

Press Release

29th April 2015

All aboard the soul train

Jazz singer performs on train to mark the start of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Jazz sensation Kizzy Crawford performed a secret set whilst travelling on a [CrossCountry](#) train today (Wednesday 29 April) giving customers a surprise treat on board the 11.17am service from Birmingham New Street to Cheltenham Spa, to mark the start of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival.

Welsh born Kizzy, 18, exploded onto the Jazz scene just two years ago and the talented singer, songwriter and musician will be performing at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival this Saturday (2 May), gracing the same stage as the likes of Jamie Cullum and Van Morrison.

As the Festival's Official Rail Partner, CrossCountry was granted exclusive access to the young star and wanted to surprise its customers with a journey they would never forget.

"Watching the passengers turn around with smiles on their faces to watch my performance was surreal." said Kizzy. "It was definitely a first for me to perform on a train and I also got to sit back and enjoy the journey whilst chatting to other passengers and the crew in between songs."

This year the leading train company has collaborated with Cheltenham Festivals for all four of its major events; Cheltenham Jazz Festival (29 April – 4 May), The Times Cheltenham Science Festival (2 - 7 June 2015), Cheltenham Music Festival (30 June - 11 July 2015) and The Times and The Sunday Times Cheltenham Literature Festival (2 - 11 October 2015), and travelling to the Festival is easy - CrossCountry provides six services per hour through Cheltenham.

Clare Shufflebotham, Head of Marketing at CrossCountry said: "We are delighted to be the Official Rail Partner for the Cheltenham Jazz Festival again this year. To have Kizzy on-board one of our trains was a real treat for both customers and the crew.

"Listening to music is a great way to spend time when travelling by train, so why not enjoy the same experience but by listening to a live performance – it's the ultimate intimate gig and we're so grateful to Kizzy for her support."

Ian George, Director of Cheltenham Jazz Festival said: "We're delighted to be able to surprise commuters on this CrossCountry train with a brilliant pop up gig from the incredible Kizzy Crawford. Hopefully it will get everyone in the mood for Jazz and encourage them to join us at the Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend."

-ENDS-

For further information, please contact Kelly Mortlock or Becky Riffel on 020 7025 7522 or email crosscountry@grayling.com.

Notes to editors

About CrossCountry

The CrossCountry network is the most extensive passenger rail franchise in Britain. Stretching from Aberdeen to Penzance, and from Stansted to Cardiff, it calls at over 100 stations. Based in Birmingham, CrossCountry connects seven of the Britain's 10 largest cities and delivers 295 services every weekday, equating to some 32 million passenger journeys a year. For further information on CrossCountry services visit crosscountrytrains.co.uk or follow them online via Twitter at @crosscountryuk, Facebook.com/crosscountrytrains and their student Facebook page, Facebook.com/studentraildeals.

CrossCountry bookings

Passengers can buy tickets for any rail journey in Britain, with any train company and with no booking fee at crosscountrytrains.co.uk or via the free CrossCountry Train Tickets app.

Download the app by visiting your app store or by texting TRAVEL to 87080.

About Cheltenham Festival

Cheltenham Jazz Festival returns at the end of April (April 29 – May 4) with a bold programme that features a variety of classic and contemporary jazz, blues, soul and pop from a string of top acts including million-selling singer-songwriter Rumer, Dutch superstar Caro Emerald, trailblazing producer Squarepusher, the queen of soul Martha Reeves, world-renowned DJ Gilles Peterson, and former Dr Feelgood guitarist Wilko Johnson. The Frank Sinatra-themed 'Friday Night Is Music Night' featuring Kurt Elling, Clare Teal and Anthony Strong is a Festival must, as is an exclusive celebration of Gershwin music featuring Laura Mvula and Gregory Porter. Jamie Cullum returns as Guest Director and will perform with US jazz funk jam band Medeski, Martin & Wood. Other confirmations include Lee Konitz's new quintet featuring Dave Douglas, legendary drummer Tony Allen, and Joe Lovano's Village Rhythms Band. For the full line-up visit Cheltenhamfestivals.com.

You can listen to Kizzy's latest single 'Shout Out' now on the Visit Wales TV & Online adverts.