

## LeisureScene

# Rocker set for Up and Down

BRITISH soul, blues and rock vocalist Deborah Bonham will take the stage for the second time in Bahrain at a dinner concert at the Upstairs Downstairs restaurant in Adliya later this month.

The sister of the late Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham, she will perform at her second concert in the country on November 20.

Tickets for the dinner concert cost BD30 and are inclusive of a three-course meal. Born in Worcestershire, the younger sister of the John and Michael Bonham, Deborah was only five when John joined Led Zeppelin and

this powerful introduction sparked in her the overwhelming desire to write and perform. Whilst living at the family's Old Hyde farm, Deborah and John's son, Jason, started playing and recording their own songs. At the age of 17, at Led Zeppelin vocalist Robert Plant's house, she recorded her first demos.

With some encouragement and advice from Robert, she sent out the songs anonymously and soon landed her first record deal with the major label Carerre Records, for whom she recorded the critically acclaimed album For You and the Moon. The album reached the top 5 in the *NME* chart, was Simon Bates' Record of the Week

on *Radio 1* and sold well in Europe, being voted Record of the Year in Germany.

Deborah spent 1996 getting her new band together, writing new material and playing shows including headlining the Belfast Festival and a sell out show at the Bottom Line, Shepherd's Bush honing a new direction for the forthcoming album.

The beginning of 1997 saw two successful trips to the US. First, she performed live on LA's *Rockline radio* to three million listeners.

This was followed by a special appearance with Jason Bonham and his band in Los Angeles. The success of



■ Deborah Bonham...second Bahrain concert

the first trip led to another visit to the US with her band to open for Jason Bonham Band's shows in Los Angeles, Houston, New York and Chicago.

Subsequently, two more tours across America were secured. Deborah has toured and performed with Van Halen, Alannah Myles, Tim Rose, Uli Jon Roth, Paul Weller, Humble Pie,

Donovan, Lonnie Donnegan, Jools Holland, Ann Peebles, Foreigner and Paul Rodgers.

"The response has been great, and while many tables have been booked, they are still available, here at the restaurant," said organisers.

Visit [www.deborahbonham.com](http://www.deborahbonham.com) or contact the restaurant on 17713093 for more information.

## Top tribute acts at the Autumn Show

TWIN tribute acts will be the headline entertainment at the British Club's Autumn Show at the Adliya club tomorrow night.

Matthew Holbrook has earned notoriety for his Millennium show

that recreates the sights and sounds of pop icon Robbie Williams' concerts.

The look-alike sound-alike act has performed to sell out crowds worldwide in concerts, open-air concerts

and for television.

Meanwhile, tribute act Tony Grant will treat fans of rock legend Freddie Mercury when he takes to the stage.

The performer already had more than 20 years of experience in the music business before he began his tribute shows in 1990.

Tony has won accolades and standing ovations throughout the world and has appeared onstage extensively for audiences of up to 40,000 people in stadiums and theatres worldwide.

The event will also feature performances by local cover band the Nightshades and a DJ

and tickets will cost BD15 for members and BD20 for guests.

Other draws include 10 live cooking stations and a raffle draw with attractive prizes.

The show will start at 7.30pm and the club's normal activities will close at 4pm to prepare for the event.

Qatar Airways and BMMI were named the event's sponsors.

Call the club on 17728245 for more information.



■ Matthew Holbrook

## Taylor to spin discs at club

CLUB and lounge Aqua Fuego has lined up a performance by the UK's Martin Taylor as part of its first year anniversary party this weekend.

His father was a successful Northern Soul and Motown DJ and it was this exposure that influenced his decision to follow in his dad's footsteps and become a DJ.

He landed his first residency in Wales when he was just 13 years old and was exposed to the music of early house music classics from legends including Frankie Knuckles, Armand Van Helden, Kenny Dope and Brandon Block.

His reputation as one of Wales' youngest DJs grew and by 2002 he was playing all over the UK, with a total of 11 residencies for commercial house brand Luminar Leisure.

He has played all over the UK and also performed at Superclub at Puerto Banus for the Dreamers and Hed Kandi brands and in Detroit, New York City, Ibiza, Abu Dhabi, Malaga, Canada and Cyprus.

As resident DJ for Ministry of Sound's Superclub in Singapore, Taylor was also the first international resident DJ for Singapore's official Hed Kandi outlet.

Taylor is often featured on [www.djs.com](http://www.djs.com) and

■ Martin Taylor

sureradio.com, showcasing other house music greats such as Andy Ward of Soul Central, Lil Louie Vega from Masters At Work and George Morel. He describes his musical sets as "straight energy, twisted riffs, tribal drums and sweet filters, with lots of three-deck mixing as well as the all important melody".

"Melody is key - it's what house music is made of," Taylor told the *GDN*.

"I can dive through the old and new disco sounds, anything with a Philadelphia backing beat or a vocal paradise track.

"It's all equally as comfortable in my collection."

Doors will open at 8pm on Friday and entry is free for women and BD5 for men.

Call 39477964 for more information.



■ Tony Grant

### Heart Beat Ensemble

CLASSICAL Indian music fans will enjoy an instrumental fusion concert being organised by the Indian Fine Arts Society (IFAS) next weekend.

The Heart Beat Ensemble show is being held under the patronage of the Indian Embassy.

It will take place from 6.30pm on November 13 at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam, Segaiya. Guests will enjoy performances by musicians from the Indian city of Chennai, including ghatam player Dr S Kartick and violinist Embar S Kannan.

Child keyboard prodigy Master Satyanarayana on the keyboard, Poongulam S Subramanaian on the Mridangam, Arunkuamr on the Rhythm Pad and Sri Sunder Kumar on the Ganjira are also on the bill to perform. The six-member ensemble will perform traditional Indian Carnatic and Hindustani music, popular Krithi worship songs and medleys. The event is being held as part of cultural exchange programme between Bahrain and India and entry is free.

Indian Ambassador Dr George Joseph, diplomats and a list of Bahraini dignitaries are expected to attend the function. BFK was named the event's Platinum sponsor, while Bahrain Financing Company is Silver Sponsor. Call 39617094 or 39293987 for more information.

### Duo to take stage at JJ's comedy show

A PAIR of comedians will perform at JJ's Irish Restaurant, Adliya tomorrow night as part of the Craic Attack comedy show.

The improv comedy show will see comedians Dave Johns and Andy Smart turn suggestions from the audience into sketches without prior practice. Dave Johns is the original director of the Newcastle Comedy Festival and has performed to sell-out shows worldwide. He can be regularly seen on TV panel shows and improvisational games.

Andy has been performing as a guest with the Comedy Store Players for 13 years.

As a member of the Steve Frost Impro All Stars he has performed at events in Beijing, Tokyo, Singapore, a tour of Ireland, New York, Dubai and Prague.

Andy has taken part in 28 Edinburgh Festivals including the all-comedian version of The Twelve Angry Men. He has also performed in Edinburgh with Paul Merton's Impro Chums group. Tickets will cost BD7, doors will open at 7pm and the show will start at 8pm.

Call 36987918 for more information.