrounds **who can fingerpick and read tab or staff notation.**

A **3-hour workshop** costs £50. Remember there is a £10 discount off each workshop when booking more than one at the same time.

Please contact [dariush@bertjanschfoundation.org](mailto:dariush@bertjanschfoundation.org) (see below) who is managing these workshops with any queries



## Dariush Kanani

30-year-old Dariush first discovered Bert in his teens through Jimmy Page! Seeking out Bert's music, Dariush says "The first time I listened to his 'Blue' Album I was instantly changed forever! Hearing 'Strolling Down the Highway' for the first time was like something dropping out of the sky – what was that sound he was making? It was so inspiring – but seemed light years away from my ability at the time."

However, with dedicated study of Bert's and other fingerstyle music of Davey Graham and John Renbourn, mentored by John himself and Stefan Grossman, Dariush has become an aficionado and is regularly invited to perform with some of the most influential figures in fingerstyle guitar.



He played at the tribute concert for Davey Graham in 2009 on John Renbourn's recommendation, and at the tribute concert in 2016 after John passed away, alongside Jacqui McShee, Ralph McTell, Bernard Butler, Graham Coxon and more, at Cecil Sharp House. In April 2019, Dariush was invited to perform at the Wizz Jones 80<sup>th</sup> birthday concert at the Cadogan Hall in London with Wizz, Clive Carroll and others.

In September 2019, Dariush was invited by Jacqui McShee to play guitar in her **Pentangle** for a show at the Isle Of Wight commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Isle Of Wight Festival – The original Pentangle line-up Bert Jansch and John Renbourn, Jacqui McShee, Danny Thompson and Terry Cox had performed at the now famous I.O.W. 1969 and 1970 festivals.

The guitar virtuoso, Stefan Grossman, chose Dariush to be his personal teaching assistant for all his annual UK guitar workshops and masterclass. Dariush is now also a



workshop leader for the Bert Jansch Foundation's Guitar workshops. Dariush is so pleased to be able to introduce others from many countries to the music of Bert and see the same instant musical awakening that he had experienced in his teens.

Dariush is now collecting and arranging new material for his next album which he hopes to record in the Bert Jansch Studio in Frome in 2021.

Dariush has been chosen as one of the two Bert Jansch Foundation Young Artists for 2020-2022. He manages the virtual gigs and workshops on behalf of the Bert Jansch Foundation.

[For 'Around the world in 80 plays' Dariush plays Bert's 'The Wheel'](#)

<https://bertjanschfoundation.org/bjf-young-artist-dariush-kanani>



**Join Sam for the Jam**  
*– a song session  
remembering –  
Bert at the Bar.*

Wednesday 24 March at  
7.30pm

Bring your guitar and your favourite Bert piece to jam with the amazing young guitarist Sam Grassie as he and members of his band 'Avocet' play through some fingerpicking favourites.

(You will have to bring your own pint though!)

Email Sam

[samuelgrassie@gmail.com](mailto:samuelgrassie@gmail.com) for the Zoom login and join the exclusive group propping up the bar.

**Sam Grassie**

Sam Grassie, just 25, has achieved much acclaim for his performances and recordings. His music explores the boundaries between trad folk and world blues. Hailing from Glasgow, where Bert was born, he formed a trio fronted by singer/harpist Iona Zajac



which they called Avocet after Bert's 1979 instrumental album. They follow through on that reference with mellow psychedelic folk music to soothe the soul.

Following their win at the DK Celtic Connections Festival they signed to Mink Records in 2017, travelling to the Abbey Road Institute Amsterdam to record their critically acclaimed debut EP *Borrowed Seed*. They have been busy since, with festival performances and gigs across the country including support for Ralph McTell. With the backing of the Bert Jansch Foundation, they have released a further single, 'Cheating Monday', from their forthcoming album. The band toured the UK in April 2019. Sam is now based in London.

Sam says: I discovered Bert Jansch while sifting through my father's music collection. Naturally, as a budding guitarist, I was enthralled by his original style and virtuosic technique. It was when I heard his protest song 'Anti-apartheid' that I first appreciated the power of song to illustrate situations beyond our experience. This was the catalyst for my first attempts at song writing, a fact honoured in the name of our band, Avocet. I know Jansch's work will always be a lodestone; a source of inspiration as we continue to develop our music. It keeps us grounded in these uncertain times.

The song 'Steal From the Road' which Iona Zajac and I (Avocet Band) wrote and performed for Around the World in 80 Plays took shape from our reflections on the kinds of expectations we all have when embarking on a new journey. More broadly it questions the role of ego in our decisions. Bert's work has consistently brought me to reflect on these issues, to think about the meaning and importance of integrity in what we create and express. You can also hear our rendering of '[Blackwaterside](#)' on the 80 Plays site.

After releasing highly acclaimed mini discs (hear [Avocet's Glarabi](#) ) their debut album '**Lend Your Garden**' was released during the pandemic <https://avocetmusic.bandcamp.com/>

### **Sam says:**

Huge thanks to Richard Hollingum of [Folk Radio UK](#)

for including 'Lend Your Garden' in his top 10 Albums of 2020.



Releasing our debut album in the thick of a pandemic was strange and scary - we were sad not to tour and play and enjoy it with people. But it really acted as a beacon amongst the strangeness, and the support people have shown throughout the year for our music has been amazing. To anyone who listened, bought a CD, supported us - THANK YOU. We hope that we can play the album live when this is all over and have a huge party! In the meantime, we will be bringing something exciting to you in the next couple

**AVOCET** **lend your garden**



sell me to the wind  
if only  
lend your garden  
glarabi  
so recently  
first light  
causeway  
too early  
cheeks like jelly  
angie's cradle  
steal from the road  
cheating monday

Recorded by MICHEL MUTSAERTS  
Cheating Monday recorded by MARK FREEGARD  
Mastered by BART SCHÄTTELEUN  
Produced by SAM GRASSIE, IONA ZAJAC & MICHEL MUTSAERTS

IONA ZAJAC - vocals, clarsach  
SAM GRASSIE - vocals, guitar, electric guitar  
IGNACIO SANTORO - double bass  
GUILLERMO MARTIN-VIANA - percussion  
HERBIE LOENING - double bass  
TENZIN STEPHEN - flute  
DUNCAN MARK HORNE - saxophone

Photography - DAVID SINCLAIR  
Artwork design - MICHEL MUTSAERTS  
Constant support and good craic - MARIEKE MCKENNA

All music and lyrics written by SAM GRASSIE and IONA ZAJAC  
Angie written by DAVEY GRAHAM

This album was partially funded by the generous souls who donated to our 2019 crowd-funder & the Bert Jansch Foundation.

of months...

There are brilliant other albums on Richard's list which you can check out using the link below.

Iona & Sam x

<https://www.folkradio.co.uk/.../richard-hollingum-top-10.../>

<https://avocetmusic.bandcamp.com/> where you can also order physical CDs

<https://bertjanschfoundation.org/bjf-young-artist-sam-grassie>

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## 'For Bert Jansch: Around the world in 80 plays'

The great BJF project 'For Bert Jansch: Around the world in 80 plays' is on the move again after being in lockdown. Hear the latest artists on the journey: Mike Hastings, Paul Tasker (Doghouse Roses) and Robin Adams in Glasgow, Kevin Carr in California and Johnson Hogg in Northern France. Take a look here:

<https://80plays.bertjanschfoundation.org/>

(Right: Robin Adam's entry in the travel diary)



**Kevin Carr signs the travelling Johnny Guitar in California**



**Mike Hastings with the guitar in Glasgow.**







## Bert Jansch Grants

The Bert Jansch Foundation is offering grants of up to £500 to young acoustic musicians for projects they might not otherwise be able to undertake.

See more about the Awards and who has had them - and request an application form at the website (please send to [info@bertjanschfoundation.org](mailto:info@bertjanschfoundation.org) to be safe)

<https://bertjanschfoundation.org/grants>

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## Join the BJF Newsletter Mailing list

For more news of activity, awards, publications and workshops, please ensure you are on the mailing list and please forward to any others who might be interested so they can sign up at [info@bertjanschfoundation.org](mailto:info@bertjanschfoundation.org). You can also see what is happening on the Bert Jansch Foundation website [www.bertjanschfoundation.org](http://www.bertjanschfoundation.org) and also on our Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/bertjanschfoundation>

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**BJF foundation Newsletter No 12, compiled by**  
Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London 23 February 2021