PRESS RELEASE

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Moss Project

National Touring

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

Moss Freed - guitar

Ruth Goller - bass

Joshua Blackmore - drums

Alice Zawadzki - vocals/violin

Moss Freed formed The Moss Project whilst studying composition and performance at the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, to provide a platform for progressive and exciting new music. On returning to his hometown of Manchester, he created a group there under the same name, who quickly established a monthly residency at Matt & Phred's Jazz Club. Their debut album, Vision, was released in 2009 on Apsara. The album won much critical praise, being described as "a real achievement" by Bill Bruford and as "a fascinating and hypnotically satisfying album which demands repeated plays" by All About Jazz.

The band have performed regularly in the UK and Europe over the past three years, including the London Jazz Festival and Manchester International Jazz Festival and have completed several tours in the UK and Germany. They have also achieved radio play on Jazz FM, BBC Manchester and ALL FM.

In September 2009, Moss made the move to London and quickly established himself as part of the thriving jazz scene. A new quartet evolved and now features several of the UK's rising stars such as Acoustic Ladyland's Ruth Goller, drummer Joshua Blackmore (Troyka/Curios) and vocalist/violinist, Alice Zawadzki. In addition to their Jazz Services supported UK tour, the quartet are embarking on a German tour in 2011 and plan to record a new album in June.

Moss Freed was born in Manchester and took up the guitar aged eleven. He graduated with a First Class Honours degree in music from Edinburgh University in 2004 and was awarded scholarships from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, the Bucher/Fraser Trust and the Berklee World Scholarship Tour to study at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he attained a GPA of 4.0 and a place on the Dean's List. Moss has performed as a guitarist and had classical works performed around the world, with radio play including Jazz FM and BBC6 Music. He is an active music educator, lecturing in harmony and composition at Salford University, examining for the Rockschool exam board and teaching guitar.

Alice Zawadzki is a jazz vocalist, violinist and composer, currently studying for an MA in Jazz Singing and Composition at the Royal Academy of Music, London. In 2004, she began violin studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she won the Hilda Collens Prize. Alice has performed around the world with highlights including Ronnie Scott's, the Taipei International Jazz Festival and the Royal Variety Show. She recently recorded as featured vocal soloist at Abbey Road for the forthcoming Disney film Big Cats and runs her own band, Jews Vikings and Polaks. Her mentors include Jacqui Dankworth and Norma Winstone and she holds teaching posts with Salford University and Aim Higher (RNCM). Alice was part of the Scottish Arts Council's 2008 Emerging Artists Residency and is a recipient of the Musicians Benevolent Fund Postgraduate Performance Award.

Ruth Goller, originally from Bressanone, Italy, has been playing bass guitar and double bass in the UK for 10 years. After studying at Middlesex University, she is now based in London, performing regularly with leading UK bands Acoustic Ladyland, Oriole and Pat Walden's (Babyshambles) Big Dave. She also plays with world-renowned French pianist and composer Bojan Z with whom she has recorded an album. She has performed throughout Europe, North Africa and South America and most leading venues in the UK and has recently founded her own band, Big Cat (featuring Kit Downes, Seb Rochford and James Allsopp), who performed at the 2010 London Jazz Festival.

Joshua Blackmore grew up in Derbyshire and studied at Birmingham Conservatoire Junior School and the Royal Academy of Music Junior Jazz department before enrolling on the latter's jazz degree programme. He graduated in 2008 with First Class Honours, having studied with Martin France and been awarded his L.R.A.M. and the Benjamin Doniger Prize. Joshua currently plays with '2008 BBC Radio 3 Jazz Line up Best Band Award' winners, Curios, and is co-founder of Troyka ("Ones to watch out for" - Jazzwise). He has supported the likes of Wayne Shorter and Polar Bear, performing throughout the UK and Europe including the North Sea and London Jazz Festivals. Joshua formed the Floating Points Ensemble in 2009, with whom he has recorded a BBC Radio 1 Gilles Peterson feature at Maida Vale studios and has recorded in the USA with Seamus Blake. He is endorsed by Sonor Drums, Bosphorus Cymbals and Roland UK.

http://www.myspace.com/themosssextet

Tour dates are:

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TOWN	BOX OFFICE	WEB
19/04/2011	8.00pm	Sandbar	Manchester	0161 2733141	
20/04/2011	9.00pm	Lescar Hotel	Sheffield	0114 2367570 (jazz info)	
21/04/2011	9.00pm	Yardbird	Birmingham	0121 2122524	
22/04/2011	8.30pm	Matt & Phred's Jazz Club	Manchester	0161 831 7002	
23/04/2011	8.45pm	Zeffirellis	Ambleside	01539 433845	http://www.zeffirellis.co.uk
24/04/2011	9.00pm	Jazz Bar	Edinburgh	0131 220 4298	
25/04/2011	8.30pm	Vortex Jazz Club	London	020 7254 4097	http://www.vortexjazz.co.uk

Reviews:

"Exciting guitarist Moss Freed leads his Radiohead-tinged outfit through moody, cinematic sounds that blur the lines between folk, rock and jazz with imagination and flair." – Time Out

"There's a freshness, a spaciousness to this band...that is very attractive...The Moss Project will appeal to a range of audiences, from proggy Porcupine Tree to Metheny acolytes, from Radiohead, even to Joe Pass fans." – Jazzwise

"Vision is the only word for music of this much creativity, boldness and expansiveness...A record of endless fascination and immediate accessibility" - Manchester Evening News

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