



MEDIA RELEASE: EMBARGOED until 6pm 18th November 2017

One of Serious' key activity strands is 'Seriously Talented', our talent development programmes. In 2004/05, we developed a specific scheme - **Take Five** - in conjunction with partners PRS for Music Foundation and Jerwood Charitable Foundation, to enable emerging creative jazz musicians to explore their creative output and improve their business potential. Since that time, well over 150 musicians have participated in this and related schemes.

Proving that the UK has a formidable array of emerging talent, this year's **EFG London Jazz Festival** is once again hugely enriched by musicians who have participated on our Seriously Talented programmes. There are musicians in clubs, on freestages, in large and small venues, with orchestras, leading contextualising talks – and doing vital work with learning and community engagement.

One such project is the collaboration between **Phronesis** and the **Engines Orchestra**, specially commissioned for the festival with the Cheltenham and Manchester jazz festivals and featuring **Jasper Høiby**, **Ivo Neame** and **Phil Meadows** – all Take Five alumni (Sunday 12 November). **Moses Boyd's Exodus** takes the stage at the Jazz Café on the opening night of the festival; **Arun Gosh** appears at the Rich Mix on 11 November; **Nikki Yeoh** supports Courtney Pine and Omar (13 November) and **Yazz Ahmed** launches her new CD at Kings Place on 17 November. There is also guitarist **Chris Montague's** participatory '**A Brief History of the Coolest Instrument in the World**' (part of the '25 for 25' commissioning programme), a free event taking place at the Clore Ballroom on Saturday 18 November. And one of the superstar artists of the festival – Pat Metheny - features **Gwilym Simcock** in his new line-up. These are just a few of the more than 50 Seriously Talented alumni appearing at the festival.

This season is also the time to announce the participants in the thirteenth edition of **Take Five: UK**, which is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation, PRS for Music Foundation, Arts Council England, Help Musicians UK and the Serious Trust.

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

- **Al MacSween**
- **Ant Law**
- **Camilla George**
- **Helen Papiasannou**
- **Jonathan Silk**
- **Nubya Garcia**
- **Rob Luft**
- **Scott Flanigan**

Take Five 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 and their business. It provides each artist with

the chance to discuss, explore and strengthen all aspects of their future careers. The edition will run until the summer of 2018 and provides participants with one-to-one mentoring sessions to address their particular areas of need, as well as a residential period in February for exploring areas such as composition, performance, communications, business infrastructure and strategic direction.

Vanessa Reed, Chief Executive, PRS Foundation said, *‘Congratulations to the eight talented jazz musicians that have been selected for this year’s Take Five. The exciting career progressions of many participants from recent years, like Moses Boyd, Heidi Heidelberg, Peter Edwards, Laura Jurd and more, demonstrate the quality of artists taking part in this scheme and the crucial springboard it offers at pivotal stages in artists’ development. I look forward to following the outcomes of next year’s programme and seeing these artists shine in future editions of the London Jazz Festival and beyond.’*

Jon Opie, General Manager, Jerwood Charitable Foundation said: *‘It was a pleasure to be involved in the Take Five selection process this year, the standard of submissions from creative young musicians was exceptional. It shows the future of jazz is bright. Congratulations to the final eight, you absolutely deserve this opportunity and I know you will have an excellent experience with Serious.’*

Claire Gevaux, Creative Director, Help Musicians UK said: *‘Congratulations to each of the exceptional musicians chosen for their creativity, leadership and potential. Help Musicians UK is proud to support these individuals, all of whom have the potential to make a great contribution to the future of the jazz scene. Yet again this fantastic development programme will provide an invaluable opportunity for the musicians to interact and propel them to the next level of their career. We look forward to hearing more about the participants’ plans at the residency next year.’*

Claire Whitaker, Director, Serious said: *‘Serious is delighted to be able to announce another edition of Take Five, which has proved its worth and staying power as an incubator and developer of jazz talent in the UK. We would like once again to express our appreciation to the funders of this scheme – Jerwood Charitable Foundation, PRS for Music Foundation, Help Musicians UK and Arts Council England - who continue to support this vital work for the UK’s creative jazz musicians. We are also grateful to the individuals who support our talent development work via the Serious Trust.’*

Previous participants in **Take Five: UK** described the experience:

‘Taking part in Take 5 was really beneficial for me. It gave me an insight into how the music industry worked at various levels and has helped me considerably in developing ideas to push my career forward as a creative individual musician.’ - Elliot Galvin (Take Five edition XI)

‘Being part of Take Five has made a great impact on my life as a musician and composer. I had never received so much support and encouragement before, something I really needed at the time. The tools I received and the people I met through the process, have allowed me to engage with areas of the music industry of which I had been unaware. The programme inspired me to take more risks which has in turn helped to build a new confidence in myself as an artist.’ - Yazz Ahmed (Take Five edition VIII)

‘Take 5 was a chance to consider my music making from new perspectives, receive mentoring and guidance from established figures, to make connections with musicians from different backgrounds; and learn from sharing our respective approaches to the creative process/making work. The environment that Take 5 provided was both unique and inspiring - and have fond memories of the programme (despite this being just over thirteen years ago!).’ - Matthew Bourne (Take Five edition I)

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 and Serious, as well as Graham McKenzie (Director, hcmf//, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival), Steve Mead (Manchester Jazz Festival) and Soweto Kinch (composer, rapper, producer and saxophonist).

For further press information please contact Alex Webb at Serious talent.development2@serious.org.uk / +44 (0)20 7324 1880
serious.org.uk/what-we-do/work-with-artists/talent-development

For more information on Seriously Talented, Take Five or the organisations involved see:

jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org
prsformusicfoundation.com
artscouncil.org.uk
helpmusicians.org.uk
serious.org.uk/support-sponsorship/serious-trust
serious.org.uk

Notes for Editors:

1. **Seriously Talented** is a suite of talent development programmes produced by Serious. It includes: Take Five: UK, Take Five: Europe, Take Five: Switzerland, Air Time: Jazz CPD Scotland, Move On Up and Artistic Visionaries.
2. **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. jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org
3. PRS for Music Foundation is the UK's leading charitable funder of new music and talent development across all genres. Since 2000 PRS for Music Foundation has given more than £23.6 million to over 5,300 new music initiatives by awarding grants and leading partnership programmes that support music sector development. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRS for Music Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity – from composer residencies and commissions to festivals and showcases in the UK and overseas. prsformusicfoundation.com
4. **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. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. artscouncil.org.uk
5. **Help Musicians UK** is the country's leading independent charity for musicians at all stages of their career. Since 1921, we've helped thousands of musicians establish themselves in the music business, get through a serious crisis, cope with long term difficulties and enjoy retirement. As well as providing advice and guidance, we give financial and emotional support. helpmusicians.org.uk
6. **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 talent 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 24th edition in 2016. Our charity, Serious Trust, supports the development of the next generation of music greats and the creation of outstanding new music and inspiring opportunities to engage and learn. Every year, we rely on the support of various funders to help us deliver the range of programmes which sales and other grants alone do not cover. For more information: serious.org.uk/support-us, serious.org.uk, londonjazzfestival.org.uk

JERWOOD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Take Five



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



WE'RE
HERE TO
HELP
MUSICIANS^{UK}

SERIOUS trust

