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FOR HOME KEYBOARDS  
PIANOS & ORGANS**

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**Celebrating 50 Years in  
music with favourite  
keyboard entertainer**

*The Queen of Boogie  
Woogie from ITV's  
BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT*

**JEAN MARTYN**



**Packed with MUSIC, HINTS & TIPS from our regular contributors, plus the  
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## Celebrating 50 Years of Music JEAN MARTYN

*Ed - Something very special this time. This year, the UK's Boogie-Woogie Queen, Jean Martyn, is celebrating 50 years in music. Always much loved whether playing theatre, church or electronic organ, piano or keyboards, and with huge TV success through the experiences Britain's Got Talent has brought her, we are pleased to congratulate Jean on this amazing milestone.*

*This year you will be able to join Jean's celebrations, as we are much looking forward to seeing her appear at both our Blackpool and Pakefield Festivals.*

*We asked Jean to tell us her story...*



### Jean Martyn ATCL LGSM

When you reach the milestone in your life of retirement age you normally slow down, but our featured artiste this issue is the ever popular Jean Martyn, who has delighted audiences from the age of three to now at the age of 71, and she has no intention of slowing down!

Jean began her musical career at the age of 3, and having devoted her life to music she is now known worldwide through television, radio and social media for her performances on piano, electronic organ, classical organ and theatre organ.

Her love of music has over the years taken her to many prestigious venues, which include all major arenas the length and breadth of the UK, including Royal Palaces and the Houses of Parliament.

Jean was an appointed church organist at the age of 11, and her Christian faith carries her throughout her life. She obtained all her piano exams through Trinity

College London, gaining her Associate of Trinity College London degree at 15 years old. She studied music at Trent Park College London gaining a teaching diploma, followed by the prestigious Licentiate of the Guildhall School of Music, where she studied Jazz with the late Johnny Dankworth. Her knowledge of music, both theory and practical shows through her performances in the way she creates music which has luscious harmonies, chords, and her improvisation.

Jean taught in schools in Staffordshire, but her love of music meant she had to be out there performing to audiences, whether that was in churches, small halls or just in the classroom. To this day her pupils use social media to remind her that she was their music teacher, and some have even visited her at her hotel in Blackpool. Lets turn the clock back though.

In 1986 Jean played at the Keyboard Cavalcade festival for the first time in Hemsby, followed then by Caister and Pakefield.



*An early Cavalcade Festival appearance alongside the award winning Keyklix duo, Ian Griffin (left) and Richard Bower*

In 1987 she gave her first performance on the Blackpool Tower Wurlitzer and that began her concerts on theatre organs. Her first concert on a theatre organ was at the 3Js at Gomersal, and many more concerts followed on Christie, Compton, Wurlitzer and Rutt theatre pipe organs, and, overseas, in Germany on the Welte organ and on various theatre organs in the Netherlands, Switzerland and, of course, throughout the UK.

She was elected Patron of the Cinema Organ Club, and has been patron of many organ societies and clubs during her 50 years.



At the world famous Wurlitzer in the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool Music has taken her to many famous venues and stages and her charity fund raising has made over one-hundred thousand pounds (£100,000) for various charities, as proven by Thames television when she was being considered for Britain's Got Talent. Chosen to audition from 60,000 entrants, Jean's life changed with the publicity of television and she became a household name worldwide. Her smile and personality as Ant and Dec stated. "Lights up the whole Room," as she most certainly did with her 'Classical/Boogie audition.



*Above - Memories of ITV's Britain's Got Talent with Ant & Dec*

In 2010 Jean raised £5,000 for 'Help the Heroes' and 'The Royal British Legion'. This led to Jean being invited to play at St James's Palace in London for veterans of the wars, where the late Queen Elizabeth II allowed them to hold their Christmas Party. Jean met many celebrities during these performances and she also attended Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace.



*Above - Jean on stage at Britain's Got Talent*

Jean is no stranger to the Royals either, having performed at the Royal Windsor Horse Show on grand piano on the bandstand, where she met Princess Anne, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Prince Edward and Prince Harry, The Duchess of Wessex and many celebrities of stage, tv and radio. Jean laughs when even now she gets recognised, the most recent occasion on a Blackpool Tram!

Jean played for a wedding of an MP which took her to the Houses of Parliament, where she played a grand piano in the Speakers private's residence followed by a reception. She has performed on stage in Drury Lane theatre for the cast of Shrek, and played a concert on Hammond in Vauxhall London.



*Jean on stage at Drury Lane with Amanda Holden and Shrek!*



Jean has owned various instruments from Yamaha, Korg, Eminent, Cavendish, Gulbransen, Hammond, Kawai, Lowrey, and of course, cherishes her beloved Steinway piano.

She has been featured on the BBC programme the "Organist Entertains" on many an occasion, and German television filmed her playing the Welte organ in the television studios in Hamburg. At one of her concerts in Germany she was asked to play the Dambuster's March and she made headlines in a German newspaper because she did play it!

Jean was the first organist to appear on ITV's "Britain's Got Talent", where she was chosen from 60,000 entrants, and this exposure brought her, with her smile and fun loving performances, into our homes. Amongst some 400 video clips of her on YouTube, you can see and hear her on piano and various instruments.

Life sometimes can be a bit challenging and Jean experienced this in 2011 with the loss of her mother whilst she was on the BGT Tour, followed by the death of her dear Dad who reached 100 years. She then became widowed herself, and following a year of grieving and depression, she received an invitation to play in the Netherlands. She was no stranger to the Netherlands, having played there for 20 years, but this was a journey that she never imagined would bring so much happiness. On her first concert of the tour, a gentleman in the audience, a musician himself, approached her regarding her love of music, and he became the love of her life; she has been married to her

beloved Hans (*pictured below*) for three years in March.

She lived in the Netherlands with Hans for a year, as Brexit and Covid meant she could not return to England. During that time she streamed her music to keep people happy every night for 7 months, from the Studio Hans built for her, and when Covid returned, she played again. She felt a little homesick, so came back to England and surprised everyone by becoming the owner of a hotel in Blackpool. News soon got around that she was living there and before she knew it she was invited to play again in the Tower Ballroom for the local hospices, and helped to raise £86,000. She continues to play an hour of music on her Jean Martyn Music page when time allows.

Music always has been, and will continue to be, a very



important part of Jean's life, sharing her joy of music with Hans and her many followers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Thanks to Ian Wolstenholme, her theatre organ performances can be heard on Community Radio, and if you fancy a trip to the Netherlands, she will be doing a tour for the Netherlands Organ Federation (NOF) again. Most importantly, she will be with us at our Brilliant Blackpool Festival at the Imperial Hotel in May and at our Pakefield September Spectacular, as part of

celebrating this special milestone in our world of music.

Jean is grateful to all who have supported her over the years through her love of music, and hopes to meet you all during 2023, which she very much hopes is a good one for us all.

Now back in the UK, Jean is looking forward to getting back to playing for clubs and societies. To engage her to play for your event, email [jeanmartyn@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanmartyn@yahoo.com) or, if you don't have access to email, call us at Keyboard Cavalcade and we will put you in touch.

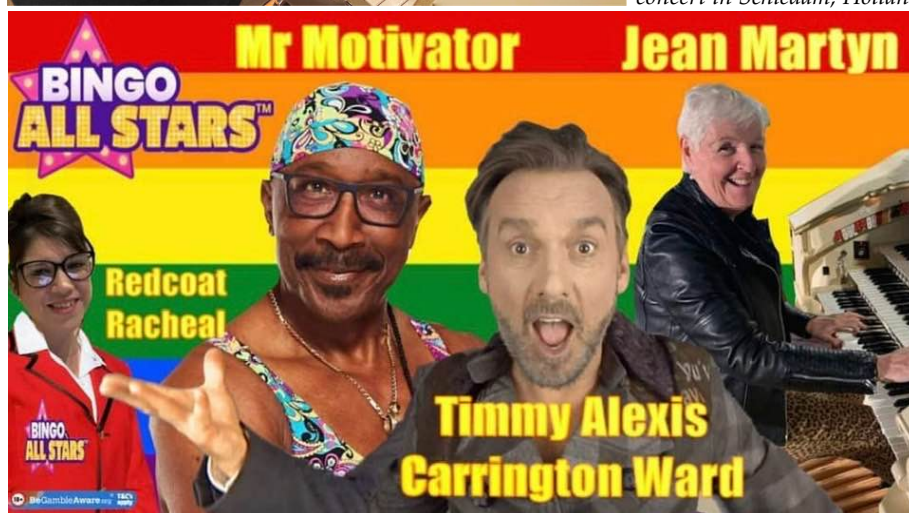


At Blackpool's  
Empress Ballroom



With the  
Coldstream Guards

Below - Working on TV's  
Sun Bingo Show  
Bottom - Publicity for a  
concert in Schiedam, Holland



With Anton Du Beke



With Dame Vera Lynn



With Louie Spence