

INTRODUCING

“BA local jam session re-awoke his musical dreams”

George Jack Paying Homage To The Blues



Images: Event Photo

When your mother's a gospel singer, your brother a beat-group veteran of the swinging sixties and your sister has featured on Top Of The Pops, it's almost a given that you'll step up to the plate and deliver as a musician yourself. But George Jack has never taken the expected path. His road to the stages from which he's currently wowing audiences in London and the Home Counties has been a long and winding one: but now he's here, he's making up for lost time. Having made his mark five years ago fronting a reggae and ska outfit, Jack has now put together the Sensational George Jack Band, paying homage to blues legends such as Howling Wolf, John Lee Hooker, Elmore James, BB King, Albert King, Johnny 'Guitar' Watson, Bo Diddley, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Little Walter and Hound Dog Taylor. All in his own ebullient and larger than life style.

In the late fifties and early sixties, members of the Jack family joined the increasing exodus from the Caribbean. Like many others, they came to the UK to fill the labour shortages in post-war England at the invitation of the British government. They joined others from the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines that settled and made their home in the leafy Chiltern town of High Wycombe. George was fortunate to grow up in an environment where music was king. His mother, Dorcas was a renowned gospel singer, while eldest brother Bruce formed many bands in the sixties and seventies. Judy, George's elder sister, was to have chart success as a solo artist under her married name of Judy Boucher. Though the kid brother of the family, little Georgie was making a big impression with the teachers at Priory Road Primary School in High Wycombe, singing his heart out during morning assembly. He was invited to audition for St. Marys of the Angels Songs School, a highly-rated choir in Seer Green, near Beaconsfield, that took on talented boy sopranos from around the country. Chorister George sang at weddings and funerals at St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Martins-in-the-Fields, also singing at banquets at the Grosvenor and Dorchester hotels. Music then took a back seat as a teenage George used his sporting ability to gain a judo black belt, training regularly at Crystal Palace with the British Olympic Squad. But a chance visit to a local karaoke night and a subsequent invitation to a local jam session re-awoke his musical dreams. He quickly formed the George Jack Band and spent 2014 playing reggae

and ska classics to an ever larger and more appreciative audience. Then fate again took a hand: a replacement hip, an unwelcome legacy of George's martial-arts career, had required renewal and musical dreams were on hold again. In 2018, another chance meeting and conversation with friends at High Wycombe's Frogfest led to the formation of The Sensational George Jack Band. They opened the following year's festival and have since gone on to thrill audiences at pubs and clubs throughout the district. George is a regular attendee and performer at Rupe's Blues Jam in Marlow and the Blues Kitchen in Camden, and has also graced the stage at the renowned Dublin Castle. He's enjoyed guest spots with bands like The Jukesters and performing with Robin Bibi, Hugh Budden and US guitarist, Tommy Harkenrider.

The coming year will bring radio spots and a debut release. One listen to his music confirms that George Jack is not only sizeable in stature and personality, he also has the kind of voice that is not easily forgotten. This is a singer with character to spare; the easy, swaggering stage presence of a star and the humility to connect with his audience on a personal level.

If you prefer to spend your Saturday nights away from the ever-increasing TV talent shows and in the presence of real live musicians, the Sensational George Jack Band hits the spot.

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