



THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER: AUGUST 2016

It is hard to believe that already we are in August and shortly the schools will go back. It has been a busy year to date with some outstanding concerts featuring Mike Stern and Mike Mainieri as well as our Dave Brubeck concerts with guests, Bill Dobson who wrote wonderful new arrangements for the SNJO and John Nugent who played Paul Desmond's role so eloquently. We are delighted to have another opportunity to play this during Edinburgh's Fringe Festival (see article and review).

Our twentieth year celebrations continue in the autumn with two concerts that pay homage to Charles Mingus and Charlie Parker – two of the greatest legends in jazz. The year will culminate in December with a joyful weekend of concerts with a festive touch that will feature both the SNJO and TSYJO.

We have loved meeting many of you at our concerts and in particular our increasing number of Friends of the Orchestras. Please enjoy reading our news, put dates in your diaries and join us soon - we look forward to seeing you.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

proudly presents

The **JAZZ LEGACY** of **CHARLES MINGUS** with featured guest bassist, **ARILD ANDERSEN**

Norwegian master bassist Arild Andersen joins the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra to celebrate the life and work of a truly extraordinary jazz musician: the visionary bass player, bandleader and composer, Charles Mingus.

The repertoire and reputation of Mingus represent one man's forceful vision for orchestral jazz, and his powerful challenge to orthodoxy. He is vindicated by a musical legacy that remains relevant, inspiring and influential to this day.

Arild Andersen is indisputably one of the world's great bass players. His career began in earnest in the late 1960's, and his skill and musicianship was quickly in demand worldwide. He has performed with many legendary musicians including Jan Garbarek, Stan Getz and Sonny Rollins and his work and repertoire stand as some of the great achievements in European jazz.

The SNJO, directed by Tommy Smith, looks forward to joining forces with Arild to fully explore the multi-chambered music of Charles Mingus with improvisational inventiveness, artistry and imagination.

All concerts start at 7.30pm with free pre concert talks before each concert at 6.45pm.

www.arildandersen.com
www.mingusmingusmingus.com



Fri 23rd September
The Queen's Hall | Edinburgh
thequeenshall.net 0131 668 2019

Sat 24th September
Royal Conservatoire | Glasgow
rcs.ac.uk 0141 332 5057

Sun 25th September
Sanctuary @ Queens Cross | Aberdeen
01224 641122

snjo.co.uk



BRUBECK: AN INCREDIBLE JAZZ LEGACY

with special guest John Nugent (Alto Sax)

The SNJO is delighted to return to Edinburgh's Festival Fringe to celebrate again the timeless sound of Dave Brubeck and his musical legacy. This is another chance to hear our acclaimed International Jazz Day concerts from April. (see review below)

Brubeck was an extraordinary musician who achieved enviable status as a jazz master and a household name. His familiar opening bars of Take Five were the soundtrack to sixties swing and mid-twentieth century cool and although composed by saxophonist Paul Desmond, the tune not only made Dave Brubeck a familiar name but also changed perceptions of jazz as a niche art form.

Joined by Canadian saxophonist John Nugent, we will together explore Brubeck's extraordinary music, paying tribute to a versatile composer and jazz master who remains loved and revered in equal measure.

Sun 14th August

The Queen's Hall | Edinburgh

0131 668 2019 | thequeenshall.net



THE MUSIC OF DAVE BRUBECK: A REVIEW

SNJO WITH BILL DOBBINS (PIANO) + JOHN NUGENT (ALTO SAX)

by Lance Liddle

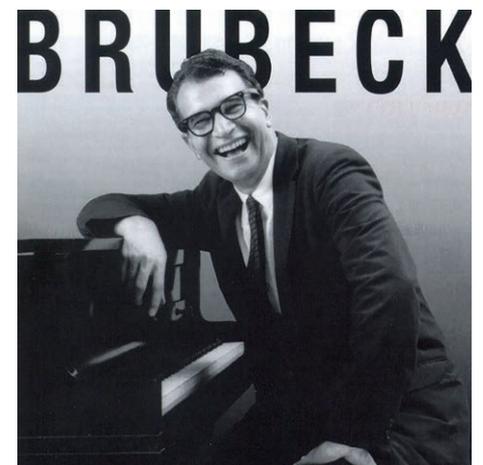
Sage Gateshead's contribution to International Jazz Day was just that - International! Two Americans and assorted Scots combined to pay tribute to the late legend that was Dave Brubeck.

Frequently vilified by the critics during his lifetime, Brubeck has, upon his passing, become semi-sanctified. The true assessment lies somewhere in between. Certainly he could, at times, go over the top pounding the piano into near submission. However, he was also capable of great sensitivity as one of the evening's pieces, In Your Own Sweet Way, proved.

Brubeck's main claim to fame was probably the innovative introduction of time signatures other than the usual 4/4 or occasional 3/4 that was the norm prior to the quartet's Time Out

album. Numbers such as Take 5, Blue Rondo, Raggy Waltz, Unsquare Dance etc were unique conceptions that took jazz into a new dimension. Absolutely brilliant but it was difficult tapping your feet in 5/4 time!

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra rank amongst the world's finest and it was inspirational of Tommy Smith to approach master composer Bill Dobbins to orchestrate the quartet's music for big band. The band cut the charts brilliantly - in particular, the blend of the sax section on In Your Own Sweet Way - truly an



object lesson in voicing a section. One of those rare moments when the Earth moves!

There were outstanding moments solo-wise: Tommy Smith blew flute on Nomad, from Jazz Impressions of Eurasia with Phil O'Malley adding some trombone exotica: Tom MacNiven excelled on flugel during It's a Raggy Waltz: Smith played tenor on Cassandra as did Wiszniewski on Mr. Fats and Paul Towndrow had a blast on Winter Ballad that was by no means overshadowed by John Nugent on alto. It was a most enjoyable evening.

UPCOMING WINTER CONCERTS



THE LEGEND OF CHARLIE PARKER

There can be little doubt that Charlie Parker changed the face of modern jazz.

Parker grew up at a time when this amazing music was coming of age, and he came to personify many of its most provocative features. The creation of a completely new approach to jazz stemmed from Parker's search for his own distinctive voice on the saxophone and his name became synonymous with the cutting edge jazz form known as bebop, and his music provided a creative benchmark for jazz musicians.

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra has commissioned new arrangements of his music and look forward to showcasing the fabulous music of Charlie Parker in concert.

All concerts start at 7.30pm

NB there will not be a talk before these concerts

Fri 11th November
Sanctuary @ Queens Cross
Aberdeen
01224 641122
aberdeenperformingarts.com

Sat 12th November
The Queen's Hall
Edinburgh
0131 668 2019
thequeenshall.net

Sun 13th November
Royal Conservatoire
Glasgow
0141 332 5057
rcs.ac.uk

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF JAZZ

Enjoy this wonderful pre Christmas opportunity to relax and get into the festive spirit as the SNJO and TSYJO bring you a double bill of fabulous swinging jazz. The SNJO's Nutcracker Suite will be encased by some festive delights whilst big band classics from the TSYJO will together create a superb evening of upbeat joyful jazz.

Fri 16th December
Sat 17th December

The Queen's Hall | Edinburgh
Royal Conservatoire | Glasgow

0131 668 2019
0141 332 5057

THE TOMMY SMITH YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA



tommy smith youth jazz orchestra

There is no better way to spend a cold autumnal afternoon than listening to some great jazz played by some of the best upcoming young jazz musicians in Scotland and we are delighted to continue our regular TSYJO afternoon concerts in Glasgow and Edinburgh and also look forward to being back in Stirling.

The TSYJO are raring to go again and look forward to sharing their fabulous sound and improvisational talents with you. Please do support this exciting new phase of the youth orchestra and enjoy watch and hearing these young players develop. Their exciting programme pays tribute to some of the great names in jazz with a repertoire ranging from Ellington, Basie, Mingus and Gillespie classics to present day big band charts by Fred Sturm and Florian Ross - a feast of jazz not to miss. All concerts start at 2.30pm and are suitable for all the family - see dates diary for more info.

PS: Look out for our new TSYJO CD due for release this autumn. It is 5 years since our last CD, Emergence was released to critical acclaim and many musicians have played since with the TSYJO. Many of our young players have now graduated and are moving onto their own professional careers and so it was wonderful to have the opportunity to record these talented musicians playing together before leaving and we look forward to the results.

Sat 8th Oct
City of Music Studio | Glasgow
0141 353 8000
glasgowconcerthalls.com

Sun 9th Oct
Studio at Festival Theatre | Edinburgh
0131 529 6000
edtheatres.com

Sat 5th Nov
City of Music Studio | Glasgow
0141 353 8000
glasgowconcerthalls.com

Sun 6th Nov
Studio at Festival Theatre | Edinburgh
0131 529 6000
edtheatres.com

Sun 18th Dec
The Tolbooth | Stirling
01786 274000
culturestirling.org/tolbooth

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR LATEST BOARD MEMBER **KARL CHAPMAN**

Jazz music has always been a core part of my life, whether through listening, playing or promoting.

I believe that early experiences in our formative years do stick; my first record was a gatefold sleeve album of The Jungle Book soundtrack that my dad brought back from USA when I was 4 years old, so getting a bit of child friendly swing seemed to work.

I also remember Petite Fleur by Sidney Bechet being played around the house and as the years progressed, my ears were happy tuning into jazz. I think it's those early sounds that help to provide a mind that's culturally receptive later on.

I started playing the clarinet and then moved to saxophone, but never managing to achieve much beyond playing with pals (still one of the best hobbies going!). I had an aversion to reading music - it used to bring me out in a cold sweat so I developed an ear to improvise and pick up tunes. Recently I have taken up drums and am learning to read charts and drum tabs as well as having fun comping away with the i-phone playing through my headphones.

After leaving university, I worked for The Guardian in Manchester but was keen to work in music and so did bits on a voluntary basis - writing reviews for a jazz magazine and stuff like that. I eventually took a job working for Assembly Direct in the 1990's - frequently with Tommy Smith! I helped set up the Lothian Jazz School, established jazz touring networks across Scotland, and was plunged in at the deep end as a touring production manager for Dave Brubeck, Jan Garbarek, Maceo Parker, Courtney Pine, Don Cherry, Candy Dulfer and a host of other amazing artists.

From there my career has incorporated all sorts of music related work - running my own agency, working for the Arts Council, and more recently

running venues. As General Manager of the Usher Hall for the past 15 years, my musical remit has expanded to deliver a diverse range of high quality concerts and connecting the public with the art.

I was delighted to be asked to join the Board of the SNJO. Having experienced them in the Usher Hall as part of the Edinburgh International Festival and more recently with Kurt Elling, I was blown away by the talent in the band. This is a truly world class ensemble and I feel that it is a hugely exciting time to be involved. I hope that my experience can bring more to the table. The future looks really bright and ambition should be at the forefront of our thinking.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SNJO CONCERTS

ALL CONCERTS START AT 7.30PM

AUGUST 2016

BRUBECK: AN INCREDIBLE JAZZ LEGACY

Sun 14th August
Queen's Hall | Edinburgh | 0131 668 2019

SEPTEMBER 2016

THE JAZZ LEGACY OF CHARLES MINGUS

Friday 23rd September
Queen's Hall | Edinburgh | 0131 668 2019
Saturday 24th September
Royal Conservatoire | Glasgow | 0141 332 5057
Sunday 25th September
Sanctuary @ Queens Cross | Aberdeen
01224 641122

NOVEMBER 2016

THE LEGEND OF CHARLIE PARKER

Fri 11th November
Sanctuary @ Queens Cross | Aberdeen
01224 641122

Sat 12th November
Queen's Hall | Edinburgh | 0131 668 2019

Sun 13 November
Royal Conservatoire | Glasgow | 0141 332 5057

DECEMBER 2016

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF JAZZ WITH THE SNJO / TSYJO

Fri 16th December
Queen's Hall | Edinburgh | 0131 668 2019

Sat 17th December
Royal Conservatoire | Glasgow | 0141 332 5057

TSYJO CONCERTS

ALL CONCERTS START AT 2.30PM

Sat 8th October
City of Music Studio | Glasgow

Sun 9th October
The Studio at the Festival Theatre | Edinburgh

Sat 5th November
City of Music Studio | Glasgow

Sun 6th November
The Studio at the Festival Theatre | Edinburgh

Sun 18th December
The Tolbooth | Stirling

Tickets on sale now

City of Music studio | 0141 353 8000
Studio at Festival Theatre | 0131 529 6000
The Tolbooth | 01786 274000

MODERN JACOBITE

Leading European jazz saxophonist, composer and educator Tommy Smith boldly breaks new ground with the BBC/SSO on *Modern Jacobite*, an exceptional recording featuring his new symphonic work 'Jacobite', alongside personal re-imaginings of Rachmaninoff and Chick Corea.

Modern Jacobite represents a first foray into symphonic music for jazz saxophonist Tommy Smith, who has long interleaved orchestral discipline with creative jazz.

The centrepiece of this striking album is an evocative painting in music entitled 'Jacobite'. Tommy Smith composed this ambitious symphonic piece for saxophone and orchestra, and it is deeply imbued with dramatic tension, extraordinary beauty and inflamed passion. 'Jacobite' is also musically inventive and finely balanced as an intricate structure, an articulate narrative and an exceptionally visceral piece of original music.

The CD opens with a shimmering interpretation of Rachmaninoff's 'Vocalise', in which Smith's saxophone emotes a range of complex feelings in a devastatingly romantic orchestration. 'Vocalise' is among the best loved of the composer's famous 'Fourteen Songs', and Smith brings the subtlest nuances of improvisation to bear upon its melodic richness.

The third element is a portmanteau of compositions ostensibly by Chick Corea, entitled simply, 'Children's Songs'. It consists of Corea's original tunes alternating with Smith's re-imaginings of Corea's childhood memoirs. These variations are delivered with improvisational verve, and linked by the connective tissue of new music composed by Tommy Smith.

www.spartacusrecords.com

"There will be few better tenor saxophone records this year. In fact there will be few better jazz records this year. Probably no better 'classical' records this year. Truth is, there will be few better records this year."

BeBop Spoken Here



STOP PRESS

Please sign up for our newsletter at www.snjo.co.uk and help the environment.

To improve our carbon footprint by reducing fuel and postage costs, please consider signing up to read future newsletters online at www.snjo.co.uk.

If you already receive our news this way, please let Lindsay know so she can match your name / email to our database and remove you from postal lists

BUSINESS SPONSORS: CAN YOU HELP?

As registered charities devoted to jazz music, the SNJO/TSYJO depend on the support and good will of everyone to enable them to provide exciting, high quality, innovative concerts.

Why not consider sponsoring a whole concert series or a local performance - we can offer benefits such as advertising, corporate hospitality, CDs and concert tickets in return. Alternatively 'help in kind' is extremely welcome and especially towards orchestra costs including accommodation, printing or travel vouchers - we would love to hear from you!

Has your business ever considered sponsoring the Arts?

Apparently many companies are not yet aware of the marvellous matched funding scheme operated by the Scottish Government through Arts & Business Scotland. The scheme encourages businesses to embrace the Arts by partnering and working with an Arts organisation in Scotland. The Arts Sponsorship Grants aim to:

- Encourage businesses to sponsor arts activity within Scotland
- Support arts organisations in building new business sector partnerships
- Attract non-Scottish based companies to sponsor arts and cultural activities in Scotland.
- Match fund any new eligible agreements (cash or in kind) to benefit both the Arts and business partners

To find out more please contact our Manager, Lindsay Robertson on 07827 966735 / lr@snjo.co.uk

SPONSORS

We thank Creative Scotland for their on going support of the Orchestras as well as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland who provide us with essential rehearsal space. This year we have a partnership with Shermann Audio Ltd with match funding by Arts and Business and we thank them also for their support.



CONCERT SERIES SUPPORT



Norwegian Consulate General

We are delighted that the Norwegian Consulate in Scotland has offered to sponsor our Mingus concerts with Arild Andersen and we extend our grateful thanks to David Windmill, Mona Röhne and Keith MacRae, Honorary Consuls.

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information about the orchestras, concerts, bookings or sponsorship please contact our Manager, Lindsay Robertson on Tel: 07827 966735 Email: lr@snjo.co.uk Web: snjo.co.uk / tsyjo.com

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE SNJO/TSYJO



It is difficult to quantify just how important the SNJO is to the cultural life of Scotland but being selected as a finalist in the first ever Scottish Sunday Herald Cultural Awards perhaps underlines its position as a world-class artistic ambassador for Scotland.

Our Friends of the Orchestra support the cultural merits of the SNJO with no motive other than preserving and advancing the quality and sound of Scotland's National Jazz Orchestra and the future for Scottish jazz by encouraging its youth wing, the TSYJO. Their help is particularly welcome and appreciated and we invite more of our readers to consider becoming Friends of the Orchestra. Support from individuals underpins much our ability to continue bringing exciting jazz projects to audiences in Scotland, UK and abroad and makes a vital contribution to the funding of our recordings, education and commissions.

We love to get to know our friends better and hold occasional special functions to which they are invited: next will be a drinks reception before our December concerts to mark the end of our twentieth year and this will be followed by our Christmas Festival of Jazz with the SNJO and TSYJO.

Why not become a friend and join us? Just complete and return the form below - we would love to welcome you. **Thank you.**

SNJO BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Connarty (Chair) • Linda Cameron • Karl Chapman
Stephen Duffy • George Duncan • Lennie Herd
Heather Macintosh • Campbell Normand • Tommy Smith
and Peter Wilson

The Board of the SNJO always welcomes comments or suggestions, which should be sent to them via the Orchestra Manager.

Scottish National Jazz
Orchestra
Reg in Scotland No. 193446
Charity No: SC 028653

Scottish National Youth Jazz
Orchestra Ltd (TSYJO)
Reg in Scotland No. 231400
Charity No: SC 033191

FRIENDS OF THE SNJO / TSYJO MEMBERSHIP FORM

Our Friends scheme enables you to enjoy a closer relationship with the orchestras that will enhance your enjoyment of our concerts and maximize your jazz experience. By becoming a Friend of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and its youth wing, the Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra, you make a vital contribution to the creation of exciting concerts, new recording projects and jazz commissions. More importantly, you help us invest in the future of jazz ensuring further generations ready to play inspiring jazz in Scotland and beyond. Support from private individuals underpins much of our ability to continue bringing exciting projects to audiences worldwide. **Thank you.**

Supporter: As an annual supporter you will

1. Be kept up to date with SNJO/TSYJO news via regular newsletter and get to know us better!
2. Provide vital support to the SNJO and its youth wing.
3. Be acknowledged in our concert brochures and on our website if wished.

Annual Friend: As an annual Friend you will

1. Receive all benefits of a SNJO/TSYJO supporter.
2. Receive invitations to special events with Friends / Family.
3. Basie: Receive a signed copy of the latest SNJO or TSYJO CD.
4. Kenton: Receive all of the above benefits plus a pair of tickets to a SNJO / TSYJO concert of choice.

Life Friend: As a life Friend, you will

1. Receive all of the above benefits of annual Friend/Supporter.
2. Gil Evans: Receive one complimentary ticket to each of our own concert series.
3. Gillespie / Ellington: Receive two complimentary tickets to each of our own concert series.
4. Join the Artistic Director/guests post concert for informal Drinks.
5. Gil Evans / Gillespie - receive a signed copy of every CD recorded by the SNJO / TSYJO.
6. Ellington - receive all above CDs plus if wished, be given credit on an SNJO / TSYJO recording.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

EMAIL

I am happy to receive emails from the SNJO/TSYJO and understand that I may unsubscribe at any time: Yes / No

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

LIFE MEMBERSHIP: FRIEND - INDIVIDUAL

Ellington from £2500
Gillespie £1000
Gil Evans £500

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: FRIENDS - INDIVIDUAL

Kenton £250
Basie £125

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: SUPPORTER

Annual Single £40
Annual Joint £60
Additional Donation £ _____
Total Remittance £ _____

Please fill in your details below and send this form either with a cheque payable to SNJO Ltd to

The Orchestra Manager, SNJO Ltd,
25 Dregghorn Loan, Edinburgh, EH13 0DF

OR You may now alternatively set up an online BACS payment or standing order to SNJO, Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort Code 83-28-38 and Acc No: 00276221.

NB: Please also email a form to lr@snjo.co.uk

GIFT AID: If you are a UK tax-payer, we can claim an additional amount from the Inland Revenue to help your donation go further.

Please treat my donation as Gift Aid

I wish to remain anonymous: Yes / No

Signature _____