



Garioch Jazz Club

www.jazz-club.co.uk

Newsletter January **2009**

News from January 2009:- Happy New Year to all our Members

Welcome to the second part of our programme of the 2008/9 session and its hard to believe that it is now 12th January already and only 347 days till Christmas ?

Courtney Pine, who has been appointed a CBE in the New Year Honours, has been at the forefront of Britain's jazz scene for the past 20 years.

Best known as a saxophonist, he is in fact a multi-instrumentalist adept at the flute, bass clarinet and keyboards.

Influential jazz trumpeter **Freddie Hubbard** has died in Los Angeles, his manager has confirmed. The 70-year-old, who played with the likes of Herbie Hancock and Thelonious Monk, was regarded as one of the foremost hard-bop trumpeters in the US.

He won a Grammy in 1972 for crossover album *First Light*, which was recorded with Miles Davis' band members George Benson and Jack DeJohnette.

There is a group in Kemnay who will be providing Jazz entertainment on every 2nd Tuesday of the Month in the Village Hall.

The following information was received by me from Jazz Scotland and the Committee will be discussing how GJC can utilise this for the benefit of not only the Club but also you the members and will let you know in the next newsletter what the outcome is.

The First National Jazz Club for Scotland

In 2009 we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of **Jazz in Scotland** and we are delighted to announce a unique and innovative new initiative: **the first ever National Jazz Club for Scotland**.

This is an exciting new development for us and we are confident that this will be warmly welcomed by audiences, venues, musicians and jazz organisations. It is hoped that this scheme will stimulate the Scottish jazz scene, increasing audience numbers and general interest in jazz.

Membership will be free and members will receive a membership card and weekly emailed newsletters informing them about all the concerts & gigs that week as well as all the latest news. The weekly newsletters will also highlight the details being offered at participating venues.

If your venue (or promotion, or festival, or club etc) is involved, you will benefit from the high profile, targeted emails to our members and subscribers – reaching the people who go to see jazz in Scotland. There is no charge to participate, we simply hope you might be able to provide some benefit for the members by offering a discount or offer at your venue (or promotion). Some suggestions are listed below.

We will be also be upgrading our website (www.jazz-in-scotland.co.uk) and will include a downloadable magazine which will be free. Adverts in it will also be free with the most space allocated to ticketed events and festivals

The increased space will allow us to invite venues, jazz musicians and promoters to contribute their own content to the magazine. We hope this can become a valuable resource to support jazz venues and promoters and to help develop new jazz projects, as well as providing a valuable resource to the public.

One of the biggest difficulties in promoting jazz, is the cost of advertising and publicity. This downloadable magazine and membership scheme should address this problem and is offered entirely free.

We hope you will be able to support this endeavour. We are sure this will stimulate loyalty from regulars, as well as encouraging others to come to your venue or jazz course etc.

Venues offering discounts to members will receive the added benefit of highlighted listings to attract members to their venue. People generally like to be part of a club and it tends to stimulate interest, loyalty and attendance.

This also coincides with our involvement in the first [Scottish Jazz Awards](#) (with the awards ceremony hosted by the Glasgow International Jazz Festival in June 2009).

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries or questions you may have. We hope you will like to be involved and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely
Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer

November Concert Review:- The Band booked for the November concert was originally Four on Six (Pat Strachan) which has split up and it is disappointing when a Band which is booked has to cancel for whatever reason and we were just pleased to get another band at fairly short notice.

We need not have worried because Aberdeen Jazz Orchestra were fabulous from the very start to the encore finish. Their style is mainly Count Basie and Maynard Ferguson. Sadly I missed their opening number but their 2nd one was a cracking Samba, "Orilla Del Mar" featuring Sandy Nicol on the Bongos its when I hear music played like that that I wished I could dance properly.

Then on through "The Way We Were", " This Bass Was Made For Walking" They then moved on to play the Neil Hefty arrangement of the Count Basie classic " Cute", " Gospel John" " Favourite Things" from Sound Of Music and then on to " Blue Birdland"

The Band were extremely enthusiastic and were obviously enjoying what they were playing and it showed.

I think my favourite was the John Labarbera "Bluff Point"

We were then treated to a surprise guest Dan Greivie singing the Rat Pack songs. This included Lady is a Tramp, Come Fly with Me, Somewhere Beyond the Sea and a Nat King Cole Song , "Unforgettable". He also belted out New York New York, Mack the Knife and did a great Mr Baujangles a truly professional performance and a local lad as well. It was great to see so many of the Orchestra were young people as well because that is the future for not only Jazz but all live music, well done to all the musicians. The solos came thick and fast (too fast for me to write down) but everyone enjoyed a truly big band experience.

Next Concert 23rd January

Phil Masons New Orleans All Stars

Featuring

Christine Tyrell

Review by Brian Harvey of 'Once In A While' by Phil Mason

"For several years this band was my favourite on the club circuit. I would drive for miles to hear them. Then I felt that they lost their 'edge', their bite and zest. Now, however - having to my mind come through that period - they are back, much improved and more mature. There is a more relaxed feel to their generation of heat and excitement, where before this was, to me, becoming just frenetic. Now the band seems more musical, more at peace with itself and therefore better able to allow its performers to express themselves.

Now bear in mind that this may all be down to purely my personal taste - but as someone who has sat through countless club sessions by the band, it's my considered and very enthusiastic opinion. By the latter statement I mean that this to me is probably best 'club' band in Europe. They are the most exciting - the most able to generate the sort of heat that used to be the sole province of the bands of Chris Barber and Ken Colyer. And the soloists now stand out better - Roger Myerscough is one of the finest clarinetists we've ever had; few understand the New Orleans role of the trombone better than Micky Cooke; 'Gentleman' Jim McIntosh on banjo and Trefor 'Fingers' Williams on bass are superlative and add huge character and understanding of the dynamics of the music, whilst 'new' drummer Laurie Chescoe is one of the most experienced in the world. And vocalist Christine Tyrrell is in a brilliant class of her own - gentle - subtle - wistful at times - she brings a rare warm sensitivity to 'our' music. She's superb.

Oh - yes - and there's the cornet player. What more can I say other than he's unique - that rare thing in jazz - a superbly gifted man with a sound that's instantly recognisable - he's also a fine soloist and a great leader. So my verdict is that this is a very fine Phil Mason album - one well worth spending time with."

Brian Harvey

That is a review I came across of The Phil Mason Band. The band has always been a favourite of the Garioch Jazz Club and has been a regular on our programme for a lot of years. So here's hoping for a great turnout to start off 2009 with a bang

What's On

Remember this is a two way street and when you know of any Concerts, Gigs, Performances or Programmes which you think our membership would enjoy then let me know either by email, post or just speak to me at the Jazz Club.

- 1) My favourite at the present is Radio Scotland's Jazz House on Wednesday Nights at 8.05. if you have a computer you can listen to it at anytime. Just type in Radio Scotland Jazz House on your internet search.
- 2) Malcolm Laycock has a programme on Sunday at 10pm and the selection is very traditional and well worth a listen
- 3) Radio 3 has Alyn Shipton is on Friday at 22.30.
- 4) Jazz on 3 also has The Jazz Library with Jez Nelson on at a late 23.30 on Fridays.
- 5) Jazz Line Up is also on Radio 3 and unfortunately is on very late 11.30 on Sunday till 1am Mondays so one for all the insomniacs Mostly modern Jazz but depending on my mood and what I'm drinking,(best with a Speyside Malt such as Glen Moray)

These are the most popular Jazz Shows on BBC and are free to listen to on the radio when they are broadcast or on the BBC website.

- 6) Sky TV has a programme dedicated to Jazz 20 hours a day and you can find it on channel 0113
- 7) ACCUJAZZ is an American Jazz radio Station which is available on your computer and can be fine tuned to your tastes.

8) One of my other favourites is JazzFM.com which is only available on the computer and you have to register and give name, address and email address so you need to decide if its something you want to do but the play list is very varied and I've heard some really good old stuff on there.

9) If you really want to get the best from your computer look at this website. Its called "finetune" And once you are into the website you can select an artist by just typing in the name and you can then select your favourite tracks by name, it also then advises you on other associated artists of the same genre. E.g. type in Oscar Peterson and it suggests Art Tatum, Thelonious Monk, Dave Brubeck and Duke Ellington. You can set up a play list of your favourites, although I found this a bit fiddly.

Memberships: £12 for session (first concert free and £1 off subsequent concerts)

Tickets: on the door at £10 (non-members), £9 (members and concessions), £3 (students and juniors).

And now to **The History of Jazz**

If you Remember last months Newsletter I started with a brief description of the "Dixieland" style of Jazz. This month it is the turn of:-

The Big Band

The Wikipedia definition of Big Bands is as follows:- In contrast to smaller jazz combos, in which most of the music is improvised, or created spontaneously, music played by big bands is highly "arranged", or prepared in advance and notated on sheet music. The music is traditionally called 'charts'. Improvised solos may be played only when called for by the arranger.

Big Band refers to a Jazz group of 10 or more musicians usually featuring at least 3 trumpets, two or more trombones, four or more saxophones and a rhythm section of accompanists playing some combination of piano, guitar, bass and drums.

"Big Band" music as a concept for music fans is identified most with the "swing era, though there were large, jazz-orientated dance bands before the swing era of the 1930s and 1940s and large jazz-orientated concert bands after the 1930/40s. Unfortunately the music stores lump all the Big Bands under one genre with their marketers overlooking the vastly different kind of jazz that large groups performed for example: **Swing (Duke Ellington, Count Basie) Bebop (Dizzie Gillespie) Hard Bop (Gerald Wilson) Cool (Gerry Mulligan, Shorty Rogers and Gil Evans) Free Jazz (some of Sun Ra's work after the 1950s)** and jazz-rock fusion (Maynard Ferguson and Don Ellis) not all of these are swing bands but they were all Big Bands.

Another consideration that journalists and jazz fans draw is the distinction between bands that conveyed the most hard driving rhythmic qualities with frequent solo improvisations such as Count Basie and Duke Ellington and the later "Sweet Bands" such as Glen Miller, The Dorsey Brothers, Guy Lombardo. Our experience of Big Bands at Garioch Jazz Club was our last concert when we were entertained by The Aberdeen Jazz Orchestra and last year when we enjoyed "Fat Sam's" band.

NB The reference to Big Bands in the book I am using "All Music Guide to Jazz" is an American Publication last printed in 1998 so some of the artists are not so well known to us but the general content gives us a good feel for the subject.

Regards

Ian Crighton

The aim of the Garioch Jazz Club Committee is to ensure that you the Members and our Visitors enjoy the Programmes every month and to that end we would appreciate any feedback you may have. Please either speak to me or any members of the committee at the events, email me personally ian.crighton@tiscali.co.uk or drop me a line at Ian Crighton, Oatlands, Leschangie, Kemnay, Inverurie AB51 5PP

Ian Crighton Joint Secretary

