Jazz Services

PRESS RELEASE

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Zoe Schwarz Blue Commotion

The above band has received a Jazz Services National Touring Support Scheme grant for their new tour.

Line-up:

Zoe Schwarz – vocals
Rob Koral – guitar
Gareth Williams - piano
Steve Thompson – double bass
Paul Robinson – drums

Zoe Schwarz's all-star band, Blue Commotion, leans its weight on the blues side of Jazz. After eight years of playing together, it was a natural progression, as musical partnership, Rob Koral and Zoe Schwarz honed into what suits them best. It is very much jazz, with a traditional line-up making sure retaining the jazz sensibility they love whilst delving into the blues archives of songs. Earthy originals complement songs by Willie Dixon, Muddy Water, Nina Simone and Ray Charles. Described as 'a world class band', Blue Commotion tour the UK in April and May.

www.zoeschwarz.info

Zoe Schwarz was classically trained and a graduate in the 'Performing Arts' from Middlesex University. Despite Zoë's classical upbringing and studies, it soon became clear that her forte was far more suited to jazz, expressive ballads and blues. It was only three years after her first jazz gig that Zoë made her debut at Ronnie Scott's playing a week opposite Monty Alexander.

She has performed with an extraordinarily wide range of musicians including Harrison Birtwistle, Emma Kirkby, Scott Stroman and Keith Tippett.

Rob Koral comes from a 'self-taught', more bluesy background; but subsequently made his name on the British jazz scene, performing and recording with the likes of Malcolm Creese, Robin Aspland, Gareth Williams, Roy Babbington, Lawrence Cottle, Django Bates and Bill Bruford. Rob moved to London early in his career and released several well-received albums, appeared on the Old Grey Whistle test and many BBC radio Jazz sessions. Rob has played at all major jazz venues and festivals and recent solo album 'Grace Notes' was featured on Radio 3's Jazz Line Up.
www.robkoral.co.uk

Gareth Williams is one of the most intensely creative, dynamic and exciting pianists on the UK scene. He studied music at London's Guildhall, initially on guitar, later switching to piano. As well as his own power trio, Gareth has worked with many a great jazz name including working as pianist/MD for internationally acclaimed jazz singer Claire Martin. Williams was described by Dave Gelly, in The Observer as *"a hugely gifted pianist, with an apparently endless fund of ideas, plus the detachment to organize them into coherent shapes".*
www.garethwilliams.biz

Double bassist, Steve Thompson's colourful career, which has included stand up comedy and crooner, started on electric bass with a punk band in Brighton, up until ten minutes before the recording started he'd never played bass or any other instrument before. As well as sharing the stage with such blues luminaries as Luther Allison, he has also played with musicians such as Spike Wells, Martin Drew, Jim Mullen, Nigel Price, Matt Wates, Alan Barnes and many other great players.

Drummer Paul Robinson started a working relationship with Nina Simone, when he depped for Martin Drew at Ronnie Scotts in 1984, that subsequently lasted 19 years. In addition to his extensive work with Nina, Robinson has recorded and toured with Van Morrison
www.paulrobinsondrummeronline.com

Reviews:

"A world class band" - Propaganda Magazine

"Over the past five or six years a quiet revolution, or rather evolution, has been taking place on the south coast of England. The rise of Blue Commotion is nothing short of phenomenal, with all six musicians contributing to high quality, original and inventive jazz and blues music." - The Bishop, Blues Matters

Date	Time	Venue	Town	Box office
06-04-2012	8.00pm	Bridport Arts Centre, South Street, DT6 3NR	Bridport	01308 424204
09-04-2012	8.30pm	Clifford Arms, 34 Fore Street, TQ14 0DE	Shaldon	01626 872311
13-04-2012	8.00pm	Ye Olde George Inn, 2A Castle Street, BH23 1DT	Christchurch	01202 479383
15-04-2012	7.00pm	California Social Club, 195 Foxhall Road, IP3 8LB	Ipswich	01473 231552 (Ipswich Jazz Club)
17-04-2012	8.30pm	Hare & Hounds, 81 Portland Road, BN11 1QG	Worthing	01903 230085
02-05-2012	8.30pm	Lescar Hotel, 303 Sharowvale Road, S11 8ZF	Sheffield	0114 2367570 (jazz info)
13-05-2012	midday	Pizza Express Jazz Club, 10 Dean Street, W1D 3RW	London	08456 027017
15-05-2012	9.00pm	Dempsey's, Castle Street, CF10 1BS	Cardiff	029 2049 6802 (Jazz at Dempsey's)
17-05-2012	7.30pm	Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, 56 East Street, PO9 1BS	Havant	02392 472700
22-05-2012	8.30pm	Marlow Royal British Legion, Station Approach, SL7 1NS	Marlow	01628 486571 (Marlow Jazz Club)
25-05-2012	12.30pm	Spice of Life, 6 Moor Street, Soho, W1D 5NA	London	020 7739 3025
31-05-2012		Hideaway, 2 Empire Mews, Streatham, SW16 2ED	London	020 8835 7070
18-06-2012	8.30pm	Soul Cellar, 78 West Marlands Road, SO14 7FW	Southampton	02380 710648
21-06-2012	8.30pm	Blue Boar, 29 Market Close, BH15 1NE	Poole	01202 682247

END

Notes to the editor:

Jazz Services

Jazz Services provides a voice and support for UK Jazz; promoting its growth, accessibility and development in the UK and abroad. Services include advice, advocacy, communications, education, information, marketing, publishing, research and touring. Jazz Services is recognised as a committed campaigner providing a valued voice for jazz in the UK. Jazz Services publishes Jazz UK, a listings magazine with a print run of 30,000 that is distributed by subscription and free through venues, colleges, libraries and shops.

Jazz Services works closely with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO), which is an autonomous body that receives its Arts Council England funding through Jazz Services. NYJO also receives funds from private donors, Youth Music and the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. Every year NYJO organizes over 100 open workshops for jazz musicians up to the age of 25 and more than 40 concerts.

Jazz Services gratefully acknowledges the support of Arts Council England and also the Performing Right Society for Music Foundation for their support on the Jazz Promoters Award Scheme.

For further information, contact Chris Hodgkins
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