

JULIET'S A VOCAL POINT FOR THE BEAUTY OF JAZZ

Jazz is a musical genre that people either love or hate, with the hate factor stemming from the fact that it is so often wrongly misconceived by people who fail to see past the improvisation factor and lack of melody.

There is, of course, so much more to jazz than meets the eye: soothing melodies, fresh and sensual rhythms and, in many cases, some of the best vocals in the music industry.

Described as a beautiful singer with beautiful songs, singer-songwriter Juliet Kelly is a classic example of how jazz can be accessible – even to the most reluctant of fans.

As she heads to Newcastle's Old Brown Jug on Tuesday to promote her second album, *Delicious Chemistry*, Juliet prides herself on creating and presenting music that comes direct from the heart. "Jazz is spontaneous", says the London-based artist. "You can't really write down jazz, it's free-flowing and changing all the time. People do have a misconception about the genre but my music is very accessible, it isn't just about

Jazz singer-songwriter Juliet Kelly writes from the heart. By Liz Rowley

improvisation, where people can't really get a handle on it."

Delicious Chemistry is Juliet's second album after her first, *Aphrodite's Child*, received great reviews from the critics in 2003. An album of original songs, *Delicious Chemistry* highlights the artists natural gifts and passion for what she truly believes in.

"People come with a closed mind to jazz. For me it's about having the freedom of expression and, of course, the musicians that I work with are so talented that they can do anything you throw at them." It is in this respect that jazz is such a special genre.

Jazz is also exceptionally difficult to learn, in fact many would say that it is unteachable; another reason as to why so many laymen turn their back to it.

For Juliet, who grew up in an extremely strict household where only religious music was played, her introduction to jazz was more

through luck than judgment.

"It was all a bit of a fluke really", she says. "I was forced to learn the piano and classical music when I was young. I enjoyed it in the beginning but when I reached the rebellious teenage stage I decided to pack it in.

"I'd always wanted to learn the bass guitar as I'd seen people like Sting play it and it looked like such a cool instrument to play, so when I went to college I brought a guitar and joined a music workshop. Then I found out how hard it was. Obviously I couldn't buy another instrument even though I wanted to change class. It was then that my teacher recommended I try the singing class instead and the rest, as they say, is history."

■ Juliet Kelly comes to The Old Brown Jug in Bridge Street on Tuesday, September 12. Tickets are available on the door for £5, and the performance starts at 9.30pm. For details, call 01782 711393.



■ Singer-songwriter Juliet Kelly.