
AIR TIME

Jazz CPD Scotland

Media release: June 2014

After successful editions in 2009, 2010 and 2012, international music producers **Serious** will again produce **Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland**, a professional development scheme for emerging creative jazz musicians living and working in Scotland, which is funded by **Creative Scotland** and **Help Musicians UK**.

Taking place across the second half of 2014, **Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland** creates the environment and stimulus for participants to explore and consolidate the creative and business aspects of their careers.

Selected for the potential to make a significant contribution to the Scottish and UK jazz scenes and for their drive to take full advantage of this unique opportunity, five musicians will participate in this programme. They have been drawn from the multi-faceted jazz and improvised music community in Scotland. They are:

- **Alan Benzie** (piano)
- **Lauren Sarah Hayes** (piano and electronics)
- **Sue McKenzie** (saxophone)
- **Phil O'Malley** (trombone)
- **Simon Thacker** (guitar)

Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland will incorporate a five-day residential period at the Tolbooth in Stirling in September 2014 and a series of interviews, mentoring and future planning sessions to assist participants develop their careers.

Ian Smith, Portfolio Manager Music & IP Development, Creative Scotland, said:

'Following the success of previous versions of Air Time which provided intensive professional development opportunities for some of Scotland's finest jazz musicians, we are delighted to once again partner Serious and Help Musicians UK in the 2014 edition of Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland. The benefits to all previous participants of the scheme are being measured on an international stage and I have no doubt that the five creative jazz musicians selected for 2014 will fully demonstrate our commitment to creativity and enterprise which will allow them to fully realise and exploit their already considerable potential, thus further enhancing Scotland's reputation as a creative environment for the arts.'

Tim Foxon, Talent Programme Manager, Help Musicians UK, said:

'We are very excited to be supporting Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland 2014, enabling five talented emerging artists to benefit from this exceptional programme. We are particularly pleased to have this opportunity to increase our support for musicians in Scotland through this fruitful partnership with Serious and Creative Scotland, and look forward to seeing these artists – and the Scottish jazz scene – continue to develop and thrive.'

John Cumming, Director, Serious said:

'Serious is committed to providing professional development opportunities for musicians of all ages, experience and nationalities. Our experience across three editions of Air Time has brought us into extended contact with the vibrant Scottish jazz scene. As well as providing artists with the tools to extend their knowledge of the music industry and take further ownership of their careers, the process of Air Time gives us the insight to help create further opportunities for those artists, both within and outside of Scotland. We are excited to be producing a fourth edition, with support from Creative Scotland and Help Musicians UK - and of course, to be working with a new cohort of exceptional musicians. We are looking forward to getting to know more about their career aspirations, and to vigorous debate about music and business when at the residency in Stirling in September.'

Participants of the previous editions had this to say about Air Time:

Phil Bancroft, saxophonist and composer:

'It has given me a fantastic opportunity to review my way of working, with a balance between a sense of overview and drilling into detail in various specific 'business/ promotion/ rights' areas. It has validated and affirmed some things and taught new ideas and concepts and reinvented older ideas and approaches. It has opened up potential synergies between areas and given time to focus on strategy and potential... and much of the time was great fun.'

Ryan Quigley, trumpeter and composer:

'On the whole, the scheme is excellent. Being able to engage with experts in the field of marketing, etc as a musician in this day and age is invaluable as we are now expected to be musicians, promoters, press officers, record producers, writers, arrangers, we are also expected to come up with "new ideas" about how to sell our product, especially when it comes to jazz. This scheme made a big difference to me and I'm very grateful for being on it.'

Many of the industry's leading figures contributed to the nomination and selection process, taking into account the following considerations for each participant: creativity, talent, future potential, style of music, range of influences, geography, cultural background and distinctive contribution to the community. The selection panel comprised representatives from **Creative Scotland**, **Help Musicians UK** and **Serious**, as well as Raymond MacDonald (composer, saxophonist and educator) and Cathie Rae (Director, Scottish Jazz Federation).

For more information on this initiative or the organisations involved see:

creativescotland.com

helpmusicians.org.uk

serious.org.uk

Notes:

1. Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland invests in the exceptional talent that exists in Scotland, and also recognises that nurturing and significant intervention at various times will enable these musicians to reach their full potential. The scheme aims to stimulate creativity and raise aspirations by facilitating opportunities for artists to engage with their peers, industry experts and to be challenged by the practices of others.
2. Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit creativescotland.com. Follow us @creativescots and [facebook.com/CreativeScotland](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland)
3. Help Musicians UK is the leading UK charity for professional musicians of all genres, from starting out through to retirement. Formerly known as the Musicians Benevolent Fund, it helps at times of crisis, but also at times of opportunity, giving musicians the extra support they need at a crucial stage that could make or break their career. In 2013 it spent £4 million changing the lives and careers of 2,101 musicians. For more information visit helpmusicians.org.uk.
4. 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 also curates and produces the EFG London Jazz Festival, the UK's largest celebration of jazz, which celebrates its 22nd edition in 2014. For more information visit: serious.org.uk, efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk

For further press information please contact:

Press release issued by Piers Mason at Serious piers.mason@serious.org.uk, Tel: 020 7324 1880
and

Helen Sim, Media & PR Assistant, E: Helen.Sim@creativescotland.com, T: 0131 523 0019



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