

Q&A

Juliet Kelly



Initially hoping to learn the bass guitar, Juliet Kelly stumbled upon the world of jazz by accident when the instrument proved beyond her and she swapped to the only other class available – jazz singing.

Kelly (pictured) now writes and performs her own tunes alongside personalised standards. She released her debut album, *Aphrodite's Child*, last year.

Have you always been a jazz fan? Not really. I really wouldn't have known that I liked jazz if I hadn't fallen into it. I realised after getting into it that loads of the musicals I watched and loved as a child had jazz in them. Before that I was into loads of embarrassing stuff, such as Sting.

Phew, that was a close escape. Are you a female Jamie Cullum? My jazz is very melodic. A lot of people have said to me that the songs are quite catchy and memorable and so, in that sense, I guess it's not jazz because it's quite easy to listen to. So I suppose it's more like Jamie Cullum or Nora Jones in the sense that we don't do loads of solos where people go: 'Where's the tune gone?'

Are you an easy way into the smoky, baffling world of jazz? I get lots of people coming to the gigs who are not into jazz, but still like it. My music isn't very heavy and some people describe it as not being jazz at all.

OK, is it jazz? I say it's jazz; there's an element of improv and we tend to go with the moment. But it's all subjective and not everyone can like you. I just call it acoustic groove because, to me, that sums it up. People should come to see me so that they can expand their music horizons.

Give jazz a chance! Yeah! With jazz it's all about your differentiations and that's why I don't worry about people saying it's not jazz. I just see it as music that's creative. *Mickey Noonan*

Tonight and tomorrow, The One Eleven Club, 111 Arundel Street, Sheffield, 7pm to 2am, £10. Tel: 0114 270 6160. www.julietkelly.com

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