

Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music 2023

Friday 22nd September

Thursday 28th September - Sunday 1st October

Thursday 5th October - Sunday 8th October



Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music

With great pleasure we announce the 7th year of
Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music.

Launched 2017, the festival continues to respond to the city's appetite for a contemporary grass roots jazz festival, presenting an innovative and diverse international line up, celebrating and pushing boundaries that challenge perceptions of jazz and improvised music.

This year we welcome new performance spaces including the Jesmond United Reformed Church and Blank Studios, alongside our regular venues Bobiks, The Globe and the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society.

We are also especially delighted to include three performances from the Edith Adamson Carillon at Newcastle Civic Centre. A landmark on the Newcastle Skyline the carillon is the heaviest of its kind in the world, with a total metal mass of 22 tonnes, what a treat to hear the 25 bells ringing out across the city through a specially commissioned festival piece for our three weekends.

We continue to work with our lead partners Jazz North East, but also other key regional promoters including Jazz.Coop, GemArts and the Thursday Night Prayer Meeting.

Alongside British and International UK based artists this year we're delighted to be bringing musicians from Italy, Switzerland, France and multiple Scandinavian regions.

Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music gratefully acknowledges Arts Council England, associated partners and funders for their support.

Our festival this year is dedicated in memory of Steve Horowitz who recently passed, a tireless supporter of the Tyneside jazz scene who will be sadly missed but never forgotten.

We hope you enjoy the show!

- Wesley Stephenson (Artistic Director and Festival Producer)

Jon Bradley with Paul Taylor

Three Tsuru Origami

Paul Edis with Graeme Wilson

Zoe Rahman Band

John Pope Quintet

Late Girl

Shapeshifters

Sarah Gail Brand / Cath Roberts / Andy Champion / Mark Sanders

David Birchall / Thomas Dixon / John Pope

Alcyona Mick

Balo

Sebastian Lexer / Martin Mayes / Steve Noble

Semay Wu

Miman

Maja Bugge with Sarah Niccols

Olivia Moore with Adam Fairhall

Rie Nakajima

Samuel Blaser Trio

Laura Toxværd with Jeppe Zeeberg

Atzi Muramatsu and Fritz Welch

Ubunye

Zoë Gilby Quintet with Tony Kofi

FRIDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Newcastle Civic Centre

Outdoor Performance: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

The Edith Adamson Carillon: Jon Bradley (Performance 1 / 3)

Jon Bradley (Carillon) / Paul Taylor (Compositions and Recording)

Jesmond United Reformed Church

Doors: 7.00pm

7.30pm - 8.10pm

Paul Edis and Graeme Wilson

Graeme Wilson (Saxophone) / Paul Edis (Church Organ)

8.40pm - 9.30pm

Three Tsuru Origami

Gabriele Mitelli (Trumpet, Soprano Sax, Electronics, Voice) / John Edwards (Double Bass) / Mark Sanders (Drums and Percussion)

THURSDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

Jesmond United Reformed Church

Doors: 7.00pm

Set 1: 7.30pm - 8.15pm / Set 2: 8.45pm - 9.30pm

Zoe Rahman

Full Band Show

FRIDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

Newcastle Civic Centre

Outdoor Performance: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

The Edith Adamson Carillon: Jon Bradley (Performance 2 / 3)

Jon Bradley (Carillon) / Paul Taylor (Compositions and Recording)

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER

Bobiks (Upstairs at The Punch Bowl - Jesmond)

Doors: 7.00pm

7.30pm - 8.10pm

Shapeshifters

Anna Chandler (Saxophone) / Sam Quintana (Double Bass) / Steve Hanley (Drums)

8.30pm - 9.00pm

Late Girl

Laura Stutter Garcia (Vocals and Electronics)

9.20pm - 10.10pm

John Pope Quintet

John Pope (Double Bass) / Faye MacCalman (Saxophone and Clarinet) / Graham Hardy (Trumpet and Flugelhorn) / Jamie Stockbridge (Saxophone) / Johnny Hunter (Drums)

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Blank Studios

Doors: 7.30pm

8.00pm - 9.30pm

Sarah Gail Brand / Cath Roberts / Andy Champion / Mark Sanders

Sarah Gail Brand (Trombone) / Cath Roberts (Baritone Saxophone) / Andy Champion (Double Bass) / Mark Sanders (Drums)

THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER

The Globe: Thursday Night Prayer Meeting (Upstairs Venue Space)

Doors: 7.30pm

8.00pm - 8.45pm

David Birchall / Thomas Dixon / John Pope

David Birchall (Guitar) / Thomas Dixon (Saxophone) / John Pope (Double Bass)

8.45pm - 10.00pm

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting - Improv Session

FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER

The Literary and Philosophical Society (The Loftus Room)

Doors: 12.30pm

1.00pm - 2.00pm

Alcyona Mick

Alcyona Mick (Solo Piano)

Newcastle Civic Centre

Outdoor Performance: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

The Edith Adamson Carillon: Jon Bradley (Performance 3 / 3)

Jon Bradley (Carillon) / Paul Taylor (Compositions and Recording)

The Literary and Philosophical Society (Members Library)

Doors: 6.00pm

6.20pm - 7.00pm

Balo

Manon McCoy (Harp) / Will Shaw (Percussion)

The Literary and Philosophical Society (The Loftus Room)

Doors: 7.00pm

7.20pm - 8.00pm

Miman

Hans Kjørstad (Fiddle) / Andreas Røysum (Clarinet) / Egil Kalman (Bass and Synths)

8.20pm - 8.50pm

Semay Wu

Semay Wu (Cello and Electronics)

9.10pm - 10.00pm

Sebastian Lexer / Martin Mayes / Steve Noble

Sebastian Lexer (Piano and Electronics) / Martin Mayes (Orchestral Horn / Alphorn) / Steve Noble (Drums and Percussion)

SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER

The Literary and Philosophical Society (The Loftus Room)

Doors: 12.30pm

1.00pm - 1.45pm

Olivia Moore and Adam Fairhall

Olivia Moore (Violin) / Adam Fairhall (Accordians)

2.00pm - 2.45pm

Maja Bugge and Sarah Niccols

Maja Bugge (Cello) / Sarah Niccols (Piano)

The Literary and Philosophical Society (Members Library)

Doors: 6.00pm

6.20pm - 7.00pm

Rie Nakajima

Rie Nakajima (Objects and Toys)

The Literary and Philosophical Society (The Loftus Room)

Doors: 7.00pm

7.20pm - 8.00pm

Atzi Muramatsu and Fritz Welch

Atzi Muramatsu (Cello) / Fritz Welsch (Drums and Percussion)

8.20pm - 9.00pm

Laura Toxværd with Jeppe Zeeberg

Laura Toxværd (Saxophone) / Jeppe Zeeberg (Piano)

9.20pm - 10.00pm

Samuel Blaser Trio

Samuel Blaser (Trombone) / Marc Ducret (Guitar) / Peter Bruun (Drums)

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER

The Globe (Downstairs Venue Space)

Doors: 2.00pm

2.30pm - 3.30pm

Ubunye

Xolani Mbatha (Vocals) / Nokuthula Zondi (Vocals) / Dave Evans (Keyboards and Vocals) / Nik Svarc (Guitar) / Sam Dutton-Taylor (Bass)
Steve Hanley (Drums)

4.00pm - 5.00pm

Zoë Gilby Quintet with Tony Kofi

Zoë Gilby (Vocals) / Tony Kofi (Saxophone) / Mark Williams (Guitar) / Andy Champion (Double Bass) / John Bradford (Drums)

CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS

Newcastle Civic Centre

(Performance can be heard from the Civic Centre Gardens - No Ticket Required)

Jesmond United Reform Church

Bobiks

Blank Studios

The Literary and Philosophical Society

The Globe

(Thursday Night Prayer Meeting is Pay As You Feel On The Door - No Ticket Required)

Many festival events regularly sell out in advance due to the limited capacity spaces. Limited tickets may be available on the door subject to venue capacity. We encourage our audiences to buy in advance to avoid disappointment.

Promoting ecology and sustainability across the festival we also encourage ticket holders to bring digital mobile tickets and booking codes to save on ticket printing.

Venues

Newcastle Civic Centre

Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Haymarket, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7PN
www.newcastle.gov.uk

Jesmond United Reform Church

Burdon Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 3AE
0191 281 4676
www.jesmond-urc.org.uk

Bobiks at The Punch Bowl

125 Jesmond Rd, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1JY
0191 239 9566
www.bobiks.com

Blank Studios

210 Warwick Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1BB
0191 261 9251
www.blank-studios.com

The Literary and Philosophical Society

The Literary and Philosophical Society, 23 Westgate Road, NE1 1SE
0191 232 0192 / library@litandphil.org.uk
www.litandphil.org.uk

The Globe

The Globe, 11 Railway Street, NE4 7AD
0191 272 5185 / info@jazz.coop
www.theglobenewcastle.bar

Age Restrictions | Accessibility | Travel

Newcastle Civic Centre

Age Restrictions: All ages welcome.

Accessibility: The Civic Centre Gardens is a fully accessible city centre public green space best accessed from Haymarket Bus Station or Metro Station. Accessible toilets are available on the ground floor of the Civic Centre.

Travel: Haymarket Bus Station is located 0.2 miles from the Civic Centre Gardens (approximately 5 minutes walking time).

Haymarket Metro Station is located 0.1 miles from the Civic Centre Gardens just across the street (approximately 3 minutes walking time).

There is parking available at The Civic Centre Sandyford Square.

Jesmond United Reform Church

Age Restrictions: All ages welcome.

Accessibility: Fully accessible for wheelchair users.

Travel: Jesmond Metro is located 0.4 miles from the Church (approximately 7 minutes walking time).

Q3 QuayCity Bus to Osborne Road-Nuffield Hospital (Stop ID: twramtjp) is 0.2 miles (approximately 4 minutes walking time).

There is limited street parking surrounding the Church on Burdon Terrace and Tankerville Terrace (Charges may apply).

Bobiks at The Punch Bowl

Age Restrictions: 16+ (under 18's accompanied by an adult).

Accessibility: Bobiks is an upstairs performance space preceded by 25 stairs and therefore inaccessible for wheelchair users.

Travel: Jesmond Metro located half a mile from Bobiks at The Punch Bowl (approximately 10 minutes walking time).

Cradlewell Bus Stops are less than 1000 ft from the venue which is visible from the stops
Bus numbers: 38 / 51 / 52 / 62 / 63 / 38 / 308 / 309.

There is limited street parking available near the venue
(Charges may apply).

Blank Studios

Age Restrictions: All ages welcome.

Accessibility: The Blank Studios recording and performance space is fully accessible for wheelchair users, fully accessible toilets are available in the Star and Shadow venue next door to Blank Studios.

Travel: Blank Studios is located just next to the Star and Shadow Cinema.

Buses: 1 / 32 / 32A are located just a few meters away from the studio (approximately 1 minutes walking time).

Jesmond Metro located 0.6 miles from Blank Studios (approximately 13 minutes walking time).

There is limited street parking available (Charges may apply).

The Literary and Philosophical Society

Age Restrictions: All ages welcome with under 18's accompanied by an adult.

Accessibility: The Loftus Room at The Lit and Phil is partly accessible. There is a lift at the venue entrance for wheelchair users to access the building and performance space, no wheelchair accessible toilets are available in the building.

The festival has permissions for visiting wheelchair users to access toilets located on the ground floor in Sleeperz Hotel which is just a few doors down (16 ft) to the right of the Lit and Phil as you exit the building.

Accessible toilets are also available at Central Station and 5 Quarter Cafe Bar.

The Members Library is not a wheelchair accessible space and is preceded by a small number of stairs.

Travel: Any Bus and Metro to Central Station which is located less than 300 ft from the venue (approximately 2 minutes walk).

There is limited street parking, the closest car park is at Central Station (Charges may apply).

The Globe

Age Restrictions: All ages welcome with under 18's accompanied by an adult.

Accessibility: Fully accessible for wheelchair users, a lift facility is available to access an upstairs fully accessible toilet.

Travel: Central Station Metro is located just under half a mile from the venue (approximately 8 minutes walk).

Buses: 12 / 12A / 22 / 22X to Scotswood Road.

Limited street parking outside of the venue, a small fee based car park is located across the road (Charges may apply).

Please do contact the venues for full details regarding younger ages

and for any further queries regarding accessibility and parking.

We encourage ecologically sustainable travel wherever possible across the festival

by foot, bike and public transport.

International Travel and Hotels

Newcastle Central Rail Station and Metro carries direct links to and from Newcastle Airport with a journey time of around 25 minutes. Wherever you are coming from head for Central Station and you can find most venues quite easily.

Central Festival Hub

There are many hotels and hostels available surrounding Central Station and very close to The Literary and Philosophical Society which is our main festival hub. We recommend 'Sleeperz Hotel' for good accommodation at a reasonable price and you're just a few doors down.

Sleeperz Hotel Newcastle, 15 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE

Telephone: +44 (0)191 261 6171

www.sleeperz.com

Jesmond and Sandyford Weekend

If you're looking for a hotel at the Jesmond / Sandyford weekender try the Holiday Inn which is very close to the venues and travel links, and also has a convenient bar and restaurant.

Holiday Inn, Jesmond Rd, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1PR

0191 281 5511

www.ihg.com/holidayinn

Eating and Drinking

In Jesmond Bobiks at The Punch Bowl have food and there are many places on Osbourne Road just near to Jesmond United Reformed Church. Fratello's Restaurant located at Holiday Inn Jesmond Metro is also very close to Jesmond United Reformed Church.

There are many places to eat in the surrounding environments for our main festival weekend. The 5 Quarter Cafe at The Common Room is just next to the Lit and Phil to the left as you exit the building and is a fully accessible bar and restaurant.

The Common Room, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE

Telephone: 0191 250 9717

www.thecommonroom.org.uk/5quarter

Promoting veganism and ecological sustainability, and just a little further away from the venue, we recommend the Super Natural Cafe. The cafe is less than 1000 ft from The Lit and Phil (approximately 5 minutes walk). Please contact the cafe for questions regarding accessibility.

Super Natural Cafe, 29 Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5JE

Telephone: 0191 4473800

Super Natural Cafe

Acknowledgements

Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music gratefully acknowledges Arts Council England and all of our associated funders, partners, venues and friends including Jazz North East, Chris Calver and James Smith at The Literary and Philosophical Society, Paul Bream and Jazz Alert, Andy Hamilton at Durham University, Corey Mwamba, Northern Jazz Promoters, Jazz North, Jazz Danmark, Prohelvetia, Andrew Delanoy and John Martindale, Helen Anahita Wilson at Repeater Radio, Jazz.Coop and Thomas Dixon at The Globe, GemArts, Bobiks, Jesmond United Reformed Church... and more!

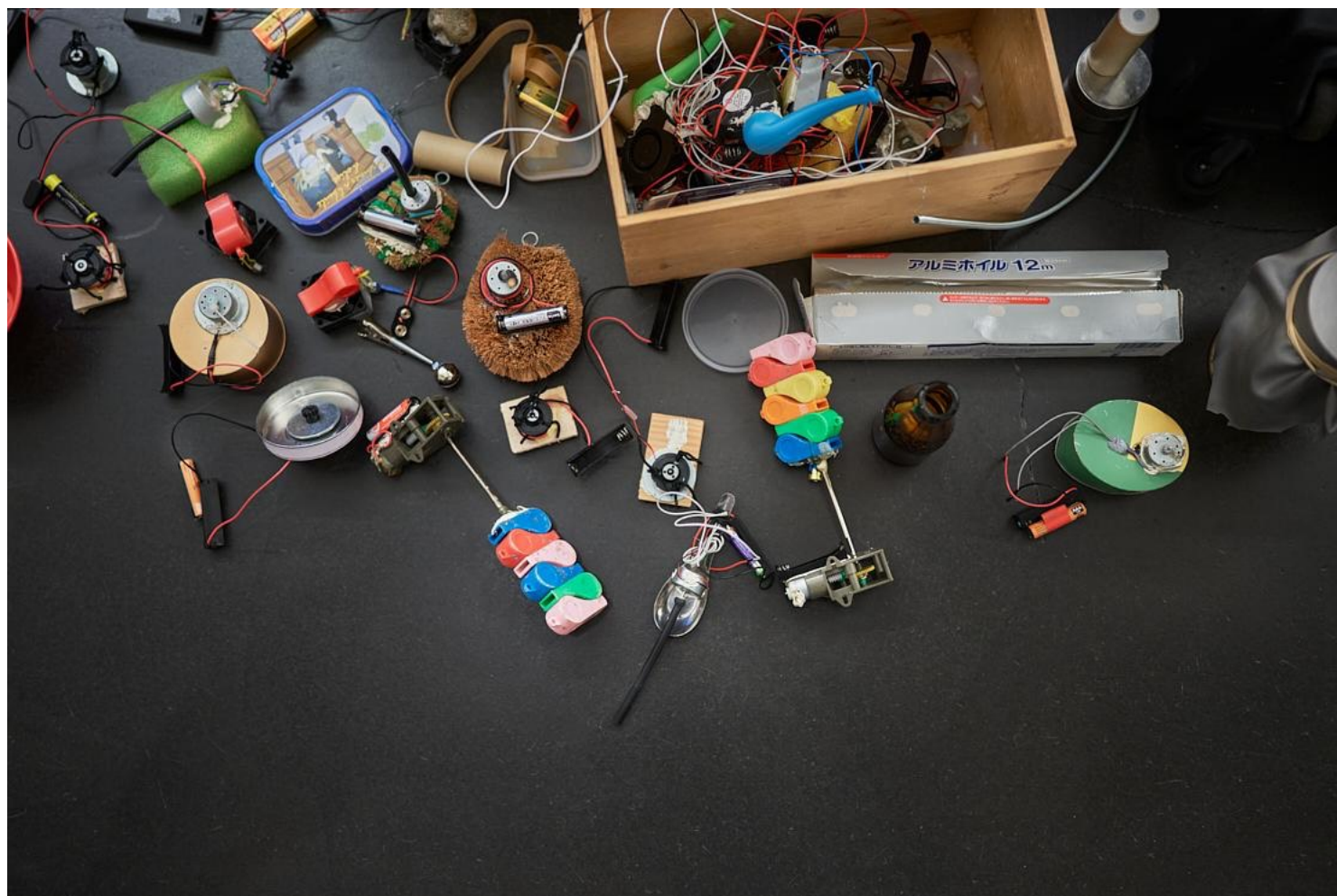
“Teamwork makes the dream work” - John Maxwell

Weblinks

www.newcastlefestivalofjazzandimprovisedmusic.co.uk
www.facebook.com/newcastlefestivalofjazzandimprovisedmusic
Twitter: @NFOJAiM
newjazzandimprovisedmusic@posteo.net

Cover Image Credit

Rie Nakajima by Hana Knizova



**Newcastle Festival of Jazz and
Improvised Music 2023**

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Jazz
Northeast



THE
GLOBE

prohelvetia

Sounds of
DENMARK

JAZZ
PROMOTION
NETWORK

BLANK STUDIOS



bandcamp

BLACK
LIVES IN
MUSIC



attitude
is everything



bebop spoken here
(the jazz blog)



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**





Jonathan Bradley - The Edith Adamson Carillon

Jonathan Bradley (Carillon)

Paul Taylor (Compositions and Recording)

A centrepiece for this years' festival will be three performances through the Edith Adamson Carillon at Newcastle Civic Centre. Regional pianist Paul Taylor will produce an improvisational score entitled 'Permutations' to be performed by acting Carillon caretaker and Council commissioned instrument player Jonathan Bradley. Bringing together our three weekends of music each performance will remain unique through the improvisational nature of the composition Paul has created, and subsequent interpretation by Jonathan.

Jonathan started regular recitals in 2015 (Previously the carillon has been played by Richard Jennings, Chris Briggs, John Knox, and Dr. Ian Brunt) and expressed his great enthusiasm for this prestigious and historically significant instrument to become part of the festival.

Heard over a great distance, the Carillon performances will extend to a great audience, celebrating Newcastle's heritage and encouraging audiences into the outdoor green space surrounding the Civic Centre (the Carillon is situated in the Belfry with the bells played being heard outside and across the city).

The Edith Adamson Carillon has taken pride of place on Newcastle's skyline since completed construction in 1967. The 25 bells that make the Carillon were cast in 1966 and bequeathed to Newcastle City Council by James Adamson in memory of his wife, Edith Annie Adamson who died in the same year work commenced on the Civic Centre. The Carillon is the heaviest of its kind in the world, with a total metal mass of 22 tonnes. The Carillon Tower is adorned with 12 large and 8 small seahorses designed by J. R. M. Cheyne as part of the original building design.

www.facebook.com/newcastlecarillon

www.newcastle.gov.uk/our-city/edith-adamson-carillon-newcastle-civic-centre





Paul Taylor

Paul Taylor (Compositions and Recording)

For Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music 2023 regional musician Paul Taylor will be working on a number of festival specific commissions entitled 'Permutations' and 'Interludes'.

The first of these will be an improvisational score to be performed on three occasions by Jonathan Bradley on the Edith Adamson Carillon, this music will be heard outdoors and across the city. Paul will also be recording a series of electronically composed interlude pieces which will be broadcast through venue PA systems before, during and after festival live concert performances. The electronic compositions will be designed in such a way as to embody audio motifs that are shared with the Carillon score, therefore uniting the outdoor and indoor performances and providing a festival soundtrack, creating a sense of identity, uniform and association throughout and across events. The electronic scores will be produced on CD and issued through our associated New Jazz and Improvised Music Recordings project, available to interested audiences throughout the festival.

Born in and currently residing in Newcastle, Paul has heard the Carillon bells throughout his life, as one of the regions most exciting improvisers he is the perfect artist to produce this work, and we're delighted to invite him to the festival to do so.

www.paulstephentaylor.bandcamp.com



Three Tsuru Origami

Gabriele Mitelli (Trumpet / Soprano Sax / Electronics / Voice / Percussion)
John Edwards (Double Bass)
Mark Sanders (Drums / Objects)

Gabriele Mitelli has created an international ensemble for his new trio, a programmatic departure from the commonplace, comfortable formulas and the familiar. For a journey to the heart of improvisation in which jazz once again becomes a constant gamble, an extreme practice, a risk to be taken to go one step further each time. Fellow adventurers are two English musicians who have made noise and rebellion into a life project: John Edwards on double bass and Mark Sanders on drums. The three are indefatigable experimenters, heard alongside Evan Parker, Rob Mazurek, Roscoe Mitchell, Sunny Murray, Peter Brötzmann, Louis Moholo, and Wadada Leo Smith; names and experiences that speak of courage and freedom, honesty and dedication, that are more than a calling card. So brace yourselves: there is a whole world to discover.

Their first album was released in October 2022 on We Insist! Records
<https://weinsist.bandcamp.com/album/three-tsuru-origami>

Three improvisers having fun and taking risks. The classic piano-less jazz trio reinvented by mixing melodies, dirty sounds, noises, extended techniques and references to tradition with a quasi-punk approach.

It's with great pleasure that we welcome Gabriele Mitelli from Italy to come and perform at the Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music.

www.gabrielemitelli.com



Graeme Wilson with Paul Edis

Graeme Wilson (Tenor / Baritone Sax)
Paul Edis (Pipe Organ)

Saxophonist Graeme Wilson and pianist Paul Edis are both leading performers and composers on the UK jazz scene, with regular performances at festivals and clubs both here and in Europe.

They've been playing in bands together since 2007 (including the Paul Edis Sextet, Graeme Wilson Quartet, John Warren's Splinter Group, Voice of the North and more besides) and in 2019 released their duo recording of Thelonious Monk compositions.

The duo will perform an improvised set of new music, with Paul at the Jesmond United Reform Church pipe organ and Graeme playing both tenor and baritone sax.

With previous duo performances including Durham Cathedral and Hexham Abbey, Wilson and Edis revel in the opportunity to play with the incredible acoustics and atmosphere as they summon up the sounds of heaven and hell!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YW58dLGdO_k
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JX0hypqJ3Q
www.youtube.com/watch?v=df1Uj_7EIG8



Zoe Rahman

Zoe Rahman (Piano)
Full Band Show

Zoe Rahman, spellbinding pianist and visionary composer, presents her new album “Colour of Sound”, featuring an all-star line-up.

Zoe Rahman’s style is deeply rooted in jazz yet it reflects her classical background, British / Bengali heritage and her very broad musical tastes. Known for her powerful technique, wide-ranging imagination and exuberant performance, she has become a highly sought-after musician on the international jazz scene.

A MOBO Award winner, Mercury Prize nominee and Ivor Novello Impact Award winner, Zoe is a unique presence in the British music industry.

“Her sound is drenched with originality - a world class artist, composer and performer... Zoe shines as one of Britain’s most powerful compositional voices and important contemporary artists” - Ivors Academy

Gathering together a band of outstanding musicians, she’s created The Colour Of Sound: the most ambitious, many-hued, uplifting large-ensemble music of her multi-award winning career. Her choice of collaborators reflects her deep engagement with the diversity of contemporary Britain, and her own explorations of her multi-modal heritage.

Colour Of Sound combines Zoe’s unique and powerful writing with thrilling arrangements and dynamic performances to create an album of jazz at it’s highest level that still communicates its message directly to the listener. It’s a splash of colour and a bold statement beautifully realised that is Zoe Rahman’s most compelling work to date.

“This music was written to connect with people - it’s very emotive but people are really receptive to that right now after all they’ve been through, and they’re so up for hearing live music! Every show feels like a celebration and this music reflects that” - Zoe Rahman

www.zoerahman.com



John Pope Quintet

John Pope (Double Bass)
Faye MacCalman (Saxophone and Clarinet)
Graham Hardy (Trumpet and Flugelhorn)
Jamie Stockbridge (Saxophone)
Johnny Hunter (Drums)

An all-star lineup of dynamic Northern musicians, this all-acoustic quintet is the primary working band of Newcastle bass player John Pope, one of the most compelling new voices in UK jazz.

Drawing on the history of 60s free jazz and hard bop, but with a modern sensibility grounded in the sounds of today's European scene, they play hard-grooving, anything-goes energy music that seeks to bring audiences together in a joyous racket.

Formed in 2016 to perform a tribute concert for the late Ornette Coleman for Jazz North East, this group quickly grew to become John's main project as a composer and bandleader. Taking inspiration from giants like Ornette, Mingus, Misha Mengelberg and the Art Ensemble of Chicago, plus a dash of DIY alternative rock attitude, their music has grown into a creative space all of its own; energetic, off-kilter, celebratory and full of rewards for the adventurous listener.

The quintet has performed across the nation, including sets at Gateshead International Jazz Festival at The Sage and Lancaster Jazz Festival, plus a successful tour across the North of England in 2019. The quintet were selected by Jazz North as Northern Line ambassador artists that same year, presenting them with a supportive platform to bring their music to audiences all over the North and beyond. Well received gigs at legendary venues such as Matt & Phreds (Manchester) and The Lescar (Sheffield) are testament to the awesome effect of hearing the Quintet in action.

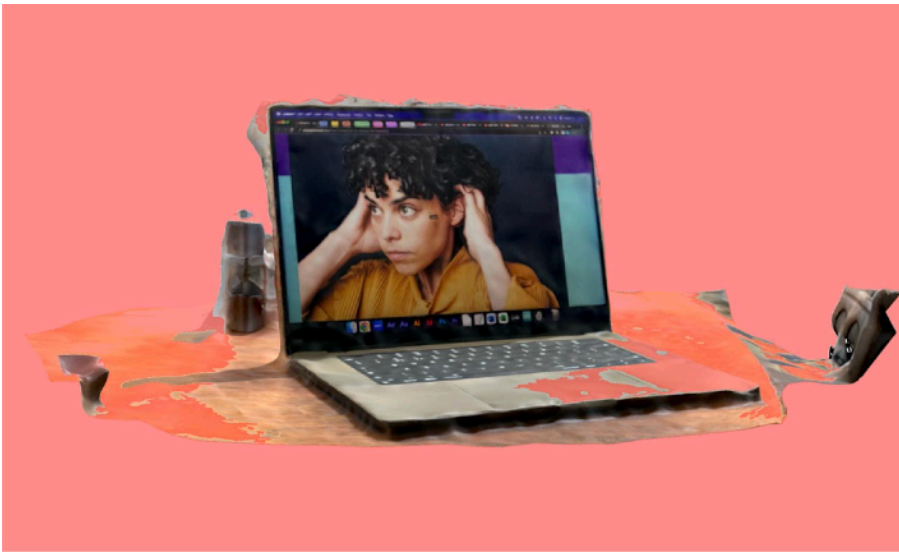
The debut album from the group, 'Mixed with Glass', was released January 2021, on the New Jazz and Improvised Music Recordings label. Called "a big-hearted debut from a band to watch out for" (Jazzwise), the album features an entirely original set of compositions, spanning the full range of sounds and emotional spaces the band have explored after years of playing and learning together.

In 2023 John convened the band to record the long-awaited follow-up album, with support from Help Musicians via a Peter Whittingham Jazz Award. Recorded live at legendary North East space the Star & Shadow Cinema this new album is due for release in late 2023.

"Irresistible joie de vivre" - Kevin Le Gendre (Jazzwise)

"..an almost perfect balance between composition and improvisation...between form and freedom" - The Jazz Mann

www.johnpopebass.co.uk
www.johnpope.bandcamp.com/album/mixed-with-glass



Late Girl

Laura Stutter Garcia (Vocals and Electronics)

Having recently finished an artist residency at Sage, Late Girl continues performing an evocative electronic improvisation with live vocal processing, crafting hyper-saturated yet melding soundscapes that leave the listener somewhat both stunned and at peace.

“poetic polemics and a sly sense of humour to craft an intelligent and distinctly modern form of experimental pop” - NARC Magazine.

“a fearsomely intense set by the Newcastle-based Spanish singer-producer Laura “Late Girl” Stutter García which evokes minimalist composition, early grime and Björk all at once” - The Guardian

www.laurastuttergarcia.com





Shapeshifters

Anna Chandler (Alto Saxophone)
Sam Quintana (Bass)
Steve Hanley (Drums)

Shapeshifters - a contemporary jazz trio consisting of three collaborators: Anna Chandler, Sam Quintana and Steve Hanley. Grounded in the tradition, the trio combine influences from the likes of Mingus, Fly Trio and the Tristano School.

The ethos of the band is to embrace the spontaneity and openness gifted by the line-up, morphing in direction at the flick of a switch and constantly challenging improvisation fearlessly and unapologetically.

What began as just an ensemble, for rehearsing ideas and sketches, very quickly turned into an original project inspired by what the band had explored and developed.

The debut album 'Shapeshifters' was released in January 2021 during the pandemic. This included snippets from some streamed events, as well as some specifically created video performances. The broadcast was made in conjunction with the label 'NewJazz Records' and included an interview with the label executive.

The album has a raft of acclaimed reviews and the title track has been selected and showcased on multiple Spotify playlists, raising the profile of the trio, during a time when the pandemic made it more challenging to promote the band through the traditional touring circuit.

Performing a mix of original material and unique re-workings of the standards repertoire, the group produces a coherent narrative whilst still keeping you on your toes, unsure as to what might happen next.

www.newjazzrecords.bandcamp.com/album/shapeshifters



Sarah Gail Brand / Cath Roberts / Andy Champion / Mark Sanders

Sarah Gail Brand (Trombone)
 Cath Roberts (Baritone Saxophone)
 Andy Champion (Double Bass)
 Mark Sanders (Drums)

It's become something of a tradition for Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music to form new groups of improvisers specifically for the festival and once again this is another stellar Quartet line up.

Sarah Gail Brand

Described by The Wire magazine as 'the most exciting trombone player for years', Sarah Gail Brand has recorded and performed on the international Jazz and Improvised Music since the early 1990s with Mark Sanders, John Edwards, Martin Hathaway, Billy Jenkins, Elton Dean, Evan Parker, Phil Minton, Lol Coxhill, Alexander Hawkins, Maggie Nicols, Rachel Musson, Wadada Leo Smith, Jason Yarde and countless others.

“one of the most passionate and dynamic musicians alive” - Time Out

Cath Roberts

Cath Roberts is a musician, artist and organiser whose work explores free improvisation, composition and the music at their meeting point. The primary outlet for this is the band Sloth Racket, formed in 2015 by Cath on baritone saxophone and compositions.

Cath has toured widely and released several albums. Improvisation using live electronics and objects is a new interest and has led to a solo release plus the beginning of several new collaborations.

Andy Champion

Andy Champion graduated from Newcastle College in 1998, initially working throughout the UK and Europe as an electric bassist and drummer in various styles of music. After taking up double bass in 2003 he became more heavily involved in the North East jazz and improvised music scene, rapidly building a reputation that has made him one of the most respected bassists on the Tyneside jazz and wider music scene.

Mark Sanders

Mark has had a career taking in many styles and genres, this history informs his now mainly free improvisation based work, but he also works in theatre, dance, contemporary classical and conceptual art situations.

He has played with many renowned improvising musicians including Roscoe Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, Derek Bailey, Henry Grimes, Okkyung Lee, Barry Guy, Charles Gayle, Peter Evans, Trevor Watts, Evan Parker, William Parker, Nate Wooley, Nicole Mitchell and many more.

“...the other special ingredient is the ubiquitous, diverse and constantly creative drummer Mark Sanders, who always outdoes himself, whether playing with restraint or erupting like a dynamo”
 - Bruce L Gallenter (Downtown Music Gallery. New York)



David Birchall / Thomas Dixon / John Pope + Thursday Night Prayer Meeting

David Birchall (Guitar)
Thomas Dixon (Saxophone)
John Pope (Double Bass)

Thomas Dixon

Saxophonist and bandleader Thomas Dixon, having been inspired by his time in the ICP's Dutch Improv Academy, is now the founder and facilitator for the Thursday Night Prayer Meeting.

As well as being inspired by the radical free jazz records of the early 1960s, he's also strongly moved by British dance club culture, and African township musics, which can be seen clearly in his other musical projects: DILUTEY JUICE, Kancho Club, and Hannabiell & Midnight Blue.

Thursday Night Prayer Meeting is an invitation to share in the joys of improvised music. On the first Thursday of every month the night begins by bringing guest performers to the stage, and then putting together small groups from the audience to improvise together.

Free from the boundaries of genre, the Prayer Meeting encourages music makers of all styles, backgrounds, and perceived levels of ability to come play together. Everyone should have access to improvised music, either as an audience member or participant. PA, drum kit and keyboard are provided and you are encouraged to bring anything else you'd like to make noise with.

For this festival edition David Birchall will visit the Prayer Meeting to perform in a unique trio formation with Thomas Dixon and John Pope.

David Birchall

David Birchall is a guitarist, free improviser, composer and organiser living in Manchester, UK. He has performed in the UK, Europe, Russia, Palestine, USA & Japan. He has undertaken artist residencies at The Penthouse (2014, Manchester, UK) and Beppu Project (2017, Beppu, JP). His work has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 6 Music, SWR in Germany, WFMU in the US & ABC in Australia.

David Birchall plays in the free form rock band Historically Fucked with Otto Willberg, Odie Ji Ghast & Alex Pierce, This Friend Ship Is Sailing with Maggie Nicols, Odie Ji Ghast & Sam Andreae, Spacefood with Adam Fairhall & Johnny Hunter and Minimum Wage Immanence Unit with Adam Fairhall & Michael Perrett, alongside many other musicians in ad hoc situations including Marshall Allen, Phil Minton, Mark Sanders, Alan Wilkinson, Toshimaru Nakamura, Hannah Marshall, Lee Patterson and Richard Harrison.

He organises the Curious Ear series for improvised music in Manchester which he co-founded with Andrew Cheetham in 2017.

He's still convinced the practical musical experiences of free improvisation and consensus / dialogue social forms it models offer us one of the best ways through all this.

John Pope

John Pope is an open-hearted improviser, bass player and composer, leader of the John Pope Quintet and one third of Archipelago.



Alcyona Mick

Alcyona Mick (Piano)

Alcyona Mick is a London based jazz pianist and composer. As a musician she has performed worldwide and worked with a wide array of artists in the UK and abroad, performing at major European, American and Canadian festivals and North Africa and the Middle East.

Alongside her co-led duo with Tori Freestone she works regularly with the London Jazz Orchestra, Natacha Atlas, Brigitte Beraha's 'Lucid Dreamers', Randolph Matthews, and The Casimir Connection among others. She has performed with an array of other artists including Henry Lowther's Still waters, Bachar Zarkan, Martin Speake, Eddie Parker's Debussy Mirrored, Ingrid and Christine Jensen, and Mircan Kaya with whom she has worked in Turkey performing for a television series 'Kanavice' on TRT.

As a writer she has released several critically acclaimed albums and trained as a film composer at the NFTS, writing music for documentary, independent film, TV and silent film.

Alcyona has won awards including best film soundtrack at the Anima Mundi International festival Brazil and the UK Promoter's Choice Jazz award, and received a nomination for a Parliamentary Jazz award.

"world class ingenuity" - The Guardian.

"Alcyona Mick is an unusual powerhouse of a talent" - MOJO

www.alcyonamick.com



Balo

Manon McCoy (Harp)
Will Shaw (Percussion)

Balo are Sheffield based harpist Manon McCoy and drummer Will Shaw. The duo create expansive works for harp, drums and live electronics. Their sound is a dynamic balance of driving rhythmic phrasing, ambient textures, intricate prepared techniques and experimental electronic layers.

Their recent work has developed into site-specific live-sound installations. Balo are particularly interested in alternative approaches to live performance and are currently working on a series of accessibility focused performances to engage with more diverse audiences.

Their most recent project was in collaboration with visual artist Luca Shaw - commissioned by Lancaster Jazz Festival 2022.

“Their music is thoughtful, atmospheric, delicately balanced and interactive, mixing improvisation and composition with an approach and instrumentation that’s original, beautiful and evocative”
- Jez Matthews (Director of Jazz at the Lescar)

www.manonmccoymusic.com/balo





Mimán

Hans Kjørstad (Fiddle)
 Andreas Røysum (Clarinet)
 Egil Kalman (Bass and Synths)

With around 100 concerts in 16 countries since their debut in 2016, the trio Mimán has forged their improvised interplay into an all-consuming expression - crystallized fragments of music styles presented mysteriously and inexplicably as in a dream. Specifically, this expression strives for an imminent just tuned ideal and is not afraid of being neither head-nodding groovy nor strict and slow-flowing, as captured on their latest record '1000 bitar'.

Mimán consists of fiddler Hans Kjørstad, clarinetist Andreas Røysum and bassist and synthetist Egil Kalman; three unavoidable names from the Scandinavian scenes for exploratory musics.

As a trio they also collaborate with musicians such as Tristan Honsinger, Axel Dörner and Michael Griener. They're also a part of Marthe Lea Band and Alasdair Roberts & Völvur.

www.miman.bandcamp.com/album/1000-bitar
[www.youtu.be/fQ9-6uxePWU](https://www.youtube.be/fQ9-6uxePWU)





Semay Wu

Semay Wu (Cello and Electronics)

Having lived and worked in numerous musical directions for many years, Semay Wu's cello still remains at her side: from Merseyside, to Manchester, to The Netherlands, and now to Central Scotland. Always trying to push age-old boundaries of how the instrument is viewed and heard, gestural disciplines are explored with electronics, objects, instruments and mixed media; seeking relationships within improvisational frameworks.

Cellist-improviser, composer and artist Semay Wu's live performances focus on complexity by encouraging spontaneity within dynamic scenarios. Building on the relationships that emerge, new collaborations unfold and become, themselves, players.

Recent composed works have been video pieces, performance/interactive-installations, graphic scores, as well as working remotely with communities for an online audio cookbook. Semay has recently enjoyed performing at Tectonics Festival in April, as well as releasing her first solo collection of recorded works, 'Raspberry Hotel', in November last year (Akashic Records). In February, two live performances at the Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre in Glasgow were released by the Scatter Archive Label.

www.semaywu.com





Sebastian Lexer / Martin Mayes / Steve Noble

Sebastian Lexer (Piano and Electronics)

Martin Mayes (Orchestral Horn / Alphorn / Other Instrumentation)

Steve Noble (Drums and Percussion)

Sebastian Lexer and Steve Noble first played together in the winter of 2011. Creating enriching textural and resonant music through electronically processed Piano and Percussion. The duo release the album 'Muddy Ditch' in 2016. For this special festival performance the established pairing will be joined by Scottish Horn player Martin Mayes which is sure to be an intriguing and stimulating final set to our Friday evening concert. Once again a brand new and unique grouping specifically created for Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music 2023.

Sebastian Lexer

A fascination in contingency of sound has been the basis for Sebastian's developments in extended piano techniques and a further exploration of modified sonorities derived from the acoustic piano using real-time computer processes. The resulting performance system piano+ has equally developed from a persistent interest in free improvisation and contemporary experimental music. The piano studies and continuing collaborations with John Tilbury and the association to Eddie Prévost's improvisation workshop were influential to the development of his musical style: a musical journey through the spaces "in between", the relationship to the instrument, sonorities and textures, musical processes, technology and most importantly: fellow musicians. As a performer and promoter of free improvised music Sebastian has participated in numerous collaborations including concerts and radio broadcasts in the UK, France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, and Canada.

Martin Mayes

Horn player Martin Mayes is an Improviser, composer and workshop leader, he has worked with the Cecil Taylor European Orchestra, English Gamelan Orchestra, and Spontaneous Music Orchestra alongside Lol Coxhill, Maggie Nicols and Evan Parker to name just a few.

His projects, which are often site-specific, interweaving choreographic and theatrical elements with a strong element of storytelling, range from medieval music and the traditions of the French trompe de chasse to radical improvisation. His projects include the quintet How to Shout & Blow Horns (horns and alphorns with the London-based quartet Horns Aloud); the duo PoliErranti (horn, alphorn and Italian bagpipes); the Turin-based trio Jörð (horn, bass, voice, objects & noise).

His music has taken him from mountain tops to underground caves and stone quarries; from village gardens to ancient cave churches; from abandoned buildings to historic palaces.

Steve Noble

Steve Noble is one of London's leading drummers, a fearless and constantly inventive improviser whose super-precise, ultra-propulsive and hyper-detailed playing has galvanized encounters with Derek Bailey, Matthew Shipp, Ishmael Wadada Leo Smith, Stephen O'Malley, Joe McPhee, Alex Ward, Rhodri Davies and many, many more. Steve last visited Newcastle to perform a blinding set alongside Binker Golding and John Edwards for Jazz North East at The Globe, we're absolutely delighted to welcome him back for this brand new trio formation.



Olivia Moore and Adam Fairhall

Olivia Moore (Violin)

Adam Fairhall (Accordians)

Moore and Fairhall are a folk-jazz accordion and violin duo, based in Manchester. They bring together Indian Ragas, American Folk and jazz from all eras, resulting in music that is lyrical, passionate and highly rhythmic. Adam and Olivia met when they were selected for Edition VI of Serious' prestigious 'Take Five' Artist Development Scheme and this duo is the result of their shared interest in a jazz approach to folk and world traditions.

They have performed to enthusiastic audiences at Matt and Phreds, The Cloudwater Brewery, Manchester Buddhist Centre and at the Lescar in Sheffield. They have a show coming up at the Manchester Jazz Festival and are about to start recording their debut album.

Olivia (Violin) has studied in India with her guru Kala Ramnath, and is a long-established band leader, fusing her love for Indian music and Jazz in groups such as The Owl Ensemble and Unfurl. She has performed internationally with Elaha Soroor (Afghanistan), Mukesh Jhadav (India) and Alabaster De Plume. Much in demand for her intoxicating, microtonally-infected playing style, Olivia has recently worked with the Srishti Dance company and with Milapfest's Indo Jazz Club band, with superstar Zoe Rahman.

"Nourished by Indian and Jazz traditions, but with an elegance that comes from her classical training, Olivia Moore's violin has an Eastern tang which is genuinely entrancing" - Manchester Evening News

www.oliviolin.com

Adam Fairhall is best known as the pianist in Nat Birchall's acclaimed Coltrane-inspired groups, and for his trademark 'ragtime-to-free' eclecticism as a jazz pianist. Over the past several years he has been working intensely on his accordion playing to get closer to the folk and roots music which has always informed his approach. The result is an accordion style that incorporates ostinato baselines, innovative rhythmic bellow techniques and free-flowing melodic improvisation.

"A hugely accomplished instrumentalist" - The Wire.

www.adamfairhall.co.uk



Maja Bugge and Sarah Nicolls

Maja Bugge (Cello)
Sarah Nicolls (Piano)

Pianist Sarah Nicolls and cellist Maja Bugge visit Newcastle for an acoustic gig exploring their four year long collaboration with improvisations and compositions made in response to the climate crises. They have performed at Arctic Arts (NO), Cheltenham Music festival and Snape Maltings. In 2022 they released their first album 'Ballad of a Changing World' on Spotify and Bandcamp.

Sarah Nicolls is an innovative pianist and composer. She invented the 'Inside-out Piano', a sculptural feast of an instrument which stands 2.5m tall, designed to enable 'inside piano' playing.

Her company Future Piano is currently building a new lightweight version using carbon fibre and aerospace engineering, collaborating with the extraordinary piano builder David Klavins.

Maja Bugge is a Norwegian cellist and composer based in the UK. She has more than 20 years of professional experience working both as a solo artist and in collaboration with musicians like Terje Isungset, Dave Evans, Ben McCabe and Sarah Nicolls. Maja is regularly being invited to festivals and has released 3 solo albums, she is deeply passionate about using improvisation and composition to reflect and explore the world we live in.

"imaginative vitality" - The Wire

"Maja and Sarah's performance was a highlight of our Festival of New" - Clementine Lovell (Snape Malting)

www.majabugge.com

<https://majabugge.com/videos/marsden-moor-5/>

<https://open.spotify.com/album/2MWbVJRW4CH645yZbiRfT4>



Atzi Muramatsu and Fritz Welch

Atzi Muramatsu (Cello)

Fritz Welch (Drums and Percussion)

Atzi Muramatsu and Fritz Welch met sometime in the past decade at a swap meet organized by a splinter group of the Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra. Soon after they played a duo gig intending to shake loose an unseen talisman only to uncover a lovely collision of glistening headaches. Their first record *CREATURE* was recorded in 2017 and available on Bandcamp.

www.atzimuramatsuandfritzwelch.bandcamp.com/album/creature

Atzi Muramatsu is a multi-disciplinary composer living in Edinburgh. His works encompass music for concerts, dance, theatre, poetry, exhibited arts and films. His collaborations include works with visual and conceptual artists Cauleen Smith, Samson Kambalu, Rose Strang, choreographers Steinvor Palsson, Helena Salgueiro, author Harry Josephine Giles, and film makers Ben Sharrock and Will Anderson to name a few. His music features in three BAFTA winning films including BAFTA Scotland Best Composer New Talent Award 2016. He plays in Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra.

www.atzi.co.uk

Fritz Welch is a percussionist determined to stretch the escalator of possibilities into the bloodshot eye of results. He plays with Tripping Landlocked Infidels, Dome Riders, Re-Ghoster Extended, Hexakaidecagon and Peeesseye. He has played with Chris Heenan, Clare Cooper, Evan Parker, Daniel Carter, Moya Michael, Julia Scott, Iain Campbell F-W, John Butcher, Joke Lanz, Louise Ahl, Maya Dunietz, Michael Vorfeld, Mike Pride, Stephen O'Malley, Tony Conrad and Usurper among many others.

Welch and David Moré co-organize the monthly music/sound/performance series Baked Beans On The Doorstep at The Old Hairdresser's. A longtime Brooklynite of Texas origins, he is now based in Glasgow.

www.fritzwelch.bandcamp.com



Laura Toxværd with Jeppe Zeeberg

Laura Toxværd (Saxophone)
Jeppe Zeeberg (Piano)

Laura Toxværd is a Copenhagen-based composer and saxophonist. Toxværd was brought up in the tradition of jazz music and she quickly developed an interests for avant-garde and free jazz, and eventually more contemporary music.

Her music has been described as "geometric post-jazz" by The Wire with such divergent inspirations as Charlie Parker and 1990s grunge music added with a bit of electronica. As a composer she often explores the realm of graphic notations. In this special working technique she brings together visual art and music.

In 2009 Laura Toxværd was awarded the prestigious three-year working scholarship by the Danish Arts Foundation. The scholarship was given as a joint award by the committees for classical and popular music.

"In her lively musicianship as a saxophonist, Laura Toxværd combines graphic score composition, improvisation, electronic components, and sound production in an integrated practice that communicates in an energetically insistent language. Toxværd's musical nerve manages to encompass references, not only to odd corners of free jazz history, but also to machinery and animal noises in an expression ranging from cabaret-light to heavy-electronica - and all on an alto sax!" - Danish Arts Foundation

www.lauratoxvaerd.dk

Jeppe Zeeberg's style is a personal, uncompromising mix of genres based on jazz and free improvisation. In 2019, Zeeberg's fifth album, *Universal Disappointment*, was released to positive reviews globally. *Jazz Special* wrote, among other things: "Not all music is equally accessible. But nothing matters. All the music on this wonderful release has its own soul, its own expression and cannot be compared to anything".

Jeppe Zeeberg is active in the groups Jeppe Zeeberg and The Absolute Pinnacle of Human Achievement, Dødens Garderobe, Horse Orchestra and Kresten Osgood Quintet. He has collaborated with John Tchicai and was behind events for avant-garde music and silent film, the improvisation festival Nutidsklang and the festival Moondog 100 Years. As a solo pianist, he has performed in Copenhagen, Tokyo and New York, among others. In 2019, he premiered the quadrupled big band work *Danevirke* written in collaboration with the composer Lars Greve.

"If Zeeberg isn't a genius then he certainly ranks pretty close to one" - All About Jazz

"A beautiful, convincing proposal for how modern jazz or contemporary music may sound" - All About Jazz

www.jeppezeeberg.com

It's with great pleasure that we welcome Laura Toxværd and Jeppe Zeeberg from Copenhagen to come and perform at the Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music.



Samuel Blaser Trio

Samuel Blaser (Trombone)
 Marc Ducret (Guitar)
 Peter Bruun (Drums)

The Samuel Blaser Trio has played together extensively in recent years, developing a kinetic language and an active sense of restrained interplay, with each capable of taking one of the other's musical ideas and pressing it into action. The shape-shifting trio can march, tumble, groove, simmer or flare up, depending on the needs of the moment.

"This is a remarkable trio" - The New York City Jazz Record

It's with great pleasure that we welcome Samuel Blaser from Switzerland, Marc Ducret from France and Peter Bruun from Copenhagen to come and perform at the Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music.

www.samuelblaser.com/sbt





Ubunye

Xolani Mbatha (Vocals)
 Nokuthula Zondi (Vocals)
 Dave Evans (Keyboards and Vocals)
 Nik Svarc (Guitar)
 Sam Dutton-Taylor (Bass)
 Steve Hanley (Drums)

UBUNYE = UNITY = ONENESS
 EXPERIENCE THE RAW POWER OF AFRICAN VOICES IN HARMONY

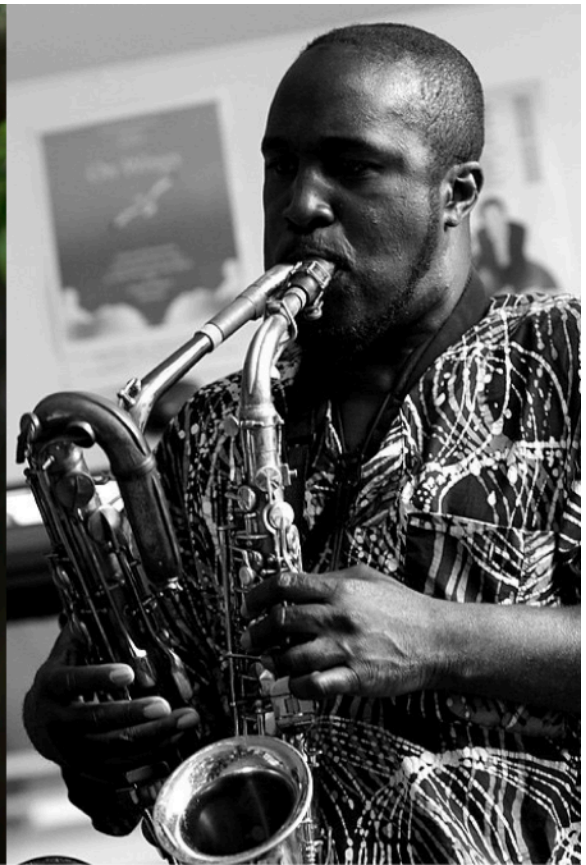
The pounding rhythms of Africa blended with the explosive energy of a live band. This vibrant group of Zulu performers combined with seasoned musicians from the UK mix ancient tradition with contemporary flare. Ubunye deliver a soulful, goose bump inducing performance of original pieces cleverly fused with South African songs. It is a fantastic multi-cultural experience.

“In that moment, it seemed hard to believe that anything so propulsive and joyous could come to a halt. The same could be said about the applause and shouts that followed” - Wakefield Jazz

“Ubunye is a joyous celebration and proof, should it be needed, of the creative energy and unity possible when cultures meet through the medium of music. Rejoicing in their wide-ranging backgrounds, ages and styles, they were a surefire hit with the Manchester Jazz Festival audience, uplifting the soul with their close vocal harmonies, undulating rhythms, and affirmative lyrics, and with a powerful facility to reach and affect listeners far beyond the reaches of jazz” - Steve Mead (Artistic Director: Manchester Jazz Festival)

www.ubunye.co.uk
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jwkf8rz7Ex8&t=169s





Zoë Gilby Quintet with Tony Kofi

Zoë Gilby (Vocals)
Tony Kofi (Saxophone)
Mark Williams (Guitar)
Andy Champion (Double Bass)
John Bradford (Drums)

Winner of Parliamentary Jazz Awards Jazz Vocalist of the Year 2019 Zoë Gilby brings an engaging repertoire of story telling and atmosphere with a commanding mix of musical sophistication and dramatic edge. Zoë will be appearing with the exceptional award winning saxophonist Tony Kofi.

Tony Kofi performs and records in the top flight having established himself over the years as an in-demand musician with the likes of Jazz Jamaica, Courtney Pine, Donald Byrd and Ornette Coleman.

A truly superb way to close this years Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music.

www.zoegilby.co.uk

SCAN FOR TICKETS



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Jazz
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