

SERIOUS

TAKE FIVE - EDITION V (2009)

**A Jerwood Charitable Foundation/PRS Foundation Initiative
with additional support from
Arts Council England and the Musicians Benevolent Fund**

Following four extremely successful editions, The Jerwood Charitable Foundation and the PRS Foundation for New Music (PRSF) are pleased to welcome additional support from Arts Council England and the Musicians Benevolent Fund, and to announce that international music producers Serious will produce the fifth edition of **Take Five** - a significant artist development scheme for emerging jazz musicians - which will be officially launched with a free public event on **Thursday 20 November at 6pm in the Fountain Room at the Barbican**.

The **Jerwood /PRS Foundation Take Five Initiative** 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. The scheme provides each artist with the special opportunity to discuss, explore and strengthen all aspects of their future careers. The eight creative jazz musicians selected this year are:

- John Burton (Leafcutter John) (electronics)
- Neil Charles (double bass)
- Nathaniel Facey (alto saxophone)
- Robin Fincker (clarinets and saxophones)
- Jim Hart (vibraphone and drums)
- Jasper Høiby (double bass)
- Chris Mapp (double bass)
- Natalie Williams (vocals)

'However you define jazz, there is a wealth of extremely talented musicians practising in the UK working within and on the edges of the world that is jazz. I am so proud that, with PRSF and Serious, we have found such a unique and uplifting way of finding them, and working with them, to help build their careers and get their music into the world.' (**Roanne Dods, Director Jerwood Charitable Foundation**)

The **Jerwood/PRS Foundation Take Five Initiative** will run from November 2008 to June 2009 and it comprises a number of sessions under the collective areas of Talk Time, Learning Time, Focus Time, Time Out and Creative Time. Each artist will benefit from one-to-one sessions to identify their particular areas of interest and need, as well as two residential periods exploring areas such as composition, studio technology, live producing and strategic direction. **Take Five** will also give participants access to mentoring and an opportunity to engage with those working in other art forms.

'The results of our five year investment in this scheme have surpassed our expectations. Many former "Take Fivers," have proved themselves as leading performers and creators; pushing the boundaries of the UK's increasingly vibrant jazz scene. Their feedback confirms that Take Five is unique in its offer of time, space and support for collaboration, creativity and business development. We are delighted that Arts Council England and the Musicians Benevolent Fund have joined us to secure the future of this scheme, allowing it to grow and thrive.' (**Vanessa Reed, Interim Director, PRS Foundation for New Music**)

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Previous participants in Take Five commented:

'It would have taken me years and a phenomenal amount of networking courses and self help books to have found out the pearls of wisdom I was showered with through the Take Five development scheme. I truly loved every second of it and have met so many incredible contacts and musicians who are now helping me on my way. The Take Five team were not only inspiring and incredible at their jobs, everyone was extremely personable and welcoming. I am so grateful for being given time and support to push my career forward as a performer and develop as a creative. Although in some ways I have broken my career down to build it back up, I am doing so focussing on exactly where I want to be as an artist and with the guidance to believe it is possible. Thank you!!!'
(Kirsty Almeida, 2008)

'The potential of sharing a safe environment with other aspiring jazz musicians where we can compare our musical journeys, modes of working and differing influences excites me, especially as I believe such dialogues often enhance learning, widen listening choices and music appreciation, increase experimentation and inspire the production of fresh sounds and new partnerships.' **(Arun Ghosh, 2008)**

'Every day, we've been turning up hungry for it. It's all stuff that we want to know. It's been so comprehensive. No stone unturned, nothing left unsaid. I feel that all the stuff we've been looking at – about promoters, about publishing, about managers, agents, PRs, all that stuff – it was really fuzzy and foggy for me before. Before, you're sitting there with your music, thinking 'I know I want this to be easier, better and I want to play to more people in more places' but your road to getting to that place is just really fuzzy and foggy. It literally now feels like it's floodlit. In a few days time, once the dust has settled, I'm going to be able to sit down and come up with a plan on how to implement these different things.' **(Chris Sharkey, 2008)**

A panel of industry experts contributed to the selection process, taking into account the following considerations for each participant: creativity, future potential, style of music, range of influences, geography, cultural background and distinctive contribution to the community. The panel included representatives from Jerwood Charitable Foundation, PRS Foundation and Serious, as well as David Francis (Senior Producer, CMN), Tom Cawley (composer and pianist) and Soweto Kinch (composer, saxophonist and MC).

**For further press information please contact Lucinda Hilbery at Serious
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Notes:

1. The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to responsible and imaginative funding of the visual and performing arts and other areas of human endeavour and excellence. It supports, among other things, the Jerwood Jazz Generation at Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Jerwood Commissions at the Wapping Project, and the Jerwood Directors at the Young Vic.
2. The PRS Foundation (PRSF) is the UK's largest independent funder purely for new music of any genre. Widely respected as a refreshingly approachable and adventurous funding body, the Foundation supports an amazing range of new music activity - from unsigned band showcases to composer residencies, from commissions for new music to experimental live electronica.
3. Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, Arts Council England supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2008 and 2011 Arts Council England will invest in excess of £1.6 billion of public money from the government and the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.
4. The Musicians Benevolent Fund was set up by musicians to help other musicians and their dependants in times of need. It provides confidential advice and financial support to British and Irish music professionals of all ages and from all areas of music. It also nurtures the next generation of musicians through awards to individuals and organisations. The MBF is totally independent and relies on donations and legacies to continue its essential work.
5. Serious is a London-based international producer of live jazz, world and new music. Responsible for producing a vast range of concerts, tours and special events (including the annual London Jazz Festival in association with BBC Radio 3), the company works with major concert venues and festivals in the UK and abroad to create a programme of innovative style and quality. Our projects range from large festivals to intimate clubs, from international tours to specially commissioned major events. We are also committed to learning and participation and artist and art form development.

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

www.jerwood.org
www.prsfoundation.co.uk
www.artscouncil.org.uk
www.mbf.org.uk
www.serious.org.uk

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