

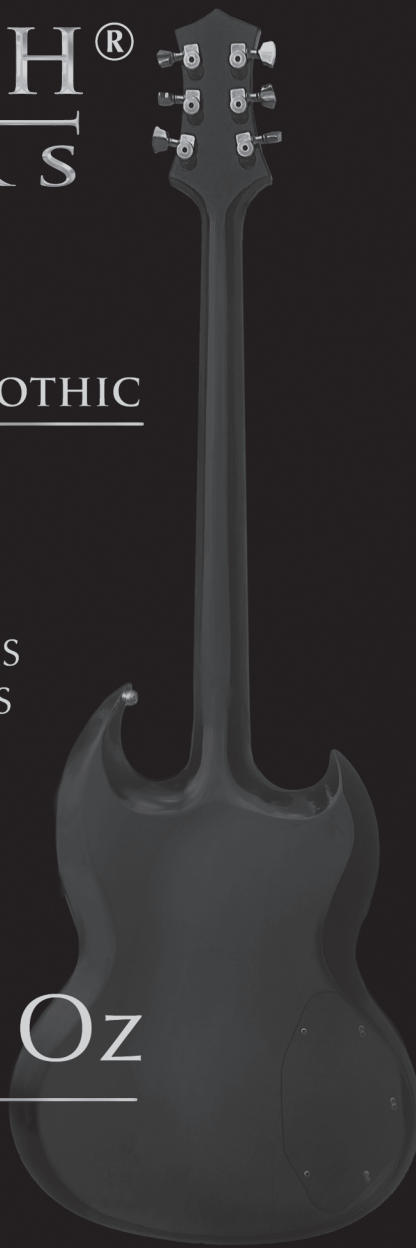
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Photo by
Jim Simpson







THE 10th GLOBAL BLACK SABBATH CONVENTION
HOSTED BY



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JIM SIMPSON
BLACK SABBATH'S FIRST MANAGER



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YE OLDE FOUNDRY
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DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

THE VISIT OF OZ: HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In the early 1960s, something remarkable was happening in Birmingham. Home grown groups began to emerge at a bewildering rate, sustained by ever-increasing range of pubs and clubs, all intent on presenting live music.

It wasn't long before the movement had its own publication, Midland Beat, which became essential reading for the burgeoning army of fans.

At one point, Midland Beat compiled a register of the region's bands. To qualify for inclusion, a group had to own a P.A. and their own band van. The subsequent edition listed almost 900 local bands.

It wasn't long before the movement had its own publication, the monthly, distributed region-wide, appropriately named Midland Beat, which became essential reading for the burgeoning army of fans that quickly emerged to follow their local bands. Midland Beat was an informative, detailed and professionally written publication, owned and edited by local journalist Dennis Detheridge, and played a significant part in promoting, developing and sustaining this grass roots movement. At one point, Midland Beat decided to compile a register of the region's Beat Groups, as they were then known. To qualify for inclusion, a group had to own a P.A. and its own band van. The subsequent edition listed almost nine hundred local bands.

The year of 1964 was when Birmingham bands began to enjoy national success. The Applejacks from Solihull, neatly named after singer Al Jackson, were the first to chart nationally in February of that year with the single "Tell Me When". It was also the year that Denny Laine quit his band, The Diplomats, to team with individual members of El Riot and the Rebels, Danny King and the Dukes and Gerry Levene and the Avengers to form the first of Birmingham's supergroups. Initially they were named The M&B Five – in anticipation of sponsorship by local brewery Mitchell and Butlers. The sponsorship failed to materialise and there they were – left with band uniforms, bass drum et al carrying the M&B logo. What could they do but come up

with the name The Moody Blues? Their cover of the Bessie Banks single "Go Now" made it to number one, and The Moody Blues were eventually to sell more than 70 million albums worldwide – including 18 platinum and gold LPs – a band that significantly contributed to Birmingham's justifiable claim to be The UK Capital of Rock and Roll.

As the decade went on, Brum bands charting became commonplace - The Move, Rockin' Berries, Roy Wood's Wizzard, The Spencer Davis Group, Steve Gibbons Band, ELO, The Fortunes, Slade and many more.

There has long been a strong undercurrent of the Blues in Birmingham's music, and in 1968, with the launch of Henry's Blueshouse, there was a proper platform for The Blues.

A string of legendary U.S. bluesmen featured, including Arthur Big Boy Crudup, Lightnin' Slim, Doctor Ross as well as emerging UK bands such as Status Quo, Jethro Tull, Chicken Shack and so on, but it was an unknown band from Aston that really went on to make the biggest impact of all.

Earth first supported Ten Years After at Henry's Blueshouse, got rebooked, were promoted to headline spot where they were quickly doing turn-away business.

They signed to Birmingham-based Big Bear Music where a name-change was effected, Big Bear signed them to a major label and we all enjoyed a number 2 hit single and two albums that reached number 7 and number 1 respectively, before Black Sabbath departed the Big Bear stable.

JIM SIMPSON

**Honorary Doctor of Music,
University of Birmingham**

**Managing Director,
Big Bear Music**

jim@bigbearmusic.com
0121 454 7020

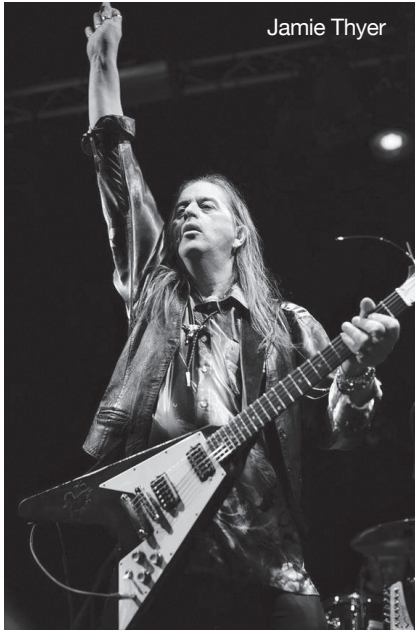


DATE	TIME	VENUE	ARTIST
THURSDAY 3RD	17:00	THE BRASSHOUSE	SMOKIN' ESKIMO
	17:30	SHOBS	THE UPTOWN JUKES
	19:00	BARREL STORE	CHICKENBONE JOHN & HARMONICA DAVE
	19:30	WEDNESBURY LIBRARY	BACK ON THE ROAD
	19:30	THE VICTORIA	SANTU + A WEEK FULL OF MONDAYS & MANTARRAY (£8 ADVANCE, £10 OTD)
	19:30	NORTONS	RICH DICKINSON'S DRIVING FORCE (£5)
	20:00	LORD CLIFDEN	HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND
	20:30	SHOBS	THE SHUFFLEPACK
FRIDAY 4TH	16:00	HENNESSEY'S BAR	THE SHAKEDOWN BROTHERS
	17:00	THE BRASSHOUSE	THE UPTOWN JUKES
	19:00	BARBARA'S BIER HAUS	SNAKEBITE
	19:00	THE BARTONS ARMS	SABBRA CADABRA
	19:30	WEST BROMWICH CENTRAL LIBRARY	SLIDE BOY ROY
	20:00	O'NEILLS	MELVIN HANCOX BAND
	20:00	YE OLDE FOUNDRY, DUDLEY	10TH GLOBAL BLACK SABBATH CONVENTION
	21:00	NORTONS	FAYE BAGLEY
	23:00	NORTONS	JACK BANTING

SATURDAY 5TH	14:30	NORTONS	HEED
	15:00	THE BRASSHOUSE	STUART MAXWELL'S BLUES RAIDERS
	19:00	BARBARA'S BIER HAUS	SLIDE BOY ROY
	19:30	BRINDLEY CRUISES: EMBARK CANALSIDE OUTSIDE THE SEA LIFE CENTRE	BLACK SABBATH: THE EARLY YEARS Q&A WITH FIRST MANAGER, JIM SIMPSON (£6.50)
	19:30	NORTONS	DEVIL IN THE WHISKEY
SUNDAY 6TH	13:00	FAIR DEAL MUSIC	BIRMINGHAM: THE UK HOME OF ROCK & ROLL DISCUSSION AND Q&A WITH CISSY STONE, JACI DAVIS, DES TONG, ROY DAVIS AND PETE FRANCIS
	15:00	THE BRASSHOUSE	JAMIE THYER & THE WORRIED MEN
	18:30	SHOBS: BIRMINGHAM ROCKS	OUT OF THE BLUE BIG BAND

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THE BARREL STORE BY ATTIC BREW CO

Arch 32 Water St, Birmingham B3 1HL
0121 824 9935

THE BARTONS ARMS

144 High St, Aston, Birmingham B6 4UP
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THE BRASSHOUSE

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0121 633 3383

BRINDLEY CRUISES

Bosworthy Lady (embark canal side outside
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Brindley PI, Birmingham B1 2JB
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FAIR DEAL MUSIC

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0121 643 1685

HENNESSEY'S BAR

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B18 6AA
07843 786575

BIRMINGHAM JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

The 41st consecutive year of The Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival will take place in Birmingham, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Solihull from July 18 to 27 with 160 performances - almost all of them free admission.

To receive updates directly by email, sign up to the free mailing list by sending your email address to admin@bigbearmusic.com

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The Visit of Oz TM (reg. 2008) is produced by Big Bear Music - 0121 454 7020, jim@bigbearmusic.com

With thanks to Tim Jennings, Jim Simpson, Sarah Yang, Charlie Moore, Nerys James, Gazza Chapman, Louise Sergeant, Lucie Rodrigues, Pete Francis, Chris Mason, Nina Truscott, Charlie Sutton, Ben Fahl, Stephen Knowles, Krusher Joule.



THE 10TH GLOBAL BLACK SABBATH CONVENTION

The Global Black Sabbath Convention will celebrate its 10th international get-together of devoted fans from all over the world. The co-founder of the organisation is California-based Ben Fahl, the host is Krusher Joule, formerly of Kerrang, The BBC and Ozzfest. The guest speaker is Jim Simpson.

A WEEK FULL OF MONDAYS

Formed in 2022 by a collective of session players, producers and songwriters, the four-piece band. A Week Full Of Mondays, had frequently teased along the edges of other styles, such as post-rock and post-punk before settling into their own offering, blending grit and intensity with melodic and harmonic sensibilities – as can be heard on the current release, 'Inhale/Exhale'. Jonny Amos wrote "A Week Full Of Mondays offer an insight as to the future sound of the rock revolution of the late 2020s".

BACK ON THE ROAD

Back On The Road have built their considerable reputation as real crowd pleasers by delivering their own versions of Rock, Pop and Blues classic repertoire that invariably fills venues, gets folk on their feet dancing and, at the end of the right, has people wending their way homeward still singing those lyrics.

Back On The Road are Tony O' Brien, vocalist, Richard Fedeski, piano, Ray Sweeney, guitar, Stevie Barr, guitar and Bill Jefferson drums.

BIRMINGHAM: THE UK HOME OF ROCK & ROLL

The Discussion and Q&A will feature Jaci Davis, co-owner of Asylum Venue and the adjacent Upravr Rehearsal Room, together with Roy Davis, former member of RCA and MCA Records band Shy and Head of Rock and Country for Notting Hill Music. Singer / songwriter Cissy Stone who recorded for Decca Records, was TV show New Faces winner, toured extensively and shared the stage with Irma Franklin and Marvin Gaye. Des Tong, musician, producer and author of five novels backed Inez and Charlie Foxx, toured and recorded as a member of hitmakers Sad Café and is a published author having written five books, and Pete Francis, the new owner of

John Birch guitars, used by Black Sabbath and integral to the foundation of their Heavy Metal sound.

BLACK SABBATH: THE EARLY YEARS

A one hour canal cruise with the first manager of Black Sabbath, Jim Simpson, talking about the early days of the band, the albums "Black Sabbath" and "Paranoid" and answering questions.

CHICKENBONE JOHN WITH HARMONICA DAVE

The Godfather of the Cigar Box Guitar has built an international reputation for making and playing his cigar box guitars, recreating the music of those Mississippi Juke Joints, starred in the BBC documentary "Cigar Box Blues", organises the annual Boxstock Festival and is a hot attraction across the UK's blues venues. With influences ranging from John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters to Ry Cooder and R.L. Burnside, Chickenbone John, alongside his long-time collaborator Harmonica Dave, is on a mission to keep those roots of the blues alive.

DEVIL IN THE WHISKEY

Devil In The Whiskey is a Shrewsbury-based folk band who never failure to bring their foot-stomping and soul-lifting attitude to every performance. With a rich blend of whistles, bouzouki, bagpipes, banjo, and bass guitar, they craft original songs alongside their own take on folk classics.

FAYE BAGLEY

Singer and guitarist who mixes strong and dynamic vocals with pop and rock melodies with a catchy uplifting beat!

HENRY'S BLUESHOUSE

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AT SNOBS BAR
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Every Tuesday - leading blues bands
Doors 7pm. Band 8pm.
Free admission
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HEED

HEED are Niamh and Ciara — two Brummie sisters with Irish roots, a cracking setlist, and a knack for filling the room with good energy. Their sound blends traditional Irish tunes, reggae grooves, and classic covers, with guitar, lush vocals, and a bit of tin whistle magic thrown in for good measure.

HONEYBOY HICKLING BLUES BAND

This is rocking, post-war Chicago Blues of the highest calibre delivered by a top-class band with musicians of impeccable pedigrees. Harmonica player and singer, Honeyboy Hickling, spent three years touring with Steve Marriott, recording with Bo Diddley and a whole lot more. Guitarist Bob Wilson played with Idle Race, Ruby Turner, Steve Gibbons Band, Tony Baylis served with Trevor Burton, Chicken Shack and Steve Gibbons, and Frank Walker was with Flying Hat Band and Glenn Tipton. A regular top draw at Henry's Blueshouse.

JACK BANTING

Jack Banting is solo acoustic musician from Hall Green, Birmingham. He mixes pop, indie rock, Irish folk, hymns - and whatever else fits the mood! Armed with a guitar, a stomp-box and a keen eye for the Craic, Jack turns familiar tunes into foot-tapping medleys and a guaranteed good time.

JAMIE THYER AND THE WORRIED MEN

Jamie Thyer is the guitar player's guitarist, building an awesome reputation demonstrating Marshall Amplifiers and Rotosound Strings.

BIRMINGHAM ROCKS

It did in 1968 - it still does today!
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In 1994 he released the rave-reviewed "Fear and Loathing at The Wunder Bar", and went out on the road opening for Chicken Shack, Jefferson Starship, Robin Trower, Robert Cray, Peter Green, Johnny Winter and Walter Trout. A true showstopper in the wild man tradition of Guitar Slim and Buddy Guy, Blues Unlimited wrote of him, "British blues guitar men? There's Eric Clapton, Peter Green....and Jamie Thyer!"

MANTARRAY

The four musicians who are the alternative rock, grunge and garage punk band, Mantarray, grew up together in the West Midlands and initially made their mark on the Birmingham music scene where they have built a dedicated fan base.

They now appear throughout the UK, have supported such artists as The Guestlist and Delights and they opened the new fan zone at Birmingham City Football Club.

Tommy Reading is the singer; Kieran Beech plays guitar with Maddie Holtby on bass guitar and Matt Hall on drums.

MELVIN HANCOX BAND

The Melvin Hancox Band are renowned for their electrifying performances and distinctive blend of blues, rock, and psychedelic influences. Melvin's musical journey began at age 12, his first record deal by 16. He has toured Europe, Costa Rica, and the United States, collaborated with Ray Phillips (Budgie), Tony McPhee, Tom Farnell (Savoy Brown), and Paul Hancox (Chicken Shack).

The current line-up includes bassist Matt Little, whose pedigree includes stints with The Mothers of Prevention and as the original bassist for Joanne Shaw Taylor, and drummer Tony Baylis, whose career spans from Pye Records in the 1970s to tours with Ruf Records artist Ian Parker.

OUT OF THE BLUE BIG BAND

Not an everyday attraction, an 18-piece big band featuring a forest of trumpets, trombones and saxophones backed by a swinging rhythm section is something to be marvelled at – and Out Of The Blue Big Band are a prime example. Not only do they draw on the classic big band sounds of those legends Count Basie and

Duke Ellington, but also stray into Latin, Blues, Soul, Pop – and even Rock & Roll. Can anyone imagine Oasis 's 'Wonderwall' given The Big Band Swing Treatment?

RICH DICKINSON'S DRIVING FORCE

Rich Dickinson played in his first band at the age of 14, progressed to touring on the same bill as Joe Brown, the Tremeloes, Screaming Lord Sutch, Kenny Ball and Chas & Dave. His own guitar style is heavily influenced by the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Eddie Van Halen.

As for Rich Dickinson's Driving Force, they play blues-rock based originals and covers in the style of Joe Bonamassa, Gary Moore and Rory Gallagher – plus a little bit of slide guitar!

SABBOTAGE

Now celebrating over 10 years on the UK Tribute circuit, 2025 will be the bands busiest yet. Sabbotage Black Sabbath Tribute deliver the most powerful and most authentic Ozzy era Sabbath show. With well over two and a half hours of Ozzy-era Sabbath in the bands repertoire, Sabbotage never fail to entertain and are the closest you can get to the Godfathers of Heavy Rock in their heyday.

SABBRA CADABRA

Manchester-based Sabbra Cadabra are probably the finest Black Sabbath tribute in the UK.

They were selected by Black Sabbath first manager Jim Simpson to play in front of Sabbath members Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler at the launch of Birmingham's Black Sabbath Bridge and bench back in 2019.

Sabbra Cadabra line-up as Neil Priddey on guitar as 'Tony', Tim Campling on bass as 'Geezer', Stuart Mills on drums as 'Bill' and of course, starring as 'Ozzy', is vocalist Kevin McGillian.

SANTÙ

The Santù sound is heavy, blending indie and alternative rock with blues and prog. With frontman Zé's raw, powerful, and emotive vocals adding richness to the mix, Santù's music has an energetic and anthemic quality that's hard to resist.

Formed in 2021, the Birmingham-based four-piece have as bassist Tom, lead guitarist Sam, drummer Jonathan, and rhythm guitarist and vocalist Zé.

THE SHAKEDOWN BROTHERS

For the past two years, The Shakedown Brothers have been touring blues pubs and clubs across England, wowing audiences with a mix of blues originals, re-worked classics and lesser-known tunes by well-known artists, to the acclaim of audiences and promoters alike.

In 2024 they recorded their debut album, 'Next In Line', at the legendary Gospel Oak Studio which received rave reviews in a string of Jazz and Blues publications.

THE SHUFFLEPACK

Blues to make you wanna jump & shout!

Every show is different, but the groove is always the same. With The Shufflepack, the deck is always stacked with the blues. Shufflepack are Stuart Maxwell, vocals and harmonica, Barney Nikolic guitar, Tom Domagala, saxes, flute, George Leslie Calvert, bass and Chris Lloyd, drums.

Five guys who set out to play swinging R&B and shuffling blues. That's proper R&B kids, not RnB, that funny new stuff they do now.

SLIDE BOY ROY

With 25 years on the road through Europe, the USA and the UK, the West Midlands – based Slide Boy Roy Band are one of the toughest boogie blues rock and roll roots band on the circuit today.

Singer and guitar man Slide Boy Roy lines up along with Tony Garrinton on guitar, Boogie T Matthews on bass guitar, Steve James on harmonica and Richard Goodyear depping for Richie Rich on drums, along with guest vocalists Kami Desilets from Canada and Jack Bell.

SMOKIN' ESKIMO

Smokin' Eskimo are a three-piece hailing from The Black Country.

Blending blues and rock influences, their sound attracts a wide range of listeners with their lyrics exploring diverse themes, from contemplating

the mysteries of the universe to the simple joys of a countryside drive.

Drawing inspiration from psychedelic rock and blues, 90s Britpop, and touches of jazz and funk, Smokin' Eskimo offer a distinctive multi-genre sound that defies easy categorization.

Snakebite

Originally formed in 2015 as White Tyger, playing tribute to the greats of Classic Rock such as AC/DC, Guns N Roses, Metallica and Motley Crue, they name-changed to Snakebite, started introducing their own songs and have built a substantial fanbase in the West Midlands.

In 2023 they were voted winners of the Hard Rock Hell Rising Stars Award and featured on some of the UK's major music festivals such as Firevolt.

They line up as Nip Turner, guitar and vocals, Ste Timmins, bass, Jack Ryland-Smith, drums and Chris Hingley, guitar.

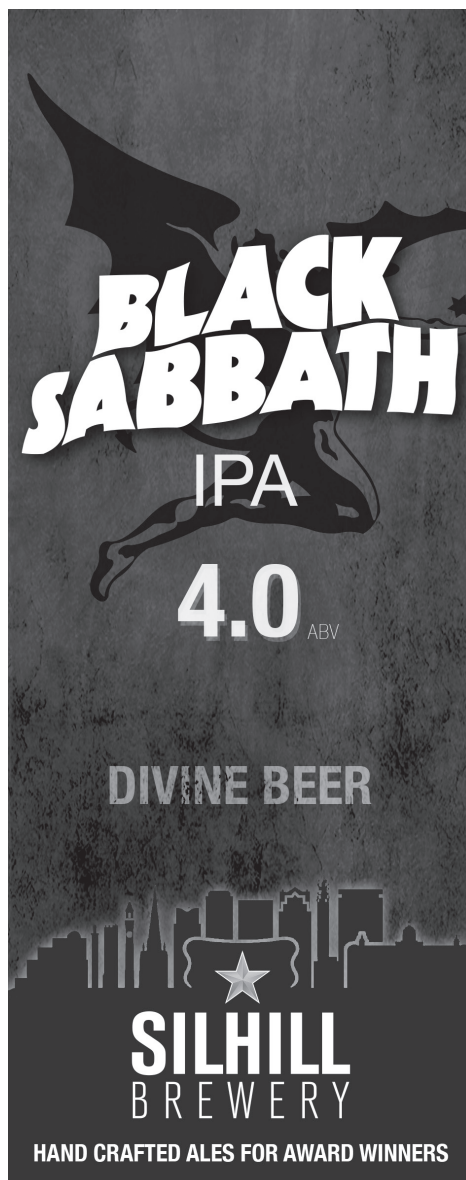
Stuart Maxwell's Blues Raiders

The music is hard-edged blues, rooted in tradition but rocking and funky. From Muddy and the Wolf to Bill Withers and The Allman Brothers. Graham Bond is in there too, alongside plenty of original songs in the classic style. But when you grew up listening to Black Sabbath, Miles Davis, Jethro Tull, Hawkwind, Tony Williams and Sonny Boy Williamson, weird things are going to happen. Matt Edwards, guitar, Derek White, bass, Jason Reeve, drums and Stuart Maxwell, vocals/harmonica/organ.

The Uptown Jukes

With several lifetimes of experience behind them, this slick bunch of guys have been 'round the block and back again, so they certainly know how to deliver the blues and to entertain.

The Uptown Jukes line up as guitar man and vocalist Terry Reep, Ken Moore, keyboards, Roger Hudson, bass and drummer Chris Lloyd, with tenor sax men, Tom Domagala and George Northall. The band's repertoire is a real melting pot with wailin' saxes and a tight as a wheel nut rhythm team.



To help celebrate the return to their hometown of the originators of Heavy Metal, a Birmingham Brewer has produced a very special brew - Black Sabbath IPA. Appropriately, Silhill Brewery are based in Aston and Black Sabbath beer is available at The Brasshouse - just a few steps from The Black Sabbath bench.

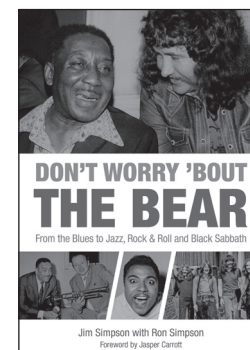
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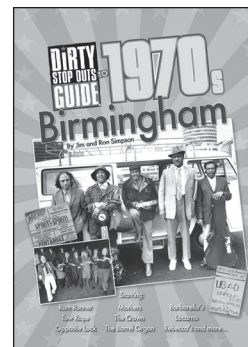
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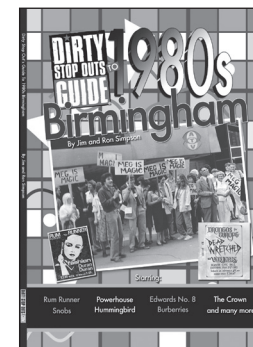
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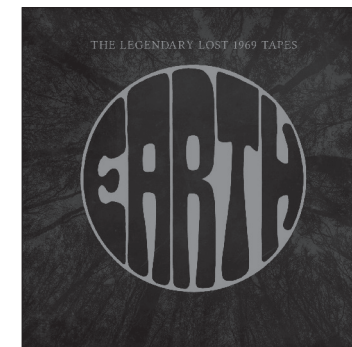
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EARTH: THE LEGENDARY LOST TAPES (PRE-ORDER) (VINYL £28 / CD £14)

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