



## PRESS RELEASE

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Jazz Services Limited  
First Floor, 132 Southwark Street  
London SE1 0SW

tel 020 7928 9089  
fax 020 7401 6870  
email [touring@jazzservices.org.uk](mailto:touring@jazzservices.org.uk)  
internet [www.jazzservices.org.uk](http://www.jazzservices.org.uk)

## HAQ

### *National Touring*

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

Sam Andreae - saxophone

Anton Hunter - guitar

Eero Tikkanen - bass

Finlay Panter - drums

HAQ (the Hunter/Andreae Quartet) came about as a vehicle for exploring Sam and Anton's compositions, whilst maintaining their love of playing freely in the moment. The group has evolved from this initial idea to a point where each member contributes compositions, and each player's very personal approach to the music is equally important. Freedom is very much a central aspect of HAQ's music - using written material to inform and inspire collective improvisations, the band creates a genuine and fresh performance at each concert. Their 2011 Jazz Services supported UK tour will promote their new album, released on Efpi Records, and will be followed by tours in mainland Europe later in the year.

Sam Andreae is a musician and composer working mainly in areas aesthetically linked to improvised music. He studied for a Bachelors degree in classical saxophone at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester (UK) and graduated in 2008. Following this he focused more closely on improvisation, firstly through the jazz idiom, and then through freely improvised music. Sam is busy performing across Europe, with recent bookings in the UK, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Estonia.

Anton Hunter originally studied physics, but music quickly took over his life and, since graduating 5 years ago, he has been playing across the UK with a number of different jazz and improvised music groups. He runs improvisation nights in Manchester and recently studied on the prestigious SIM course in Brooklyn, New York.

Finlay Panter is one of the most in-demand young drummers from Manchester. Having toured Germany several times he has recently begun to split his time between Berlin and his home city. He has toured the UK and abroad with The Moss Sextet, Beats and Pieces Big Band and HAQ.

Eero Tikkanen is active on the Helsinki scene with groups spanning several genres, and has played at many of Finland's major festivals and further afield. One of his groups, Auteur Jazz, was nominated for 'Jazz Album of The Year' at the 2010 EMMA awards.

Efpi Records is an umbrella term for a community of musicians based in Manchester who came together, partly in Ben Cottrell's Beats & Pieces Big Band, but also in weekly practice sessions where different techniques are regularly explored alongside approaches to playing 'freely'. The impact these sessions have had on the musicians is undeniable. In the past 12 months, Efpi artists have been on UK tours, and enjoyed radio play on BBC Jazz on 3, Jazz FM and several local stations. The organisation has also promoted Manchester gigs for established touring artist such as Led Bib and Ingrid Laubrock, and recently, Efpi Records were invited to a F-IRE Collective run conference of musician-run jazz collectives in the UK. Doing all this under one banner means an infrastructure

is in place to give live and recorded original music a platform, both in Manchester and further afield, and successes for one group directly impact on the other musicians in a very positive way.

<http://www.myspace.com/antonhuntermusic>

<http://www.myspace.com/samandreae>

**Tour dates are:**

DATE	TIME	VENUE	TOWN	BOX OFFICE	WEB
22/02/2011	8.00pm	The Wardrobe	Leeds	0113 3838800	
23/02/2011	8.00pm	Tin Angel	Coventry	024 7655 9958	
24/02/2011	8.30pm	Yardbird	Birmingham	0121 2122524	
25/02/2011	8.00pm	Nottingham Contemporary - Cafe.Bar.Live	Nottingham	0115 9489750	
27/02/2011	7.30pm	Bridge Hotel	Newcastle upon Tyne	0191 2326400	<a href="http://www.jazzaction.co.uk">http://www.jazzaction.co.uk</a>
01/03/2011	8.00pm	Forge & Caponata Restaurant	London	020 7387 5959	
02/03/2011	8.30pm	Lescar Hotel	Sheffield	0114 2367570 (jazz info)	
03/03/2011	9.30pm	Matt & Phred's Jazz Club	Manchester	0161 831 7002	

**Reviews:**

“ The ‘Manchester Jazz Festival Introduces’ slot in the festival’s pavilion yielded some of the best free music of the event including...the Hunter/Andreae Quartet whose forward thinking approaches bowled over the afternoon crowds” - Jazzwise

“...vivid, bristling with ideas.” – Manchester evening News

“Guitarist Anton Hunter and sax player Sam Andreae weave beautiful melodies that create a real sense of story-telling” – Tasty Fanzine



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