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# Waterloo sun sets on a Greenwich summer

REVIEW

**GREENWICH SUMMER SESSIONS: SONGS IN THE KEY OF LONDON**

Old Royal Naval College

★★★★☆

JOHN AIZLEWOOD

THE prospect of an ill-wind or unseasonable monsoon means outdoor concerts are a gamble.

After two years though, the odds are beginning to stack up in favour of the Greenwich Summer Sessions, already looking like the summer staple the near-gig-desert that is south London needs.

The sumptuous grounds of Elizabeth I's presumed birthplace made for an idyllic setting.

The sightlines were fine and while those who frequented Somerset House's Summer Series will attest that sound is not always pristine under the stars, it was here.

You certainly wouldn't have performed major surgery on the lavatory floors, but there were enough of

**London Calling:**  
Clare Teal

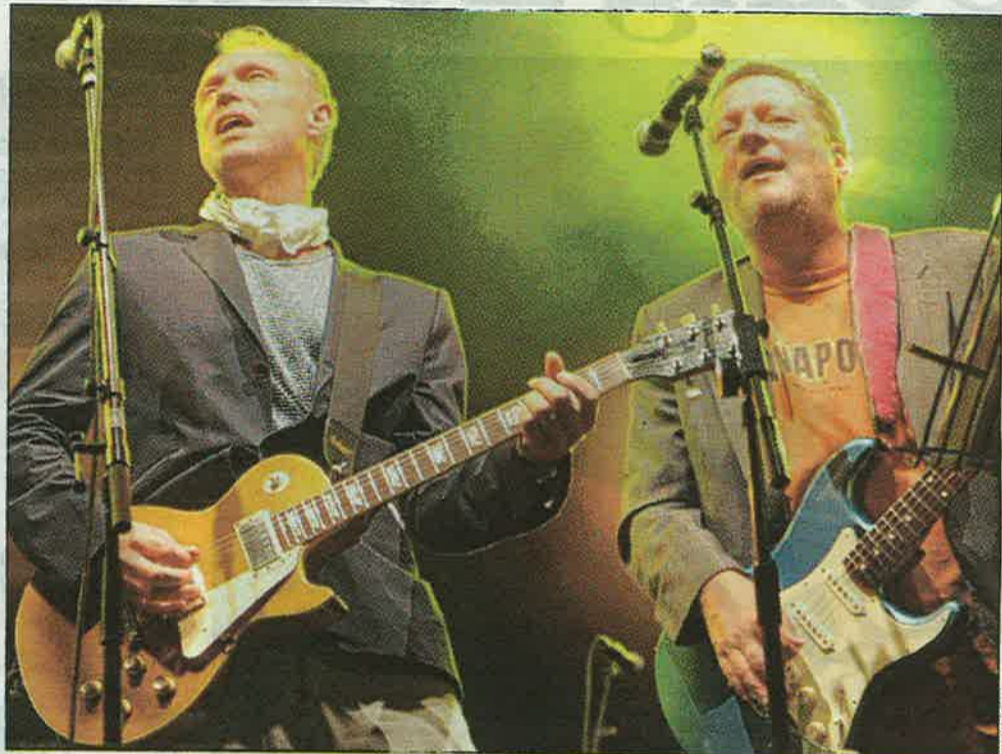


them. For last night's climax of the 2011 season, the weather held and there was a quirkiness to Songs In The Key Of London, curated by the avuncular uncle that is Deptford and Squeeze's Chris Difford.

The ramshackle gist was simple: a cornucopia of singers from feisty folkie Chris Wood ("you haven't got a clue who I am, have you?") to Ali Campbell matched with some songs about London (or not, as the case often was). There was even Nerina Pallot telling us she only takes off her dress for her husband, "and then only when he's taken the bins out".

Those who have long-wondered what Gerry Rafferty's Baker Street might sound like if reggaefied need wonder no more after ex-UB40 singer Campbell's version. Some may sneer, but it was a summery delight.

Meanwhile, Clare Teal may have offered the evening's nadir with a version of James Brown's I Feel Good which evoked only bad feelings, but she brought joyful swing to both The Clash's apocalyptic London Calling and Lily Allen's Smile,



Capital tribute: Gary Kemp of Spandau Ballet and Glenn Tilbrook of Squeeze

STEVE GILLET

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before an ensemble (minus Campbell) Waterloo Sunset finale. The Greenwich Summer Sessions return next year: same place, slightly different, Olympics-accommodating time. This one will grow and grow.

■ A SEVEN-piece band has a licence to perform at Tube stations after winning an annual competition for buskers. Funky folk group The Robbie Boyd Band also won the chance to perform at

the Bedford in Balham in the Rhythm of London contest. Ze Trio, from Kingston, came second winning studio recording time and a trip to Paris. Watford classical guitarist Declan Zapala was third.