

Take Five



MEDIA RELEASE (for release on 4 November 2013)

Serious' hugely successful professional development scheme for emerging creative jazz musicians, **Take Five**, will again 'take over' during the **EFG London Jazz Festival** and this year, we have many reasons to celebrate.

As part of the EFG London Jazz Festival 21st birthday, we are thrilled that the concert halls, free stages and clubs will resound with performances by outstanding bands from the UK and Europe, led by artists who are Take Five alumni. This includes bands from UK (Take Five: UK) – too many to list; Switzerland (Take Five: Switzerland); France, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland (Take Five: Europe) – the latter leading to many ongoing collaborations, the most vivacious being the Obara International Quartet (a Polish/Norwegian collaboration) who have taken Europe by storm. Performances are spread across the festival and more information can be found on the website: www.londonjazzfestival.org.uk

To bring it all into focus, on Sunday 24 November we will announce the artists who will participate in the ninth edition of **Take Five: UK** and will present a programme of free performances in a day long celebration that will begin at 12 noon in the Front Room of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, London.

On this day, audiences will be treated to a performance by **European Sunrise**, which showcases the talents of 10 composer-performers from France (Airelle Besson and Guillaume Perret), the Netherlands (David Kweksilber and Marcos Baggiani), Norway (Daniel Herskedal and Per Zanussi), Poland (Marcin Masecki and Piotr Damasiewicz) and the UK (Arun Ghosh and Chris Sharkey) – all participants in our **Take Five: Europe** programme, who have developed material that has been honed in workshops and performances across the continent.

We'll also present three ground-breaking Franco-British collaborations featuring previous participants from a Take Five programme. These three bands are: **Sonsale**, featuring Andy Champion and Corey Mwamba; **Dors**, featuring Chris Sharkey and Christophe de Bezenac; and **Of Gauls and Gaels**, featuring Fraser Fifield and Benjamin Flamant – who met via **Take Five: Europe** last year and who were commissioned by French festival Jazz sous les Pommiers. This Franco-British programme is supported by Jazz Shuttle.

And during the afternoon, the participants in **Take Five Edition IX** will also be announced to the public. **Take Five: UK** is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation, PRS for Music Foundation, Arts Council England and the Musicians Benevolent Fund and is designed to give some of the UK's most talented young jazz musicians the unique opportunity to take 'time out' to develop their craft. It provides each artist with the chance to discuss, explore and strengthen all aspects of their future careers.

The eight creative jazz musicians who have been selected for **Take Five Edition IX** are:

- George Crowley (saxophone/clarinet, London)
- Peter Edwards (piano, London)
- Laura Jurd (trumpet, London)
- James Mainwaring (saxophone, Leeds)
- Nick Malcolm (trumpet, Bristol)
- Dan Nicholls (reeds/keyboards, London)
- Shama Rahman (sitar/vocals, London)
- Alex Roth (guitar, London)

"Supporting artist development across all music genres is a longstanding priority for PRS for Music Foundation. Take Five is an important part of this commitment through which we help talented jazz musicians at critical moments in their career. Congratulations to the eight musicians who were selected this year - this exciting line-up of distinctive voices reflects the quality and breadth of jazz in the UK." (Vanessa Reed, Executive Director, PRS for Music Foundation)

"Take Five continues to excel as a model of professional development. It aims to generate and amplify the confidence and abilities of the jazz artists taking part, and has proven it can arm them with new knowledge on how to make and, critically, make heard their outstanding music. We are proud to support this ninth edition, and to recognise once more the quality of the field from which these talented eight artists were chosen." (Shonagh Manson, Director, Jerwood Charitable Foundation)

Take Five Edition IX will run from October 2013 to the summer of 2014 and provides participants with one-to-one mentoring sessions to address their particular areas of need, as well a residential period exploring areas such as composition, performance, communications, business infrastructure and strategic direction.

"Take Five has gone from strength to strength in 2013 and we are thrilled to be presenting a range of work in this year's EFG London Jazz Festival that showcases the talents of so many of the previous and present participants. In 2013 Serious produced three editions – Take Five: UK Edition VIII, Take Five: Europe Edition II and a new addition to the suite of programmes, Take Five: Switzerland – all of which have introduced us and our forward thinking funding partners to 26 wonderfully creative musicians from across the UK and Europe. The artists who have been chosen to participate in Edition IX are no exception and we are looking forward to seeing where their Take Five journey will take them." John Cumming, Director, Serious

A previous participant in **Take Five** commented:

"Being part of Take Five has made a great impact on my life as a musician and composer. I have never before received so much support and encouragement and now think in a completely different way since gathering new skills in how to promote and manage my work, thanks to the guest speakers and tutors. The tools I have been given and the people I have met through the process have opened up my eyes to areas in the music industry I previously was unaware of. I have been inspired to take more risks, and most importantly, I've found a new confidence in myself as an artist. With this new wave of optimism, I have begun new collaborations, created new opportunities, and am in near completion of my second album – a project I wouldn't have pursued if it weren't for Serious." (Yazz Ahmed, Edition VIII, 2013)

A panel of industry experts contributed to the selection process, taking into account the following considerations: creativity, future potential, style of music, range of influences, and distinctive contribution to the

jazz community. The panel included representatives from Jerwood Charitable Foundation, PRS for Music Foundation, Musicians Benevolent Fund and Serious, as well as Graham McKenzie (Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival), Steve Mead (Manchester Jazz Festival) and Jason Yarde (composer, saxophonist and producer).

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www.serious.org.uk/about/artists/artist-development/take-five

www.takefiveurope.com

Notes for Take Five Edition IX:

1. The **Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information on the Jerwood Charitable Foundation visit www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org.
2. The **PRS for Music Foundation** (PRSF) is the only independent funder dedicated to new music of all genres across the UK. Since March 2000 it has supported over 4,500 new music initiatives to the tune of over £16 million. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRSF supports an exceptional range of new music activity - from talent and professional development, composer residencies and showcases to festivals, UK tours and commissions. We achieve this through open grants and programmes run in partnership with like-minded funders. Recent initiatives include New Music Biennial, a UK-wide commissioning and performance, Women Make Music – a special fund for women music creators and Musician in Residence Derry~Londonderry – part of UK City of Culture 2013. For more information visit: www.prsformusicfoundation.com
3. Our mission at the **Arts Council** is 'Great art and culture for everyone'. **Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Between 2010 and 2015, we will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery in arts and culture to help create experiences for as many people as possible across the country. For more information visit: www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/#sthash.6EvPaifZ.dpuf
4. For more than 90 years the **Musicians Benevolent Fund** has been supporting musicians of all ages and musical genres. Each year it provides crucial help and support to professionals when a crisis such as an accident or illness hits. It also helps musicians in later life and retirement with the challenges that growing older can bring and supports talented emerging artists, playing a part in shaping a new generation of rising stars. The Fund is independent and relies on donations and gifts in wills to underpin its vital work. For more information visit: helpmusicians.org.uk
5. **Serious** is one of the UK's leading producers and curators of live jazz, international and new music. Its events range from major concerts, festivals and national and international tours through to learning and participation programmes, conferences and specially commissioned bespoke events. Alongside the production of live music, Serious works in artist and rights management and produces a suite of acclaimed professional development programmes for emerging creative musicians in the UK and Europe. Serious produces the EFG London Jazz Festival which celebrates its 21st edition in 2013. For more information visit: serious.org.uk, londonjazzfestival.org.uk

JERWOOD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



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Notes for Take Five: Europe

- a. **The Culture Programme of the European Union** aims to encourage and support cultural cooperation within Europe in order to bring the European common cultural heritage to the fore. The programme mainly promotes trans-national mobility of cultural players; trans-national circulation of artistic and cultural works and products; and intercultural dialogue and exchanges. ec.europa.eu
- b. **Serious:** serious.org.uk, londonjazzfestival.org.uk
- c. **Banlieues Bleues** is an annual jazz festival that has taken place since 1984 in 15 towns in Seine-Saint-Denis, a district of banlieues (suburbs) on the outskirts and north east of Paris. Focused on jazz in the very sense of the word, but also on blues, contemporary and world music, the Festival offers an artistic platform of international repute. Banlieues Bleues also runs its own venue; La Dynamo. banlieuesbleues.org
- d. **Jazz sous les Pommiers** is one of the most important jazz festivals in France and takes over the town of Coutances in Normandy every May. The Festival has been running since 1982, and in that time has featured a huge range of international stars and up-and-coming talent. jazzsouslespommiers.com
- e. **North Sea Jazz Festival:** The first edition of the North Sea Jazz Festival took place in 1976 in the Netherlands Congressgebouw in The Hague. In 2006, the festival moved to its current, bigger, location in Rotterdam. North Sea Jazz Festival is one of the largest in Europe and one of the most significant jazz festivals in the world and takes place every July. northseajazz.com
- f. **Molde International Jazz Festival** is a week-long festival that takes place every July, presenting all kinds of jazz from New-Orleans style to freejazz, electronic and noise, a mix of international and Norwegian artists. A festival with a great deal of history, Molde International Jazz Festival has an enviable reputation way beyond Norway and northern Europe. moldejazz.no
- g. **Jazztopad Festival** is an annual jazz Festival in Wroclaw, Poland. It presents unique projects and world premieres of pieces composed exclusively for the festival. Jazztopad showcases Polish and international jazz artists and its 9th edition is taking place in November 2012. Jazztopad is organised under the umbrella of Wroclaw Philharmonic and from 2014 will be a part of National Forum of Music. jazztopad.pl
- h. **Jerwood Charitable Foundation:** jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org
- i. **PRS for Music Foundation:** prsformusicfoundation.com
- j. **Sacem** is pleased to be a partner of Take Five: Europe. Sacem develops cultural programs to sustain creation, production and distribution of new works. www.sacem.fr
- k. **Adam Mickiewicz Institute** is a state cultural institution whose task is to promote Polish culture around the world and actively participate in international cultural exchange. IAM realised over promotional projects in 26 countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. As part of these projects IAM organized over 3,500 cultural events which gathered an audience of 20,000,000 people on three continents. www.iam.pl
- l. **Take Five: Switzerland** is funded by Swiss Arts Council: Pro Helvetia.

Serious is grateful to its many supporting partners, including embassies and cultural institutions, who help make the EFG London Jazz Festival a truly international event.



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molde International Jazz Festival est. 1981 Norway

jazztopad

NFM
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