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

PRESS RELEASE

Sarah Ellen Hughes Quartet

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

Band line-up

Sarah Ellen Hughes – vocals

London band:

Rick Simpson – piano
Tom Farmer/Alun Vaughan – bass
Darren Altman – drums

Northern band:

Dan Whieldon – piano
Gavin Barras – bass
Dave Walsh – drums

[This tour features two different bands. For dates in the North West of England and Yorkshire, it will feature the Northern band and for all other dates the London band will be performing.]

The Sarah Ellen Hughes Quartet embarks on an extensive Jazz Services supported UK tour to promote their new album The Story So Far. The title track of this recording features a collaboration with top UK saxophonist Dave O'Higgins and the album showcases Sarah's love for vocal harmony, both in her own compositions and in arrangements of popular jazz standards.

Award-winning vocalist Sarah Ellen Hughes began her career with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, with whom she was lead vocalist from 2005-2008. Since then she has earned many accolades, such as winning the 2010 International Jazz Singing Competition, 'Jazz Voices', held in Lithuania. In 2011, she was selected as a semi-finalist for the Montreux Jazz Festival voice competition where she performed in front of Quincy Jones. Sarah has appeared at many of the UK's top jazz venues including Ronnie Scott's, Pizza Express Dean Street, the 606 Club, Wakefield Jazz Club and Marlborough Jazz Festival.

London band:

London-based pianist Rick Simpson won a Yamaha Scholarship Prize for Outstanding Jazz Musicians in 2008 and is a graduate of Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He leads his own group playing original jazz and has performed with musicians such as Martin Speake, Stan Sulzmann, Alan Barnes, Paul Booth, Phil Donkin, Zhenya Strigalev and at Ronnie Scott's with actor Kevin Spacey. He performs regularly at the 606 Club, Pizza Express Dean Street, The Vortex, The Bull's Head and larger venues such as the Royal Festival Hall and the Purcell Room.

Tom Farmer is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied bass with Steve Watts and Colin Paris (LSO), and has since become one of the most in-demand young bass players in the country. He is most renowned for his work with the award-winning band Empirical and has played all over the world including at Newport Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival and the

Bimhuis (Amsterdam). He has also supported such renowned artists as John Scofield, Joshua Redman and Kurt Rosenwinkel.

Based in South Wales, Alun Vaughan started off playing in rock and metal bands and in the early 90's he joined Nothing Personal, a jazz-rock 5-piece. Through this band, Alun met jazz pianist Dave Cottle (Swansea Jazzland), a connection which led to Alun performing with some of the finest players on the UK jazz scene and backing visiting musicians from Europe and the US. Alun is a tutor on Steve Waterman's annual big band jazz course, performs solo bass shows, runs an instructional website, Bassbook, and writes material for education sites.

Darren Altman studied jazz at Leeds College of Music, and settled into the London scene whilst studying for a graduate diploma in jazz at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He spent three years with NYJO and recorded numerous albums with the band. Darren has worked with Sax Appeal, Clare Teal, Will Young, Gareth Gates, the Pop Idol Big Band, Laurence Cottle, Jim Mullen, Anita Wardell, the London Jazz Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Big Band, and Alan Barnes. He co-leads Centre-Line, a jazz quintet with Russell van den Berg.

Northern band:

Dan Whieldon studied classical piano at the Birmingham Conservatoire and jazz at the Royal Conservatoire, Brussels, graduating with a Masters in Jazz with distinction. In 2004 he moved to Manchester, and in 2007 his trio released its first album, Live at Zeffirelli's, which received positive reviews and airplay on BBC Radio 2. He has played with Alan Barnes, Bobby Wellins, Art Themen, Tim Garland, Simon Spillett, Steve Waterman, Jiggs Whigham, Marlene VerPlanck, Tina May and Lee Gibson. In July 2008, Dan was winner of the Nottingham National Jazz Piano Competition.

Gavin Barras graduated from Manchester University in 2002. Since then he has performed and recorded with local and national jazz players including Stuart McCallum, Neil Yates and Soweto Kinch. Gavin has performed at the Bridgewater Hall, Wigan International Jazz Festival (supporting Paquito D'Rivera) and the Edinburgh International Festival. He plays regularly on the Manchester and London jazz circuits, where he regularly performs at Ronnie Scott's with the Matt Halsall Quartet.

Dave Walsh trained in classical percussion at Chetham's School of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and has since worked with some of the country's premier jazz ensembles. At the age of 15, Dave won the National Music for Youth competition, leading to performances at the Royal Albert Hall and Southbank Centre. As at home with rock, drum & bass and pop as he is with jazz, Dave has had the opportunity to work with some of the UK's best musicians.

www.sarahellenhughes.co.uk

Reviews:

"An astonishingly assured singer" - Sebastian Scotney (LondonJazz)

"Wonderful… classy… well worth checking out" – Jazzwise

"A talent to look out for" – Jazz Journal

Date	Time	Venue	Town	Box office
23/9/2011	8.00pm	Ilminster Arts Centre at the Meeting House	Ilminster	01460 54973
24/9/2011	8.00pm	St Mary the Virgin Church	Aylesbury	01296 437641
28/9/2011	9.00pm	Cafe Jazz	Cardiff	02920 340591
29/9/2011	8.00pm	Grand Pavilion	Porthcawl	01656 786996
30/9/2011	8.00pm	Cornerstone Arts Centre	Didcot	01235 515144

13/10/2011	8.00pm	Castle	Wellingborough	01933 270007
14/10/2011	9.00pm	Bear	Bristol	0117 987 7796
18/10/2011	8.30pm	Green Man	Rackenheath	01603 614169 (jazz info)
21/10/2011	7.30pm	Customs House	South Shields	0191 4541234
23/10/2011	1.30pm	Lion	Basford	0115 9703506
23/10/2011	8.00pm	The Chapel - No. 1 Shakespeare Street	Stratford-upon-Avon	01789 264787
25/10/2011	8.30pm	Ye Olde Smack	Leigh-on-Sea	01702 476765
27/10/2011	8.30pm	Radisson Edwardian Hotel Manchester	Manchester	0161 8359929
30/10/2011	7.45pm	Kings Arms	Abergavenny	01873 855074
8/11/2011	8.30pm	Royal British Legion	Llay	01745 812260 (jazz info)
9/11/2011	8.00pm	Hawkshead Beer Hall	Staveley	01539 720172
10/11/2011	8.00pm	Met Studio Theatre	Bury	0161 7612216
11/11/2011	1.10pm	Mumford Theatre at Anglia Polytechnic	Cambridge	01223 352932
24/11/2011	8.30pm	Maritime Room	Southend on Sea	01702 351135
3/12/2011	8.00pm	Philharmonic Hall-Rodenwald Suite	Liverpool	0151 7093789

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

September 2011
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