



Tues 7 April £12/£8

DAVE O'HIGGINS QUARTET

DAVE O'HIGGINS (sx), ROBIN ASPLAND (pn), GEOFF GASCOYNE (db), SEBASTIAAN DE KROM (dm)

Dave O'Higgins has honed his jazz chops through sixteen albums as leader, years on the road and in the studio with the likes of Joe Locke, Martin Taylor, Joey Calderazzo, Ray Charles, Jim Mullen, BBC Big Band, Ronnie Scott's Allstars, Frank Sinatra, Jason Rebello, Phil Dwyer, Stan Tracey and Eric Alexander. This stellar band, each of whom has played with a comprehensive list of jazz greats, toured to rapturous ovations in 2014. Expect infectiously swinging straight ahead jazz and tender readings of melodic standards, along with new originals firmly rooted in the great African American tradition of Miles, Coltrane, Dexter, Rollins, et al. 'O'Higgins continues not only to follow the Great Tradition but also to augment it.' *Jazzwise*.



Tues 14 April £12/£8

PAUL RILEY QUARTET

PAUL RILEY (sx), ANT LAW (gt), MATT RIDLEY (db), DAVE HAMBLETT (dm) 'Paul is a saxophonist who plays from the heart. His tone and tastefully crafted phrasing not only clarifies this, but also highlights his maturity of musicianship. Contemporary in style, he plays in an un-exaggerated way with dynamics and space, flowing naturally and bouncing off the interaction of his band members. The group has a definite 'band sound' that not just reflects its members, but also Paul himself through his writing, complementing this sonorous and refreshing music all round. Paul is a sheer joy to listen to, and a sleeping giant.' *Russell Van Den Berg*.



Tues 21 April £12/£8

VEIN

MICHAEL ARBENZ (pn), FLORIAN ARBENZ (dm), THOMAS LÄHNS (db)

'A piano trio with a difference. These guys can play together at a new level of straight-eight interaction. They don't really sound like anybody, but do proceed out of the Evans-Bley tradition. Anybody who wants something truly new in the piano trio format would do well to hear this one.' *Grego Edwards, Cadence, NYC*. 'This music is unclimbed and highly original, seemingly oscillating somewhere between M-Base, Cecil Taylor and Debussy, mainly carried by heavy and highly energetic binary grooves. A cocky yet comfortable combination of the anarchic and the precise. Spectacular, stupendous, spellbinding.' *Christoph Merki, Tagesanzeiger*. 'A trio with a thrilling creativity!' *Rolling Stone*.



Tues 28 April £12/£8

JIM MULLEN QUARTET

JIM MULLEN (gt), NEIL BURNS (gt), KEVIN SANDERS (db), COACH YORK (dm)

A familiar figure on the UK and international scene, Jim Mullen has been described as one of the greatest jazz guitarists. Neil Burns, 'massively' influenced by Jim – who happens to be a family friend – is gaining a reputation on the UK jazz scene, and plays regularly with many top musicians. Expect an evening of tasty licks, subtle comping and neat interplay from this Scottish duo, both of whom have lovely authentic tones and an innate sense of phrasing.



Tues 5 May £12/£8

THE BUTTON BAND

ANDREW BUTTON (gt), ANDREW WOOLF (sx), DAVE MANINGTON (db), JON ORMASTON (dm)

A new project from up-and-coming London-based guitarist and composer Andrew Button, showcasing his highly personal writing style – distinctly British lyrical jazz with folk and country influences drawing inspiration from Bill Frisell, John Scofield, Loose Tubes, Brad Shepik, and PigFoot, played by some of the most in-demand and exciting musicians on the London scene. Drawing on this wide range of styles and influences they play gentle, considered, melodic jazz using simple melodies and forms as a starting point for improvisation. 'Upbeat township swing straight out of the Loose Tubes mould, good-humoured and infectious.' *Geoff Winston*. 'I love the button band!' *Kit Downes*.



Tues 12 May £12/£8

RALPH FREEMAN QUARTET

featuring CHRIS BISCOE

RALPH FREEMAN (pn), CHRIS BISCOE (sx), MARCUS VERGETTE (db), ANDREA TRILLO (dm)

Performing an exciting programme of new original compositions and arrangements by Ralph Freeman. '...vibrant, energising music, with new compositions that span from bluesy to bossa-esque, all with be-boppy brio.' *Dan Matlin*. 'Chris Biscoe is a saxophone virtuoso of great lyricism, passion and versatility, steeped in the jazz tradition, his conception embraces everything from blues and gospel to free improvisation and jazz rock.' *David Murray*.

Bar snacks and light meals available until 8.15

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Tues 19 May £12/£8

CRAIG MILVERTON TRIO

CRAIG MILVERTON (pn), AL SWAINGER (db), COACH YORK (dm)

Craig Milverton is one of Britain's finest jazz pianists and this was recognized in 2010 by winning Best Jazz Pianist in the British Jazz Awards and nine Awards with Digby Fairweather and his Half Dozen in the Best Small Group Category. Tonight's broad programme will include original compositions by Craig, including his recent recording 'The Exeter Jazz Suite', choice standards, and fiery Bop classics. 'Britain's nearest to Oscar Peterson.' *Digby Fairweather*. 'A master of whatever he chooses to perform, a truly great British Trio.' *Humphrey Lyttleton*. 'An extravagantly gifted pianist with an unrivalled swing.' *Dave Gelly, The Observer*. 'A hard swinging pianist whose chops certainly bring to mind the great Oscar Peterson.' *Cadence magazine, USA*.



Tues 26 May £12/£8

POSTCARD TO BILL EVANS

BRUNO HEINEN (pn), KRISTIAN BORRING (gt)

These critically acclaimed London-based musicians have joined forces for this new project – original arrangements of compositions by the great pianist Bill Evans. Following on from two sell-out dates at the Vortex, the duo have recorded for British label Babel. 'Eruition, eclectic studies and a jazz sensibility make Heinen the kind of newcomer who repositions the goalposts ... (and Kristian Borring has) ... a hyper-cool and low-key approach to jazz guitar, but with warmth, confidence and a rhythmic hipness that's thoroughly contemporary.' *John Fordham*. 'This project reeks of the grimy adrenaline of the clubs of 1950s and 1960s New York.' *Jazzwise*



Tues 2 June £12/£8

DAN MESSORE QUARTET

A new quartet exploring fresh compositions of Dan Messori (guitar). Featuring the audaciously accomplished Elliot Galvin (piano) and the prestigious rhythm section of Dave Manington (bass) and Dave Hamblett (drums). The music reflects and is influenced by several musical cultures pulled into the jazz idiom via theme and improvisation.



Tues 9 June £12/£8

NEON VILLAGES

Skilfully blended soul, jazz, pop and electro. Music to light up your world!

Neon Villages are a vibrant and versatile group made of some exceptional UK based musicians. The band features BBC Radio

3/Jazz FM featured pianist/composer David Austin Grey, BBC Radio 2 featured vocalist Aisling Iris, the versatile and soulful bassist Wayne Matthews and gifted young drummer Euan Palmer. The group have recently finished recording their debut EP due for release this summer.



Tues 16 June £12/£8

HUW WARREN TRIO

HUW WARREN (pn), DUDLEY PHILLIPS (db), ZOOT WARREN (dm)

One of the UK's leading composer/pianists, who combines improvisation with folk, world and new music influences, Huw has released several solo recordings as well as project albums using source material as diverse as John Dowland, Welsh hymns, and Hermeto Pascoal. He has also collaborated with Maria Pia de Vito, Ralph Towner, Jim Black, Joanna Macgreggor, Mark Feldman and Thomas Strömen amongst others. He has written for jazz and classical groups including Perfect Houseplants, Orlando Consort, Royal Shakespeare Company, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Welsh Chamber Orchestra. Huw is currently part of the jazz department at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and is also artist in residence at Brecon Jazz Festival. Expect a thrilling evening of original, lyrical and groove heavy music! 'A European stylist of the highest order.' *BBC Music Magazine*.



Tues 23 June £12/£8

VASILIS XENOPOULOS 4

VASILIS XENOPOULOS (sx), CRAIG MILVERTON (pn), MARK ROSE (db), CHRIS NICKOLLS (dm)

Vasilis blew us away with his power and tone when he guested with Nigel Price's Organ Trio at last year's September Festival. The combination of this fiery saxophonist and award-winning pianist with a great rhythm section promises a hot evening. 'Blazes a path through the hard bop repertoire.' *The Times*. 'You've got to have real chops and imagination to match him.' *London Jazz blogspot*.



Tues 30 June £12/£8

ANNIVERSARY DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA with PEDALMANIA

After the unqualified sweaty success of last year's Christmas party, we've booked again the wonderful and eminently danceable Jean Paul Gard's Pedalmania. So if you missed the last one and heard what a blast it was, here's your second chance. As usual, there'll be a FREE BUFFET, monster raffle and the usual awful jokes. Same rules apply: £12 for non-dancers and £8 for dancers, (don't forget the eagle-eyed dance police).