



- <http://www.chelmsfordjazzclub.co.uk>
- FOUNDED 1985
- PRESIDENT: ALAN BARNES
- CHAIRPERSON: SUSAN MAY-ROBINSON
- HONORARY MEMBERS:
- DIGBY FAIRWEATHER, DEREK NASH, BOBBY WORTH
- TRUSTEES of the SPIKE ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP
- CHARITY No: 1053228

November 2016

Well, its good news/ bad news time. The “Tenor Madness” gig was tremendous - we are so lucky to have such a rich array of musicians in Britain and Europe. The gig made a £390 loss. There were 49 members in the audience, 12 non-members and 2 complimentary (from the raffle draw in September). With 6 musicians in the band, the cost was greater than for a smaller outfit. To break even, we would have needed 100 in the audience. However, the new seating arrangement meant that even with less than 50% capacity, the atmosphere in the theatre was very good.

Membership renewal

The 2017 renewal form is attached covering Jan - Dec 2017. Please could you return by the end of December.

Steve’s take on the October “Tenor Madness” in remembrance of Spike Robinson featuring:

Derek Nash, Vasilis Xenopoulous, Robert Fowler, John Pearce, Paul Morgan and Clark Tracey.

Wow, what a fitting tribute to Spike this was with the musicians well known to us, each excellent in his own right. The three tenor saxes played well both in harmony and in their solos with the backing of the fine rhythm section. The tunes had been selected with Spike’s legacy in mind and Derek gave us plenty of background on why they had been chosen. With the intro to “You and me,” Derek explained that this was an example of a contrafact tune. This is a musical composition built using the chord progression of a pre-existing one whilst using a new melody and arrangement. It usually involves the entire original tune progression and song form but can occasionally just reuse a section in the new composition. This was a technique adopted by and especially suited for the improvising of music in the 1940’s when jazz musicians started exploring and performing a collection of popular tunes that are still played today. Examples being Charlie Parker’s contrafact “Koko” in 1945 using Ray Noble’s 1938 standard “Cherokee” and his 1946 contrafact “Ornithology” of Morgan Lewis’s 1940 “How high is the moon.” Parker mused: “I found that by using the higher intervals of a chord as a melody line and backing them with appropriately related changes, I could play the thing that I’d been hearing.” Derek revealed that musicians liked playing contrafacts because chord progressions can’t be copy righted, so royalties could be avoided! He also apologised for using the baritone sax for some of the numbers bearing in mind that this was billed as “Tenor madness” but this just added to the richness of the sound. Paul’s socks and Clark’s lime green drums were also talking points.

First set

“You and me,” an Al Cohn contrafact tune, based on “Tea for two”

“Stockholm LM” (Al Cohn)

“Travelling Light” (Johnny Mercer)

“Tickle Toe”, followed by “920 Special” with Derek on baritone sax, both Count Basie compositions, the latter another contrafact.

“Tenor Madness,” (Bobby Wellins arrangement)

Second set

“Line for Lyons” (Jerry Mulligan) with Derek again on the baritone sax.

“Take Four”, (Al Cohn contrafact)

“Low Life” (Johnny Mandell)

A medley based on “Body and Soul”

“Just an old manuscript” (Don Redman)

“The goof and I” (Al Cohn contrafact)

The music and sound were wonderful throughout.

Next concert

6th November: Nigel Price with Alex Garnett, Ross Stanley and Matt Home

Surrey born jazz guitarist Nigel Price - who led his organ trio to pick up the 2010 Parliamentary Jazz Award for "best jazz ensemble" is one of the most highly regarded and in demand guitarists on the UK jazz scene today. He spent three years with UK funk legends - the James Taylor Quartet, was placed third in the 2014 British Jazz Awards for "best guitarist" and is also a regular performer at Ronnie Scott's, where he has played over 400 times. Nigel's blend of flowing bebop lines, deep blues feeling and mastery of chording has made him instantly accessible and popular with jazz audiences. His 2012 album Heads & Tales, was a programme of contrafacts. Nigel, in conversation with Sebastian Scotney in a Telegraph article on 12 Sep 2014 had the following to say about the band: "The core of the band is the trio which is comprised of Matt Home on drums and Ross Stanley on organ. Matt has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things jazz, especially on the drumming side of things. He's constantly working to lay a perfect bed of rhythm down and has that fantastic trait of being solid as a rock whilst very open for musical communication and interaction at the same time. Ross is a demon musician, an absolute demon, and he's really gone all in for the Hammond organ, having taken the guts from a B3 and rehoused it in a smaller casing. He's just such an exciting player, an exploring musician yet also saturated in the blues. They've both got wicked senses of humour and we're going to have an absolute scream. Every time I hear Alex Garnett on the tenor sax, he knocks me out - keeps *great* time, outrageous harmony and the ability to build on seemingly anything and make it sound like that's the way it has to be! And offstage he's an absolute hoot."

Future events

Chelmsford Jazz Club –diary dates for the rest of 2016

4th December: A Christmas Carol. Alan Barnes, Robert Fowler, Karen Sharp, Bruce Adams, Mark Nightingale, Dave Newton, Simon Thorpe and Clark Tracey. (£13/£17)

8th January: Scott Hamilton (£12/£16)

29th January: TBC *please note, late January – no February date

5th March: Pete Neighbour

April: TBC

7th May: Rossano Sportello, Dave Green and Steve Brown

Spikes Place

Email: susan_may@btinternet.com www.myspace.com/spikesplacejazzclub

Advance booking: Susan 01245 420475

The Bardswell, Weald Road, Brentwood. CM14 4TJ 8pm (£13 / £10 unless otherwise stated)

1st November: Derek Nash with Gunther Kurmayr

8th November: Jacqui Hicks with the Robin Aspland Trio

15th November: Robert Fowler Quartet

22nd November: Harry Allen (from USA), Andrea Pozza (from Italy), Simon Thorpe, and Steve Brown (£14 / £11)

Saffron Walden Hotel. High Street, Saffron Walden. CB10 1AZ 8.30pm (£13)

17th November: Harry Allen (from USA), Andrea Pozza (from Italy), Simon Thorpe, and Steve Brown

Club Langley. 2, Hawksbrook Lane, Beckenham. Kent BR3 3SR. 8.30pm (£13/£10 unless stated)

3rd November: Jacqui Hicks with the Robin Aspland Trio

10th November: Mark Crooks with Richard Busiakiewicz, Dave Chamberlain and Rod Brown

24th November: Simon Bates Quartet

Colchester Arts Centre Jazz Club (£14/£12) 7.30pm CJC members - concessionary rate with proof of membership.

6th November: Jeanette Mason Trio

And finally....

- Don't forget to spread the word to all of your contacts that you think might be interested in listening to live jazz. Also, if you have any ideas that might help promote the club or any feedback on the gigs could you please email sallyleone@sky.com or send a letter or just speak to a committee member at a gig
- Don't forget Phoenix Radio 98FM / internet show- DJ Adam Dyer playing "All that jazz" Weds 10 – midnight
- Checkout the Jazz archive at Beechcroft Art Gallery in Victoria Avenue, Southend. SS2 6EX. 01702 215169 Email southendjazzcentre@gmail.com
- The next committee meeting is Wednesday 16th November in the Conservative Club, Moulsham Street. Come along! You don't need to do anything, just moral support as our numbers are very small. There is a bar and you are all welcome!