

BLUE BAYOU

On 23rd May, Blue Bayou release their second single: **Hide & Seek**. Fresh off their 2025 Valentine's tour (for debut single, December Flowers) the band will accompany the follow up with a live session, videography, interviews, exclusive merchandise, and a tour of its own.



Odd socks, Arrivals, Bathtubs, Moonsets, Shark Fins, Clover.

Ticket Booths, Crow's Nests, Love Pants, Pockets, Papers!

Blue Bayou are a new wave, chamber pop band with horns and strings. Formed in Oxford, the group developed their reputation as an exclusive, “infamous” live act (BBC), through two years of sold out shows and an eclectic, confounding live act. This is music in the fashion of Costello’s knocking knees.

They are currently produced by **Chris Barker** (Willie J. Healey) and aided in management by **Oli Steadman** (Stornoway).

Arrangement

A playful (and loving!) exercise in marrying unlikely images, Hide & Seek was as informed by Ian Dury as W. H. Auden. You can call it catchy if you like, but does that get at the heart of things?

The arrangement follows the ELO pop tradition: more is more is more is more.

(in this case, that's: disco strings, trumpet stacks, doubled vocals, arpeggiating Juno, [along with] samples, diegetic sounds, and twin guitar and bass instrumentals)

Live Act

Hide & Seek: [Oxford, O2 Academy 2](#)

In spring 2023, Blue Bayou took Oxford by surprise – from thin air, they hosted and sold out a string of debut performances at the **Jericho Tavern**, the **Library**, and **Modern Art Oxford**.

They've won their reputation almost solely through their “**infamous gigs**” (BBC Introducing) and an audacious booking style: this year, they are on course to book **a small tour for each of their debut singles**, and eventual EP.



In 2024 they were booked to support **Blue Bendy** (before their tour was cancelled) and later supported **Max Blansjaar** for a leg of his tour, adding their own headlines in Brighton and London. They've consistently welcomed larger stages and crowds: this year they're booked for **Wilderness Festival**, having played Beam Me Up, and headlined Sunday at Riverside, last year.

They became *the* in-demand support act for Oxford: they're booked as main support for **Brown Horse**, having warmed stages for European acts the **Klittens**, and locals like Danny Mellin at **O2 Academy 2**.

Live Reviews

BBC Introducing in Oxfordshire

“Now they’re really interesting because, despite the fact they’ve yet to release any music, they’ve already sold out this gig and also a previous one at Jericho Tavern...you know what I’ve got a really good feeling about them, I think they might be onto something a bit special...you’ll just have to go to one of their infamous gigs”

Oxford Music Scene

“The group burst onto the scene out of nowhere earlier this year...no songs released yet, but a sold out show is a good sign...the lineup is impressive, a five-piece live band featuring a sparkling trumpeter who breaks into virtuoso as the finale of ‘December Flowers’ starts. Live, their set is cosied with fairy lights and potted houseplants scattered around the musicians – it felt like they wanted us to feel at home – and did we...”

...by the finale we were all in their zone, and they had instigated a call and response from the crowd, everyone twisting and shouting on the spot. Expect dancing, singalongs, and ‘alt pop’ par excellence – a treat to watch live’

Nightshift

‘soul revue vibes, folky fiddle, crazy Scooby-Doo villain vocals, and brass’

Shed Sessions

“I’m getting tingly all over just saying that. I can’t believe one of my favourite bands is here, with us in the Shed. It’s going to be an amazing evening of music and conversation...I’ve been trying to distract myself all day”

Windrush Radio

“Ain’t it lovely? Blue Bayou who you can find on *no* streaming platforms at the moment...if you wanna hear more of that stuff, if you wanna see them, if you wanna get any of their music you have to come to the gig”

Debut Single: December Flowers

With its understated Motown beat, December Flowers ought to be an ode to a '60s pop ballad – it is performed, however, by new wave desperadoes, with the will to become good.

The track is careful in its composition. At its centre point is a fragile 16-bar dialogue between the trumpet and violin. At its edges is a small world of improvised percussion – palette knives, glass jars, plant pots, newspapers.

Chris Barker, Producer (Willie J. Healey)

“December Flowers’ showcases a band with such a strong vision and unique sonic identity. Lead singer and chief song-writer Greg, not only writes songs with intricate harmony and poetic storytelling lyrics, but he and the band create these meticulous arrangements to go with them”

Dave Gilyeat (BBC Introducing in Oxfordshire)

“that instrumental break in the middle... I realised there’s something pretty special going on with this band, I have to say ... it’s a tale well told”

Artwork and Merch

Blue Bayou are also well-loved for their collaborations with artists over merch, posters, and artwork. They became synonymous with **Fiona Cameron**’s ever-popular [Rabbit in a Boat logo](#), posting it all over Oxford and Brighton – they’ve sold over three batches of t-shirts and tote bags with the design.

For the single release, they commissioned artist [Beth Simcock](#) to respond to their music. Hide & Seek proudly displays the second detail of her painting, to be fully revealed come the awaited release of their EP.

They will also be releasing a live session, produced by **Alexander Sokolow** (Tugboat Captain), filmed by [Willow Senior](#)’s production team. Their press shots/videography are by filmmaker [Luke Jin](#).



Interviews

BBC Introducing Oxfordshire – [December Flowers interview](#) broadcast 13/02/25 54:26

BBC Introducing Oxfordshire - [Modern Art Oxford gig review](#) broadcast 24/11/23 1:40:46

Shed Session - [Blue Bayou podcast, interview and performance](#) broadcast 28/05/23

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