



BJF Newsletter No 13, November 2021

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Online Workshops back in November



Saturday 13/Sunday 14 and Saturday 20/Sunday 21 November

Dariush Kanani and Jon Riley – both authorities on Bert Jansch’s music – will guide you through Bert’s special elements, riffs and vamps, and introduce you to some of Bert’s iconic favourites.

3-hour workshops with small groups cost £50. Remember there is a £10 discount off each workshop when booking two or three at the same time – and £20 off each if booking all four! . **Book at** <https://bertjanschfoundation.org/workshops>

Jon Riley	13 November 3.00 – 6.00pm Harvest your thoughts of love (Level 1) Toy Balloon (Level 1-2)
Dariush Kanani	Sunday 14 November 12noon – 3.00pm Katie Cruel Trad (Level 1) October Song (R Williamson) (Level 1)
Jon Riley	Saturday 20 November 3.00 – 6.00pm Downunder (Level 2) The Wheel (Level 2-3)
Dariush Kanani	Sun 21 November 12noon – 3.00pm Crimson Moon (Level 1-2) Kingfisher (level 2-3)

Please contact dariush@bertjanschfoundation.org who is managing these workshops with any queries (See profiles of Dariush and Jon later in the Newsletter)



Bert Resonates.... Ten years after his passing



Unbelievably, it is **ten years** since Bert and Loren sadly passed away. Bert died on 5 October and Loren on 9 December 2011. Even though, so much time has passed, it is clear that Bert's spirit and his music still stir musicians and listeners young and old today as much as they did in his early days in the 1960s.

2021/22 will be an anniversary year that shows how Bert and his music still resonate with players of all ages. There will be **special events marking the tenth** anniversary of his passing.

Perhaps you are also planning an anniversary event – if you are, please let the Bert Jansch Foundation know about it. Here's what we hope to see in the anniversary year:

1. **Bert Transcribed** – the Bert Jansch songbook Volume 2 will be published in the summer
2. **Around the world in 80 plays** journey '**For Bert Jansch**' will reach its climax <https://80plays.bertjanschfoundation.org/>
3. **Bert identified** – Guitarists talk to Dariush Kanani about how Bert's playing has affected the way they approach the guitar.



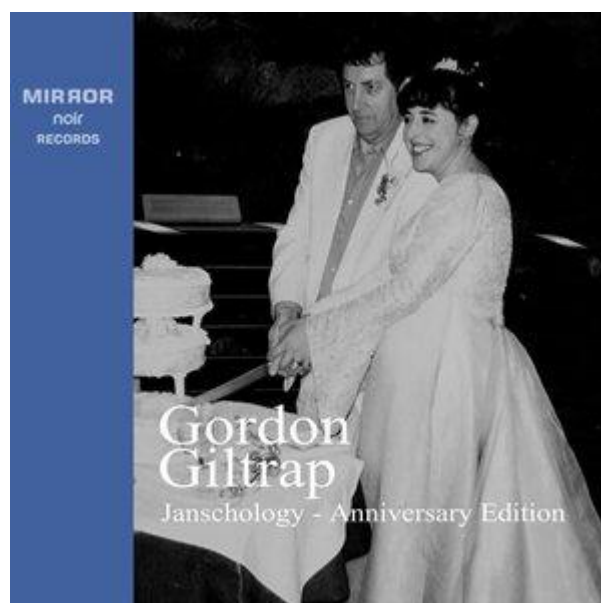
4. **Bert's fingers** – workshops take place virtually in November 2021, getting to know what his fingers did -
5. **Bert composes** – those who knew and worked with him talk about Bert's approach to his own music and his methods and modes of composition.
6. **Bert Remembered – by friends and colleagues:**



Jacqui McShee says: 'I have such fond memories of our times playing and travelling the world together. As introspective and quiet as Bert was, he could always get his feelings across through his music. I feel privileged to have been part of his musical journey and I feel no surprise that his legacy will continue as long as there are young guitarists finding and being inspired by Bert. He was a true gentleman, and I am so

pleased to be able to have called him my friend. I think about Bert, Loren and of course John Renbourn every day. They were, and still are, a big part of my life. I sing at least two of Bert's songs on every gig that I play and speak about him fondly.'

Gordon Giltrap says: 'I will be reissuing my JANSCHLOGY album online with my label Mirror Noir Records, for the anniversary, repackaged with new sleeve notes and a fresh recording of "Loren" which has now become a firm favourite within my following. [Nov 2021 News Update | Gordon Giltrap](#)'.





Ralph McTell says 'I cherish the quiet friendship I had with Bert for more than forty years. We have travelled around together, recorded and shared the stage together. When we toured, we showed each other our special tricks in fitting strings. I change my strings before every concert, so I always think of Bert.' Above they are playing together at the Radio 2 Folk Awards.

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## **Robert Plant covers Bert**



**Robert Plant**, considered one of the greatest rock vocalists since his early days with Led Zeppelin, has been a faithful admirer of Bert and his music for decades. He joined fellow artists to perform at the **Bert Jansch tribute** at the **Royal Festival Hall** in December 2013 commemorating what would have been Bert's 70th birthday. He performed again with his band the Sensational Space Shifters at the Bert Inspired concerts in the **2016 Celtic Connections** where he sang 'Poison'. Robert said about Bert: 'Bert's beautiful work has always been an important accompaniment to my life and times. His melding of styles and his influence have been enormous and longstanding.' On Robert's new album with Alison Krauss *Raise the Roof*, (19 November) he has included a cover of Bert's 'It Don't Bother Me' and also 'Go Your Way' which Bert co-wrote with Anne Briggs.



[Robert's post about 'Poison'](#) with a picture of Bert Jansch on his Facebook page has produced a flurry of response. Thanks Robert, we at the Bert Jansch Foundation treasure that you care so much about Bert and his music.

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Dariush Kanani – BJB Guitar Workshop Leader



Dariush has a great reputation as an ace teacher to guitarists wanting to fingerpick and play like Bert Jansch or John Renbourn. In fact, Dariush has just been invited to be a key teacher at the famous Renbourn Guitar Workshop that will take place in Crete next year.

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

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

Dariush first discovered Bert through Jimmy Page. Seeking out Bert's music, he 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."

Dariush played at the tribute concert for Davey Graham in 2009 on John Renbourn's recommendation. He also performed alongside Jacqui McShee, Ralph McTell, Bernard Butler, Graham Coxon and more at the tribute concert in 2016 at Cecil Sharp House, after John had passed away.

In April 2019, Dariush was invited to perform at the Wizz Jones 80th 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 Festival, 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 Isle of Wight Festival 1969 and 1970 festivals.



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 2022.

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

Jon Riley Workshop Leader and Transcriber



Jon is not only a distinguished guitar teacher, he is also the leader of the Bert Jansch Foundation **Transcription Team**. It was Jon who successfully navigated the first 24 songs through the team of transcribers, culminating in the optimum versions that were published in 2017 under the title ***Bert Transcribed, the Bert Jansch Song Book***. If you don't own this highly acclaimed volume – then hurry to get it – it's available at Amazon and all good music booksellers.

Jon and the team have now selected from the over 100 songs transcribed, the next 30 optimum versions for *Bert Transcribed Volume 2*, which will come out in the summer of 2022.

Jon was born and brought up in West London. Like Bert as a teenager, he struggled to build guitars out of scrap, before getting his first steel-string acoustic one for Christmas 1965, age 16. He never looked

back.

From 1966 onwards he was playing guitar in folk, blues, rock and jazz groups (including one featuring Mike Piggott), doubling frequently on bass guitar, mandolin and keyboards, and composing songs. After graduating with first class honours from Art College in 1982, with a distinction for his thesis on British Punk Rock, his main career for the following twenty years was an illustrator, cartoonist and animator. In 2003 he obtained an ATCL diploma in Jazz Performance, took a course on teaching music, and that has been his occupation since then. He teaches guitar to adults and teenagers in evening classes and privately, contributes advice on music theory web forums, and continues to play in a variety of ensembles and occasionally solo.

Jon discovered Bert in early '66, via Donovan, who covered a few of Bert's tunes. Jon says 'It was the first time I'd heard fingerstyle guitar. I'd just begun learning guitar myself, but had only ever heard strummed acoustic, and electric guitars in pop. The



mellifluous sound of alternating bass really caught my ear as something I wanted to teach myself. A friend loaned me Bert's debut and, with the help of a tape deck, I set about transcribing every track. It wasn't only his guitar playing, of course, but his song writing. I identified strongly with the mood and character that came across. I was also lucky enough to see him many times with Pentangle in the late 60s."

Learn with Jon at his Saturday afternoon workshops 13 and 20 November 3.00pm – 6.00pm - page 1 for booking.

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## Join Sam for the Jam

Bring your guitar and your favourite Bert piece to jam with

### Sam Grassie

as he and members of his collaborative ensemble **Broadside Hacks** play through some fingerpicking favourites.

Sessions are acoustic and take place on the

**First and third Mondays** of the month at

**Skehans Pub, Peckham**

All trad players welcome.

Email Sam

[samuelgrassie@gmail.com](mailto:samuelgrassie@gmail.com)

for further details.



### Sam Grassie

Now based in London, accomplished guitarist Sam has been playing with 'Broadside Hacks', a London based collective committed to the celebration and perpetuation of folk music. In September Broadside Hacks toured some of the major cities of the UK including Bristol, Brighton, Cardiff, Manchester, Sheffield, Glasgow and London.

@broadsidehacks.



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 my first band I started in Glasgow: **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.'

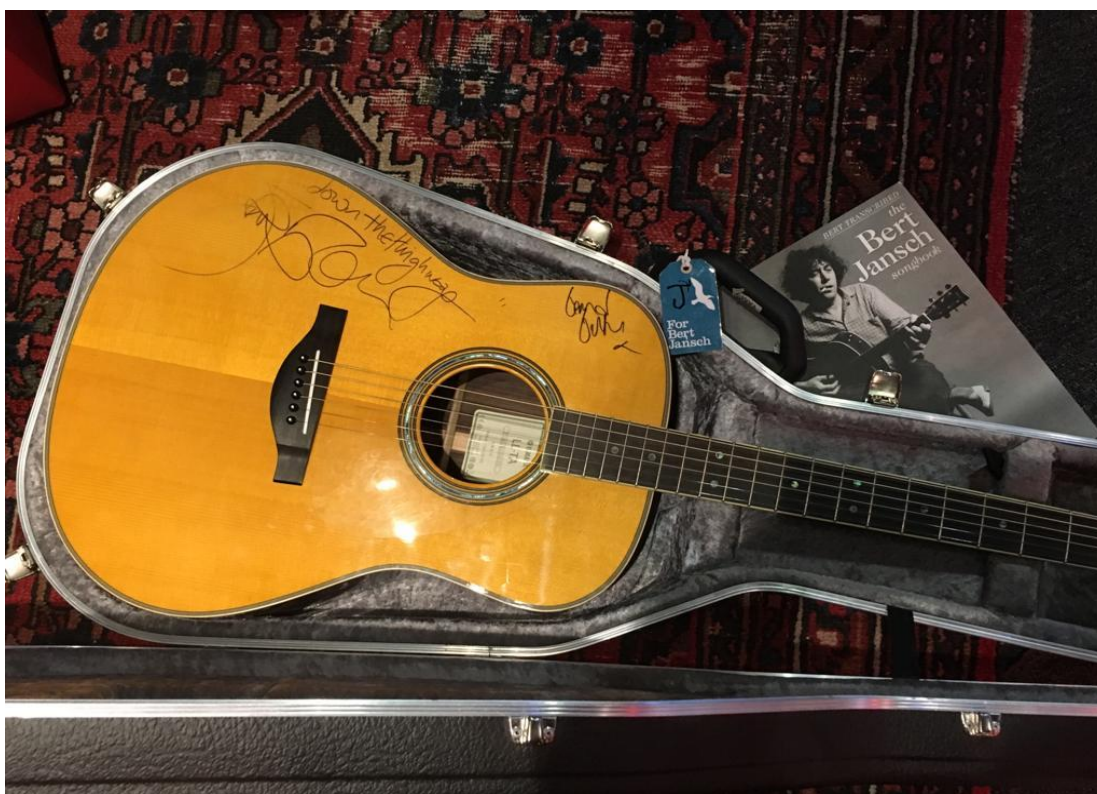
Join the Broadside Hacks collective at **Skehans Pub, Peckham** on the **first and third Mondays** of the month. [samuelgrassie@gmail.com](mailto:samuelgrassie@gmail.com)

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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' continues. A guitar is still sailing up and down the Californian coast. One is up in Scotland. Beth Orton has one.

Hear the latest artists on the journey on the Bert Jansch YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/BertJanschFoundation/videos> Katie Spencer, Nir Mehlman, Danny Carnahan, Hassam Mahmood, Amos Zimmerman, James Bromley (playing Angie) and Michael Watts. Also take a look at the latest artist pages on the website here: <https://80plays.bertjanschfoundation.org/>



In the picture left, the journey begins with signatures of Johnny Marr and Bernard Butler

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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 page <https://www.facebook.com/bertjanschfoundation>

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Bert Jansch Foundation Newsletter No 13, compiled by
Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, November 2021