

CLUB CLOSED FOR JANUARY



Tues 3 February £12/£8

TOMMASO STARACE QUARTET

plays the photos of Gianni Berengo Gardin

TOMMASO STARACE (sx), JOHN TURVILLE (pn), AL SWAINGER (db), CHRIS NICKOLLS (dm)

Saxophonist Tommaso Starace returns with a new project. Ten years ago he explored the iconic photos of Magnum photographer Elliott Erwitt. This time his inspiration is one of the most celebrated Italian photographers, considered 'the Cartier Bresson' of his country, Berengo Gardin, who has published more than 200 books since the 1940s. Starace has chosen fourteen narrative images, featuring such places as Palermo, Milan, Venice, Genoa, Siena and Florence, from Berengo's vast portfolio to be projected onto a screen and interpreted in music. 'I felt the need to work on compositions with strong melodies. Improvisation is still present but in a less important role: it is the melodies that accompany and bring to life the images, that tell a tale ... for me it was a leap back into my Italian background and the memories and experiences that infected my music are still a source of delight and contentment. I wish the listener a similar experience.'

Tues 10 February £12/£8



WILD FLOWER SEXTET

MATT ANDERSON (sx), LAURA JURD (tp), ALEX MUNK (gt), SAM LEAK (pn), SAM VICARY (db), SAM GARDNER (dm)

An all-star band led by saxophonist Matt Anderson playing original music inspired by the sound and approach of jazz legend Wayne Shorter, alongside new arrangements of classic and lesser-known Shorter compositions. The band recorded their debut album in 2014 with support from the Jazz Services Recording Support scheme, they're here as part of a thirteen-date UK tour promoting the release of this album on the Jellymould Jazz label. They're a set of young musicians quickly gaining an impressive reputation. 'Brother,

you sound f***** great – great sound, great time. Thanks for sharing with me.' *Gilad Atzmon*. 'Melodic standards and original tunes ... impressive throughout.' *Jazz UK*. 'Matt generates a tremendous amount of rhythmic and harmonic interest ... There's tremendous subtlety in his playing but he also knows how to swing and communicate something very directly to the audience.' *Jamie Taylor*.

Tues 17 February £12/£8



ANDY SHEPPARD TRIO

ANDY SHEPPARD (sx), DAN MOORE (Hammond), TONY ORRELL (dm)

An ECM recording artist, bandleader and composer, Andy Sheppard is one of Europe's leading saxophonists and one of very few British musicians to have made a significant impact on the international jazz scene, playing and writing for settings from solo to big band and chamber orchestra. He has composed over 350 works that incorporate a strong and characteristic sense of lyricism alongside a very personal use of rhythms from Asia, Africa and South America. He's been described as a serial collaborator, playing recording and developing

new music with artists as varied as Brazilian percussionist Nana Vasconcelos, Indian violinist L Shankar, English folk musician Kathryn Tickell, contemporary classical composer-performers John Harle and Joanna MacGregor, singer songwriter John Martyn, and myriad leading jazz figures, including the rare hat-trick of three of the seminal composers in contemporary Jazz – Carla Bley, George Russell and the late Gil Evans.

Tues 24 February £12/£8



JCB

JOHN COX (sx/fl), MAX TURNBULL (pn), CLAUDIA COLMER (db), TERRY RODD (dm)

JCB is committed to providing an individual slant on standards and less familiar compositions. Flautist/saxophonist John Cox has led bands both at home and overseas and has been an integral part of the south west jazz scene since the early seventies. The band

comprises keyboard wizard Max Turnbull, First Class Honours graduate of the Truro Jazz Course; Claudia Colmer, a highly acclaimed professional bassist since the age of fifteen, and driven by the propulsive and distinctive drumming of Terry Rodd. Tonight they will be joined by guest musician **MIKE HIGGS** on trombone. JCB will enchant all those open to an evening of joyous musical celebration.

Bar snacks and light meals available until 8.15

COMINUP DAVE O'HIGGINS | PAUL RILEY | VEIN | JIM MULLEN | RALPH FREEMAN | GEORGE CROWLEY | PHIL MEADOWS | DAN MESSORE |

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Tues 3 March £12/£8



WILL BUTTERWORTH QUARTET

WILL BUTTERWORTH (pn), SEB PIPE (sx), NICK PINI (db), PETE IBBETSON (dm)

Until now best known for his trio work and work with drummer Dylan Howe reinterpreting the music of Stravinsky, Will has composed a new suite of music for this group inspired by Oscar Wilde's children's story 'The Nightingale and the Rose'. The suite employs beautiful melodies and rich and dark harmony to retell Wilde's

story of love and sacrifice, and comes to a dramatic crescendo as the final song of the nightingale is performed. The group uses these melodies as starting points for improvisation. 'A precociously talented young modern jazz pianist who plays with spacious and fractious beauty. A rising Brit Jazz piano star.' *Time Out*. 'A brilliant young pianist ... stunning displays of virtuosity ... a remarkable talent'. *The Jazz Mann*. 'His effortless poise and crisp attractive sound is one of his great strengths ... Butterworth can capture a sense of atmosphere with well-placed notes and treads artfully between drama and intimacy and romantic sentiment and dry inquisition ... a young pianist deserving more attention.' *Jazzwise*

Tues 10 March £10/£6



THE BLOW UP

TOM UNWIN (pn), STIG OLSEN (sx), MARCUS VERGETTE (db), GARY EVANS (dm)

The Blow-Up play lyrical and groovy tunes from jazz and beyond, with film and soundtrack music prominent in the combustible and free-flowing mix. Infused with the styles of Herbie Hancock, Pharoah Sanders, Miles Davis and Joni Mitchell (to name a few), the musicians bring extensive knowledge of, and love for, the jazz

tradition. With nods to the rich tradition of British and European jazz, you have the essence and inimitable style of The Blow-Up.

Tues 17 March £12/£8



BURUM

TOMOS WILLIAMS (tp/flg), DANIEL WILLIAMS (sx), CERI RHYS MATTHEWS (bagpipes, wooden flute), DAVE JONES (pn), MARK O'CONNOR (dm), AIDAN THORNE (db)

Burum (meaning 'yeast' in Welsh) play new, fresh, dynamic interpretations of traditional Welsh folk melodies. Led by award winning trumpeter Tomos Williams and his brother Daniel on sax, the addition of widely respected folk musician Ceri Rhys Matthews to a rhythm section comprising some of the best and busiest players on the Welsh jazz scene creates a unique sound. The band's repertoire is drawn from Welsh traditional music, adapted and re-imagined for a modern jazz sextet. Burum's music fuses a deep respect for the original folk melodies themselves with the flexibility and dynamics of jazz improvisation. In 2012 Burum released their second CD 'Caniadau' (meaning 'Songs' in Welsh) and have been called 'a Welsh jazz supergroup.' 'Jazz/folk fusions don't always work, but this succeeds brilliantly.' *Ian Mann, jazzmann.com*

Tues 24 March £12/£8



THE JAZZ WORRIERS

DEAN MASSER and NEIL YATES have decided to STOP worrying about the state of the world in general and play some uplifting jazz to raise their spirits, and, backed by the award-winning **Craig Milverton** on piano, **Al Swainger** on bass and **Coach York** on drums, they're ready to share the good vibes with us! By delving into jazz history they've combined new compositions with arrangements of some of the pivotal tunes in the genre, and have created a show that is at once musically exciting and humourously presented. They're bringing back a combination of witty banter and musical seriousness that Britain became famous for in the 1960s, but that has, for the most part, been sorely missed since the passing of Humphrey Lyttelton, Ronnie Scott and their contemporaries. Both exhibit a thorough knowledge of the art form, crucially going back many years before be-bop. Their playing is of the highest quality, rich in tone, exciting, always well-constructed and never self-indulgent. Entertainment value in jazz concerts is seemingly low on the agenda for some musicians ... not with these guys ... they go all-out to bring every piece and every solo to life. Definitely 'five-star' every time!

Dr Ian Darrington MBE, Artistic Director, Wigan International Jazz Festival

Tues 31 March £12/£8



SIRKIS/ BIALAS QUARTET

ASAF SIRKIS (dm), SYLWIA BIALAS (vo), FRANK HARRISON (pn), TBA (bass)

A new collaboration between the amazing drummer, Asaf Sirkis and Polish vocalist/composer extraordinaire Sylwia Bialas. With an emphasis on band interaction and sheer joy of playing, this band celebrates music from both collaborators, covering a wide range of influences such as contemporary classical music, Polish folk, South Indian and Middle Eastern musics, as well as a wide range of dynamics – from the most delicate ballad all the way to high-energy electric virtuoso lines and everything in between. Expect soulful melodies, atmospheric sounds with strong grooves, a full colour electroacoustic jazz with an ethnic touch and some uncommonly used sound effects.