



SERIOUS ANNOUNCES PARTICIPANTS OF FIFTEENTH EDITION OF TAKE FIVE PROGRAMME

Live music producers Serious are proud to announce the participants of the fifteenth edition of their prestigious talent development scheme *Take Five* – an annual programme that offers mentorship and opportunities to eight of the finest emerging jazz and improvising musicians from across the United Kingdom, funded by the PRS Foundation, Help Musicians, Arts Council England, Night Dreamer, Garrick Trust and Serious Trust.

Going back fifteen years, the programme has brought through the likes of Seb Rochford (of Polar Bear), Shabaka Hutchings (Sons of Kemet, The Comet is Coming), Yazz Ahmed, and Nubya Garcia – serving as a pivotal moment in their careers that led to wider recognition, touring, record deals, and more.

This year's eight participants are an eclectic group, demonstrating the vibrancy and variety of the UK's burgeoning jazz scene and offering a taste of what is to come from the genre in the coming years. They are:

- **Jasdeep Singh Degun** (sitar, voice)
- **Jelly Cleaver** (guitar, voice, producer)
- **Jemma Freese** (keyboards, piano, voice)
- **John Pope** (double bass, bass guitar)
- **Noemi Nuti** (voice, Paraguayan harp, flute, and more)
- **Rosie Turton** (trombone)
- **Sam Eagles** (saxophone)
- **Sarathy Korwar** (drums, tabla, percussion)

The scheme centres around a week-long residency that brings the artists together with music industry experts, giving them a chance to learn about the complexities of the business in an intimate setting, and offering them the chance to take some time out from their usual busy touring/recording schedules and step back and think about how to advance their music and careers. They also get to collaborate on a series of pieces that each of them arranges for the entire group, directed by the esteemed composer and saxophonist **Jason Yarde**.

Due to the complications around COVID-19, this year's residency has had to be postponed to early 2021, but the ongoing mentorship of the scheme continues apace, with Serious providing the artists with guidance and funding through what is an especially difficult time for all musicians.

This year's *Take Five* programme also marks the beginning of a new series of performances by the artists which are directly linked to their participation in the programme – taking the form of the inaugural "Take Five Showcase" as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival in November 2020. Other aspects of the scheme such as mentorship, funding and marketing

support will create further opportunities for the artists to reach a wider audience and gain a greater foothold in the rapidly evolving music industry.

For more information about the artists, you'll find their biographies below and on Serious' website here: <https://serious.org.uk/what-we-do/work-with-artists/edition-xv-2020>

To listen to each of the artists' music, check out this YouTube playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLVysr8RrgbqFHUdCS9uBD8bB htUTiMoB>

To find out more about Take Five, please visit our website here: <https://serious.org.uk/what-we-do/talent-development/take-five>

Joe Frankland, CEO of PRS Foundation said *'Take Five offers important opportunities at timely career stages and we're delighted to be supporting this latest edition. So many exciting and creative jazz musicians have benefitted from the programme including Shabaka Hutchings, Shirley Tetteh, Zara McFarlane, Peter Edwards and Laura Jurd to name a few. I look forward to seeing what these participants do next'*.

Lucy Bampton, Head of Creative Programme, Help Musicians said: *'We are delighted to once again support the Take Five programme and to play our part in offering the next generation of inspirational jazz artists a platform to develop their artistic and leadership skills. Help Musicians is committed to supporting musicians from all genres and walks of life, and with Take Five and 30 years of our Peter Whittingham Jazz Award, we hope to continue to contribute to helping jazz musicians find a way to thrive. This year has been, and continues to be, challenging for musicians but by working in collaboration to ensure initiatives such as this exist we can ensure there are development opportunities in the face of adversity.'*

Abel Selaocoe, musician and participant of Take Five Edition XIV said of the programme: *'Serious and Take Five have been so crucial in connecting me with those that can impart incredible musical knowledge and lend a hand in understanding all other aspects that make being on stage possible. All the while having a chance to sculpt a unique voice to show on some fantastic platforms.'*



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Take Five 2020 artist biographies

Jasdeep Singh Degun



Jasdeep Singh Degun is a British-born award-winning sitarist and composer. He has a well-rounded sense of musicality and sensitivity towards many different styles and genres of music from Indian Classical music to contemporary music. He has performed internationally in many productions and venues, including Buckingham Palace, the Amphitheatre in Doha, and the Royal Albert Hall at the 2014 BBC Proms.

Jelly Cleaver



Jelly Cleaver is a band leader, singer-songwriter, guitarist and producer based in South London. With an eclectic taste in music, Jelly is heavily involved in both the jazz and DIY/punk scenes in London. She has played in the live bands of a number of artists including Cherise Adams-Burnett, Loucin Moskofian, Katie Moberly, Kasia Konstance and Queen Colobus. In May 2019, Jelly released her latest album *The Dream Jazz Manifesto*.

Jemma Freese



Jemma Freese is a Leeds based keyboardist, vocalist and composer in several projects ranging from dark jazz, electronic, genre-fluid improv, experimental music and spoken word. Her projects include J Frisco, Freese Trio, DOMI, Eva Eik, Maximo Park and No Fixes Identity. Jemma also teaches vocals and piano/ keyboard at Leeds Music Academy and has done numerous jazz and improvisation workshops with Jazz North and BlueJam Arts in Penrith aimed at young females.

John Pope



John Pope is a bass player and composer based in the North East of England. He explores the boundaries and combinations of jazz, free improvisation, rock and experimental music. Pope's projects include John Pope Quintet, a chord-less quintet of Northern musicians; and an ongoing composition project developed during Sage Gateshead's 'Summer Studios' 2019. John is also co-leader of the avant-jazz trio CARTOON, and a founding member of award-winning garage-jazz band Archipelago, lead by Faye MacCalman (Take Five Edition XIV).

Noemi Nuti



Noemi Nuti is a London-based American and Italian jazz vocalist and harpist. Her music is characterised by a fusion of Mediterranean and metropolitan sounds. She recently released her second album *Venus Eye*, for which she has composed nine out of the eleven tracks and is both the lead vocals and harmonies singer and Paraguayan and classical harp player.

Rosie Turton



Rosie Turton is a trombonist and composer based in London. She is a part of *Nérija*, a 7-piece collective newly signed to Domino Records. From collaborating with jazz collectives *Where Pathways Meet* and *Steam Down*, to recording with *Jitwam* and *Hollie Cooke*, she has also performed with notable artists *Soweto Kinch*, *Jason Yarde*, *Sampa The Great* and *Gaika*. Last year she put together a group of her own and released her first EP, '*Rosie's 5ive*' on *Jazz Re:Freshed*, the release of which led her to be listed as 'One to watch 2019' by *The Guardian*.

Samuel Eagles



Samuel Eagles is a London-based saxophonist who places himself in many circles from Bebop to contemporary Jazz and from Afro beat to artistic alternative original music. In 2017 Eagles and his band SPIRIT won a special award at The Bucharest International Jazz Festival. Eagles's F-IRE debut album 'Next Beginning' was released in 2014 and his 2nd album, was released in 2017 on Whirlwind Records. Samuel is currently working on his next album which he plans to release later this year.

Sarathy Korwar



Sarathy Korwar was born in the US and grew up in Ahmedabad and Chennai in India. He moved to London where he trained as a classical tabla player, focusing on the adaptation of Indian classical rhythmic material to non-Indian percussion instruments. He is leading the UPAJ Collective. In July 2019, Korwar released his second studio album, More Arriving, through The Leaf Label, incorporating rappers from Mumbai and New Delhi, spoken word and his own Indian classical and jazz performances.