

**Jazz Services**

## **PRESS RELEASE**



**Jazz Services Limited**  
First Floor  
132 Southwark Street  
London SE1 0SW  
tel **020 7928 9089**  
fax **020 7401 6870**  
admin@jazzservices.org.uk  
www.jazzservices.org.uk

### **Ma**

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

#### **Line-up:**

Tom Challenger - saxophone  
Dave Smith – drums  
Ross Stanley – organ  
Matt Calvert - electronics

Initially a trio, Ma started out playing a hybrid of jazz/improv/rock/psychedelica, as heard on debut album, 'Jyketie'. Ma's integration of live electronic processing into their live sets came through collaboration with Brit-improv legend Steve Arguelles on laptop. After a successful Mini-UK tour, the continuation of this expanded line-up was sought, and a more permanent member was found in old friend, Matt Calvert. With his inclusion and the whole group being processed through his set up, the size of Ma's sound expanded to include – alongside more dubby elements and beats – sonic explorations of soundscapes that defy the size of the group. 'The Last' was produced and mixed by Calvert. The album was released 'Loop Records' to critical acclaim. Since the recording, Ma have already been developing new material, the latest of which has included 2 auxiliary percussionists for live shows, and experimenting in smaller formations. They have recently taken part in various festivals including the Polyamory Sound festival in Vienna, and also the London and Greenwich Jazz Festivals.

Tom Challenger graduated with a first class honours degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. A member of the Loop Collective, he has helped to organise the annual Loop Festival and also set up the Loop Records 'subsidiary', Mini Loop. With Ma, a debut album ('Jyketie') was released in 2008, and first UK tour saw collaboration with drummer/sound manipulator Steve Arguelles. Matt Calvert joined Ma in 2009, releasing their latest album 'The Last', to critical acclaim. Tom is a member of Loop Collective band, Outhouse. Outhouse, have been broadcast on Radio 3 and WDR radio. Additionally they have toured the UK and Europe and released the album 'Straw, Sticks and Bricks' (Babel Label). Outhouse, also work as 'Outhouse Ruhabi', a collaboration with Wolof Drummers from The Gambia and Senegal. Tom is also a member of Trip Hop and Electronica pioneers, Red Snapper. Additionally, Tom also pursues an ongoing project called 'La Ferme' - a series of duos and solo performances. Tom can be heard performing as a sideman in varied situations; from Bruno Heinen's 'Tierkreis'; to Porpoise Corpus; to the Hannes Riepler Quintet. He has performed and collaborated with an array of musicians including Michael Garrick, John Taylor, Lol Coxhill, The Herbaliser, Plaid and The Bays. As an educator, he has taught at the GSMD since 2007, and leads numerous ensembles in the London boroughs of Camden and Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Matt Calvert is a Guitarist/Composer/Electronic Musician/Producer. Aside from Ma, He can also be heard with Three Trapped Tigers and his own project Evil Ex - both have released new records in 2011 to critical acclaim. He continues to explore other avenues - expect more music to be available soon.

Dave Smith is one of the finest young drummers on the British jazz scene. Drawing on a wide range of influences, from West African percussion to classic jazz drumming, his explosive style and musical sensitivity give him the versatility to play in many musical environments. Dave is best known for his work co-leading

Outhouse, a Loop Collective group. Additionally Dave leads Outhouse Ruhabi. They showcased their new music in May 2008 at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, recorded for BBC Radio 3 and made an album that was released as part of a 15-date UK tour in October 2009. Aside from Ma and other projects, Dave performs with Mark Lockheart's 'In deep', Iness Mezel, Justin Adams & Juldeh Camara and has worked with international artists such as Donny McCaslin, Ralph Alessi, Eddie Henderson, and Ingrid Jensson.

Ross Stanley is possibly the hardest working Organist in UK jazz right now. Alongside Ma, he works extensively with Steve Howe, Gareth Lockrane's Grooveyard, Dennis Rollins and Tom Jones. Aside from being an accomplished Jazz Organist, Ross is also a precocious classical and jazz pianist.

**Reviews:**

*"...a remarkably atmospheric album, reminiscent of everything from Bill Laswell's production work on classic Miles Davis tracks to AMM, from Tony Williams's Lifetime to Scandinavian ambient, abstract-funk investigations"* - John Fordham, The Guardian

*"...Challenger.... Has [been] developing a language for his band that will allow open-minded improvisors to engage with the world of contemporary post-dub electronica. Matt Calvert handles the latter part, sampling, treating and filtering elements of Challenger's brooding, fragmented sax melodies, Ross Stanley's Messiaen-like washes of organ and Fender Rhodes and Outhouse's Dave Smith's elliptical, sabar-influenced broken grooves with subtle invention".* - Selwyn Harris, Jazzwise

*"...The Last is satisfyingly varied in mood and oddly compelling, richly rewarding repeated listenings, each of which reveals unexpected joys".* - Chris Parker

Date	Time	Venue	Town	Box office
10-04-2012		The Amersham Arms, 388 New Cross Road, SE14 5BY	London	020 7732 8493
10-05-2012		Vortex Jazz Club, Dalston Culture House, 11 Gillett Square, N16 8AZ	London	020 7254 4097
11-05-2012	8.00pm	Fox & Newt, 9 Burley Street, LS3 1LD	Leeds	0113 2454505
12-05-2012		Bongo Club, 37 Holyrood Rod, EH8 8BA	Edinburgh	0131 5587604
17-05-2012		Nottingham Contemporary, Weekday Cross, NG1 2GB	Nottingham	0115 9489750
19-06-2012		Sandbar, 120 Grosvenor Street, All Saints, M1 7HL	Manchester	0161 2733141

**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  
**Jazz Services, 132 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SW**  
**TEL: 020 7928 9089 Email: [admin@jazzservices.org.uk](mailto:admin@jazzservices.org.uk)**

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w: [www.jazzservices.org.uk](http://www.jazzservices.org.uk)

