

GIGS OF THE WEEK
HOT PICK...

ROBERT CRAY

● FAMED Georgia guitarist and singer Robert Cray pays an eagerly anticipated visit to Chelsea's Cadogan Hall on Thursday (July 28). The five-time Grammy winner has a sweet, strong voice and precise, angled guitar licks to lead his upbeat blues band's low down tunes. Be warned: this is his only UK date on his European tour. Tickets £34.50

BUSH HALL

310 Uxbridge Road, W12
www.bushhallmusic.co.uk

July 23

Pajama Club
Tickets £17.50

HMV APOLLO

Queen Caroline Street, W6
http://www.merididie.com/apollo/home

July 23

Malkit Singh with Sherry Mann
Tickets from £15

O2 EMPIRE

Shepherds Bush Green, W12
www.o2shepherdsbushempire.co.uk

July 28

Ruben Blades
Tickets £25

July 29

Rollercoaster VI, Coaster,
Mean Poppa Lean
Tickets £10

THE ALBION

Hammersmith Road, W14
www.downthealbion.com

July 22

Western Electric
Tickets FREE

REGAL ROOM

The Distillers pub, Fulham
Palace Road, W6
http://hammersmith.the-distillerspub.com

July 27

Jon Kendall, Richard Dawson,
Sincere Deceivers
Tickets FREE

July 28

Jonny Taylor, Lauren Hogg,
Ryan Keen
Tickets FREE

July 29

Bella McKandree, Mick Terry,
Orlando Vaughan
Tickets FREE

CLUB 606

90 Lots Road, SW10
www.606club.co.uk

July 23

Julian Marc String Quartet
feat Jacqui Hicks
Tickets from £10

July 25

Joe Cragg
Tickets from £10

July 26

Trio feat John Critchinson,
Dave Cliff, Alec Dankworth
Tickets from £10

TROUBADOUR

263 Old Brompton Road, SW5
www.troubadour.co.uk

July 29

Moonlighter, Cadbury Sisters,
Juan Zelada, Tom Marcovich,
Tom Bradley
Tickets £7

CADOGAN HALL

Sloan Square, SW5
www.cadoganhall.com

July 26

Charlotte Sterland
Tickets FREE

July 28

Steve Fishwick Trio
Tickets FREE

GINGLIK

Shepherds Bush Green, W12
www.ginglik.co.uk

July 24

Strum! feat Jack Harris, Zemyy
Momoh, Alex Oiley & Jess
Avison, Joe Louis, Alfred Abel,
Sarah Zobicities, Georgia Bruce,
Grace Banks, Hayley Tucker
Tickets from £6...AND ONE TO
BOOK NOW

DEFTONES

● HERE is your chance to see the California metal stars play songs from recent killer album *Diamond Eyes* at the O2 Shepherds Bush Empire on August 24. Support from Pulled Apart by Horses. Tickets £25

SOUNDS OF THE WEEK



BIFFY CLYRO
Revolutions//
live at Wembley Arena
(14th floor)
★★★★☆

THE GOOD TITCH trio finally capture their explosive live energy on this CD/DVD set, perfect to watch lead singer Simon Neil hammer out opening riffs of 67 with a marshall vengeance. Beautifully shot and recorded, it shows the sweaty, tattooed lads at their incandescent best.



EMMY THE
GREAT
Write
(Ouse Harbour)
★★★★☆

UP CLOSE and personal best describes Emmy's approach to her songs. Fusing heartbreak with tributed atmosphere she created a variety of characters to handle backing vocals in a range of voices on dense, swooning songs such as *Dinosaur Gax* and *Trellis Tower*.



YUKSEK
Living on the Edge of Time
(Rickin)
★★★★☆

YET another big name French producer steps out from behind the DJ booth to drop an album. Pierre-Alexandre Escouffé uses up beat, electro mashups as the backdrop to his jubilant, almost ecstatic, pop tunes such as viral hit *On a Train* with its twirly bassline.

WHO ARIA? RIVERSIDE'S ZANY OPERA FEST IS HERE



VOICE: Maya Sapone performs at Riverside Studio's annual opera festival

Hammersmith singer Maya Sapone trades the West End for two nights of letting loose at Riverside Studios during August's mad laboratory of opera

LIKE your opera a bit unhinged? If so, the return of the outrageous Tête à Tête opera festival to Riverside Studios should be music to your ears.

For just £6, the Hammersmith venue offers a glimpse into the bold new frontier of contemporary opera as it hosts more than 70 performances from August 4 to 21.

From 'silent opera' daredevil Ergo Phizmiz (inset below) to the Glyndebourne Youth Opera, some of the world's most legendary – and most notorious – singers, composers, librettists, acrobats, video artists and set designers will grace Riverside's stages for the fifth year running.

Living in Hammersmith Road, soprano Maya Sapone is already a veteran of the Tête à Tête madness as she marks her third festival appearance in the chamber opera, *The Moonflower*, on August 18 and 19.

The 34-year-old singer, born in West Africa's Gabon to a Thai mother and an Italian father, plays Lua (Portuguese for 'moon') as the English botanist and explorer Margaret Mee and Brazilian rubber tapper and environmentalist Chico Mendes meet in the after-life to ensure the delicate moonflower is saved from extinction.

Maya's character Lua

is both 'sensual' and a bit of a 'lunatic', Maya said. "I play a creature not of this land which guards the moonflower. It symbolises the cycles of life and eventually drives Lua mad."

The Trinity College of Music-trained singer, who has also performed with madcap singer Damo Suzuki (formerly of psychedelic Krautrock band Can), says her part was written especially for her after composer Mario Ferraro spotted her singing music by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos – and assumed she was South American.

"And I think he's done well," Maya said. "Even though the score is very contemporary, you can hear elements of Brazilian music in it. It is quite challenging to sing – and even to watch at times. But there's an acrobat! And the music, the visuals and the story are all very powerful."

When Maya is finished exploring the outer reaches of the operatic world, she heads off on a six-month tour as part of the cast of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The King and I*.

But I get the feeling it's the freedom of the festival she relishes. "This is your chance to see opera from a different perspective. The festival attracts a wide range of people who all want to see unknown composers or smaller companies present their work – whatever it is!" she said.

Another highlight of the unlikely festival is the appearance of Richard Thomas. Fresh from his Royal Opera House smash hit *Anna Nicole* and West End dance spectacular *Shoes*.

■ The Tête à Tête Opera Festival runs August 4-21. For times, tickets or details, visit: www.riversidestudios.co.uk



POTENT MIX OF OLD AND NEW AT CADOGAN HALL PROMS

MORE than 300 years of musical history will be tackled at the second BBC Proms concert of chamber music at Cadogan Hall on Monday (July 25).

For the matinee at the Chelsea venue, it's up to the young Elias Quartet (and current BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists) to convince as they trawl the

ages, from two fantasias by Purcell to a tricky world premiere of London-born composer Sally Beamish's *Reed Stanzas* (*String Quartet No 3*).

At only 12 minutes, it should pose no problem for second violinist Donald Grant who, rather unusually, is asked to take the lead due to his skills as

Scottish fiddle player. With its Celtic-inspired melody, Beamish said Grant had the 'raw, infectious energy' the piece requires.

Meanwhile, clarinetist Julian Bliss helps round out the concert with Brahms' *Clarinnet Quartet in B Minor*. ■ For times, tickets and details, visit: www.bbc.co.uk/proms



■ FOUR OF A KIND: The Elias Quartet