



PRESS RELEASE

04 October 2018

Cadogan Hall presents 15 concerts as part of the 26th EFG London Jazz Festival: 16 – 25 November 2018

Cadogan Hall presents 15 concerts as part of the annual **EFG London Jazz Festival**, celebrating the music of jazz legends and showcasing the work of new emerging talent. This year's Festival highlights include a string of specially created shows: **Sam Amidon**, **James Taylor Quartet** (*as part of the EFG Excellence Series*), a Haitian night with **Melissa Laveaux** and **Leyla McCalla** and a brilliant double-bill from **Davina & the Vagabonds** and **Natalie Williams**. The Festival also brings a world class free stage programme with artists including: **Georgia Mancio** and **Martin Speake**.

The **Tord Gustavsen Trio** opens the Festival's concerts at the Hall on **Friday 16 November**: the Norwegian jazz pianist's music continues to enchant and evolve, reaching out to an ever-growing audience with a blend of memorable melody, subtle groove, and a gentle depth of purpose. He is joined by bassist **Sigurd Hole** and drummer **Jarle Vespestad**. Composer and jazz singer **Elina Duni** also performs on the evening alongside guitarist and rising star of today's UK scene, **Rob Luft**. Duni's latest project, an ECM recording, ranges through traditional music from Albania, Kosovo, Armenia, Macedonia, Switzerland and Arab-Andalusia as well songs by Jacques Brel and her own music.

As well as starring in *Jurassic Park*, *Independence Day* and *The Fly*, Hollywood legend **Jeff Goldblum** also plays a mean jazz piano. On **Saturday 17 November**, due to popular demand Goldblum gives an afternoon and evening performance with his band **The Mildred Snitzer Orchestra**. The band play loose, improvised versions of jazz standards from *Summertime* to *Stella By Starlight*. It's taken them 20 years to get to London for this special Festival show ahead of their debut album release later this year on Decca. To finish the weekend **Bill Frisell** performs on **Sunday 18 November**; his new album *Music IS* covers Bill's own music as far back as his first ECM albums. This rare concert will use these albums as a jumping-off point to explore his whole career as one the world's most adventurous guitarists.

Newly formed project, **Martin Speake's Charukesi**, begin the week on **Monday 19 November**. The project including alto saxophonist **Martin Speake**, tenor saxophonist/clarinetist **Alyson Cawley**, guitarist **Rob Luft** and percussionist **Will Glasser**, was formed to reflect Martin's interest in rhythmic music from around the world including Arabic, Indian and Turkish influences. The evening sees **Sam Amidon** present an expansive concert programme with a one-off dream band. The concert will feature Amidon's vocals, banjo, fiddle and guitar in collaboration with top UK musicians: trumpeter **Byron Wallen**, saxophonist **James Allsopp**, **Kit Downes** on piano and organ, acoustic bassist **Larry Bartley** and **Chris Vatalaro** on drums.

On **Tuesday 20 November** acclaimed singer and mentor to Oscar and Grammy-winner Sam Smith, **Joanna Eden** performs the songs of Stephen Sondheim from her own, jazz-influenced and heart-filled perspective. Joining Joanna on stage in the Culford Room is the **George Double Trio** with **Gerry Hunt** on guitar and reeds, **Russell Swift** on bass and **George Double** on drums. In the evening, singers **Leyla McCalla** and **Melissa Laveaux** who combine deep roots in Haiti and the USA come together for one special concert. Leyla's music explores the themes of social justice and a pan-African consciousness, whilst Melissa is inspired by the militant voice of legendary Haitian singer Martha Jean-Claude.

On **Wednesday 21 November** another newly formed project, **The Fishwick Brothers Quintet** perform an afternoon of swinging tunes from the hard bop era played by five of London's top straight-ahead jazz musicians. **Steve Fishwick** (trumpet), **Dave O'Higgins** (tenor saxophone), **Rob Barron** (piano), **Dario De Lecce** (bass) and **Matt Fishwick** (drums) perform the timeless compositions of two pianist/composers associated with the hard bop era of jazz and the Blue Note Record label: Cedar Walton and Duke Pearson. Although some of these tunes have become jazz standards (Walton's *Bolivia* and *Ugetsu*, and Pearson's *Jeanine* for example) there is a great wealth of material by these composers that is very rarely played. This project aims to redress the balance, bring these tunes to a new audience and generally celebrate the work of these great jazz artists. The evening sees the **James Taylor Quartet and Orchestra** premiere their new album recorded at Abbey Road, *Soundtrack from Electric Black*. Combining the influences of Lalo Schifrin and Oliver Nelson in James' own very distinctive way, it is beautifully cinematic and dramatic, with a great mix of Hammond-driven funk and glorious strings.

Award-winning vocalist **Georgia Mancio** brings her new trio, Quadro (meaning 'picture' in Italian), with much lauded pianist **Frank Harrison** and bassist **Andrew Cleyndert** to the Hall on **Thursday 22 November**. The group have performed in venues across the country performing jazz and Brazilian standards alongside reinvented classical repertoire by composers including; Billy Strayhorn, Duke Ellington, Tom Jobim, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Artie Shaw and Waldemar Henrique. The evening sees **Davina and The Vagabonds** perform an evening of jazz, blues, soul, swing, rock 'n' roll and more. Davina appeals to audiences with power, emotion and sincerity; her shows are filled with New Orleans charm and Memphis soul swagger. To begin the evening **Natalie Williams** steps out from the Soul Family to play her own show with her band.

MOBO award-winning Kairos 4tet saxophonist, **Adam Waldman** performs with Mercury Prize-nominated bassist, **Connor Chaplin** and drummer **Corrie Dick** as a trio on **Friday 23 November**. The afternoon concert explores standards from past and present plus original compositions. The weekend kicks off in the evening with a very rare London show from Swedish star **Lisa Ekdahl** performing material from her new Sony album, *More of the Good*. Support comes from pianist **Livio Minafra**, with his own compositions swimming in a spontaneous mix of classical music, world music and jazz improvisation.

On **Saturday 24 November**, EFG London Jazz Festival presents **The World Gone Mad - 1899-1919 Jass, Ragtime, Tin Pan Alley And The Blues**. The evening forms parts of the Jazz Repertory Company's 10th anniversary celebration of its association with Cadogan Hall. The programme features music of British composers and bands responding to the new musical influences coming from over the Atlantic. They end in 1919 as this was the year when the first American jazz bands visited Great Britain – the extraordinarily successful Original Dixieland Jazz Band and The Southern Syncopators featuring the great Sidney Bechet. Music of this time is now largely unknown. African-

American and European traditions were blended to create something new which has dominated our musical lives ever since.

The Festival's concerts at the Hall come to an end on **Sunday 25 November** with Caribbean legend **Monty Alexander** and his trio; **JJ Shakur** on bass and **Jason Brown** on drums. Alexander delights global audiences drawn to his vibrant personality and soulful message with his repertoire spanning a broad range of jazz and Jamaican musical expression – the American songbook and the blues, gospel and bebop, calypso and reggae. Support comes from **Tomorrow's Warriors Female Frontline**; a band who embody the Warrior spirit in more than just serious musical talent and looks set to expose yet another generation of fantastic jazz artists to eagerly awaiting audiences. The band deliver a set of upbeat jazz standards, funky grooves and a contemporary take on some well-known classics.

For further press information please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

email: rebecca@rdmr.co.uk | ruth@rdmr.co.uk | joanna@rdmr.co.uk

phone: 0207 247 1894

Concert Listings

Tord Gustavsen Trio + Elina Duni & Rob Luft Friday 16 November 2018, 7:30pm	Jeff Goldblum and the Mildred Snitzer Orchestra Saturday 17 November 2018, 7:30pm
Bill Frisell Sunday 18 November 2018, 5:30pm	Martin Speake's Charukesi* Monday 19 November 2018, 2:30pm
An Evening with Sam Amidon Monday 19 November 2018, 7:30pm	Joanna Eden and the George Double Trio* Tuesday 20 November 2018, 2:30pm
Leyla McCalla & Melissa Laveaux Tuesday 20 November 2018, 7:30pm	The Fishwick Brothers Quintet play the music of Cedar Walton & Duke Pearson * Wednesday 21 November 2018, 2:30pm
James Taylor Quartet & Orchestra Wednesday 21 November 2018, 7:30pm	Georgia Mancio's Quadro* Thursday 22 November, 2:30pm
Davina & The Vagabonds + Natalie Williams Thursday 22 November 2018, 7:30pm	Adam Waldmann Trio* Friday 23 November 2018, 2:30pm
Lisa Ekdahl: More of the Good + Livio Minafra Friday 23 November 2018, 7:30pm	The World Gone Mad 1899-1919 Jass, Ragtime, Tin Pan Alley and the Blues Saturday 24 November 2018, 7:30pm
Monty Alexander + Tomorrow's Warriors Female Frontline Sunday 25 November 2018, 4.00pm	

Full Festival programme available at efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk

Tickets: available from Cadogan Hall Box Office

Online: www.cadoganhall.com

Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ

Box Office: 020 7730 4500

***Admission free**

Notes to Editors

The EFG London Jazz Festival is produced by **Serious**, one of the UK's leading producers and curators of live jazz, international and new music. Serious produces events that range from major concerts, festivals and national and international tours through to learning and participation programmes, conferences and specially commissioned bespoke events. Alongside its core role as a live music events producer, and programme consultants, it works in artist and rights management. Parallel to this exists the registered charity, Serious Trust, which has been established to support the next generation of artists and audiences through our artist development, learning and participation and commissioning programmes.

serious.org.uk

The **EFG London Jazz Festival** was created by live international music producers, Serious. The Festival emerged from the long-standing Camden Jazz Week which was created in 1970; with the active support of the London Arts Board (now Arts Council England, London). Serious – who had for some years produced the Camden Jazz Week, engineered a transition that saw the evolution of the Festival. Taking a mix of international and British artists and a commitment to education activity, the London Jazz Festival began to spread its wings. The aims of the Festival still remain the same today; celebrating the place of jazz in a city which is at ease with its rich cultural diversity, and drawing in a multitude of venues across London who present the music, week in, week out, throughout the year.

efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk

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