

WHO'S TOURING

Our selection of forthcoming tour highlights, see Gig Guide for full listings

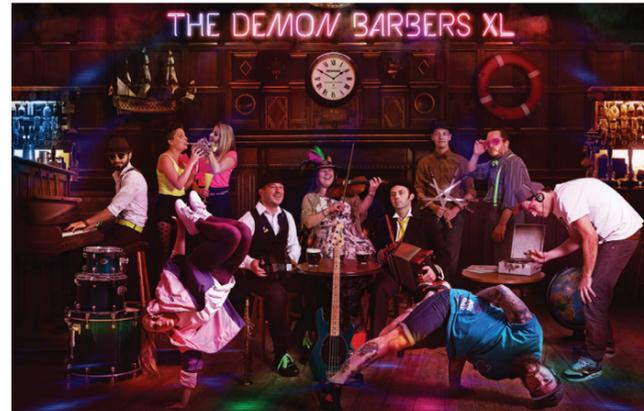


Altan

Masters of traditional Irish music return with a new album

One of the longest running traditional Irish bands around, clocking up 35 years together, Altan have recently released a new album, *The Widening Gyre* (see p74). Fans will be reassured to know it features plenty of the group's trademark Donegal fiddling and Irish Gaelic singing from co-founder Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh. But it also showcases the connections between Celtic music and US roots music, in particular the bluegrass fiddle music of the Appalachians. After a successful tour of the US, Altan are now set to bring their live show to the UK.

Touring May 7-23, see p100 for details



Demon Barbers

Folk and hip-hop band back with a new show

'15 years of mayhem' – or at least that's how the band sums up their career to date on their website. The award-winning group garnered rave reviews for their performances at Glastonbury and the Edinburgh Fringe. 'Spectacular, witty and immensely enjoyable,' is how *Songlines* reviewer Julian May described their *Time Gentlemen Please!* show in 2011, a mash-up of morris, rapper and clog dancing with hip-hop and body popping. Their new show *XL*, featuring music from their new album, *Disco at the Tavern*, is set to be just as entertaining.

Touring May 1-30, see p100 for details



Juan Martín and Chaparro de Malaga

Two exponents of classical flamenco guitar join forces

The forthcoming tour by two of flamenco guitar's leading figures will showcase the sounds of southern Spain. Martín studied with the late master Paco de Lucía and has toured the world. Chaparro has also toured widely, with singers such as Estrella Morente and Miguel Poveda. The pair met after a concert in Malaga, decided to record together – and fortuitously also go on tour together.

Touring May 8-14, see p105 for details



Tinariwen

Everyone's favourite desert rockers return to the UK

Over ten years ago, Tinariwen burst onto the Western music scene, refreshing rock'n'roll with their distinctive, desert flavour. The Touareg rockers have been captivating audiences with their electrified Saharan *assouf* ever since, causing Western audiences to turn their attention toward the beauty of Touareg music. Last year they released their darkest, densest album to date, *Emmaar* (reviewed in #98). The album's solemn and subdued tracks reflect the ongoing political instability of their homeland and will be sure to make for a stirring live performance.

Touring May 27-June 6, see p105 for details



Seckou Keita

Senegal's kora trailblazer goes solo

A true innovator of the West African *kora*, Seckou has collaborated with the likes of Miriam Makeba, Salif Keita, Youssou N'Dour and most recently, with Welsh harpist Catrin Finch. For his latest release, Seckou has recorded a solo album called *22 Strings*. The *kora* is usually 21-stringed, but in southern Senegal, where Seckou is from, a 22-string version of the instrument survives. Seckou embarks on a solo tour of Wales this May, followed by a more extensive UK tour in the autumn. Look out for a forthcoming feature on Seckou later this summer.

Touring May 12-17, see p105 for details



The Ukrainians

Rock'n'roll with an Eastern European twist

The Ukrainians have been performing their bolshy mix of East European traditional music and Western rock since 1990. On their upcoming tour of the UK, they will be performing tracks from their forthcoming album, *A History of Rock Music in Ukrainian*, due for release on May 18. The album sees The Ukrainians taking on classics by The Beatles, Beach Boys, Sex Pistols, Led Zep, Green Day, Joy Division and just about everything in between. Expect a live show chock-full of intoxicating Ukrainian twists to all your favourite tunes.

Touring May 21-30, see p105 for details



Urban Folk Quartet

The boundary-pushing folk four-piece

The Urban Folk Quartet perform a vibrant and diverse form of folk, taking in influences of everything from English and Spanish traditional music to Afrobeat and Cuban *son*, while at the heart of it all, it remains a fiddle-driven sound. UFQ are English multi-instrumentalist Joe Broughton (of the Albion Band), Galician fiddler Paloma Trigás, Tom Chapman on *cajón* and percussion and newest member Dan Walsh, who takes up singing and banjo duties. They will be touring their new album, *The Escape*, and are sure to impress with their high-energy live shows.

Touring May 1-June 7, see p105 for details