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

Gannets

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

Line-up:

Alex Ward – clarinet Chris Cundy – bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, electronics Fyfe Dangerfield – piano, keyboards, effects Dominic Lash – double bass Steve Noble – drums, percussion

Gannets emerged onto the UK's improvised music scene several years ago, playing their initial gigs in 2004 at Hugh Metcalfe's legendary Klinker Club – home to alternative cabaret, DIY cinema and free jazz in North London. At around the same time, keyboardist and guitarist Fyfe Dangerfield also formed the pop band Guillemots who subsequently signed to Polydor (Universal Music). Guillemots shared Gannets' clarinet and sax section Chris Cundy and Alex Ward for the first few years, and although the two bands served entirely different functions for Dangerfield, a mutual coexistence of pop and experimental music became an important aspect in both projects to varying degrees.

Cundy and Dangerfield recognised a shared passion for unconventional performance, which manifested itself in a variety of guises, including their duo The Executive Caveman - an experimental hip-hop outfit. After a short stint in LA trailing West Hollywood's little known improvised music scene, the pair returned to the UK for a Jazz Services funded tour of an expanded outfit called Transmissions of Not, which featured bassist Aristazabal Hawkes, who would later join Guillemots.

Drummer Steve Noble and clarinettist Alex Ward form a duo that goes back several years, appearing on Derek Bailey's TV documentary On the Edge, first shown on Channel Four in 1992. Noble and Ward were also featured artists at a number of Derek Bailey's Company Week festivals, and both were involved with various improvised groups of his, as well as appearing on many recording projects for the Incus label. Just prior to the formation of Gannets, Steve Noble had invited Cundy and Dangerfield to perform at the London Musicians' Collective annual free festival held at Conway Hall, in what was to become the last performance by Transmissions of Not.

Bassist Dominic Lash had been introduced to Alex Ward whilst living in Oxford, where he was active in helping to resurrect the Oxford Improvisers' Collective. Lash soon made his entrance onto the London scene where he met Dangerfield while he was formulating songs that would ultimately become part of the Guillemots oeuvre. Lash joined Gannets after the band's first few shows, replacing double bassist John Edwards. By this time they had established themselves within a deeply rooted free improvisation tradition, injecting the music with a playful sense of melody and a strong rhythmic setting that can evoke elements of pop, cartoon music and swing. Alex Ward sums up the often contradictory nature of their music - "Gannets posit an alternative jazz history in which 30s swing developed straight into a combined form of the free jazz and fusion movements, without any of the intervening decades". The band releases its debut album on the Babel Label in 2012.

http://thegannets.blogspot.com/

Reviews:

"one of the highlights of the London jazz festival" - Time Out

"the abstract improv version of the Guillemots" - Guardian

"One of the most extraordinary sessions we've ever had, with some beautiful saxophone playing from Chris Cundy" – Jez Nelson, BBC Radio 3

Date	Time	Venue	Town	Box office
25/01/2012	8.00pm	Central Bar	Gateshead	0191 4782543
26/01/2012	8.00pm	Band on the Wall	Manchester	0161 2375554
27/01/2012	8.00pm	Brudenell Social Club	Leeds	0113 2752411
28/01/2012	7.30pm	Taylor John's House	Coventry	024 7655 9958
29/01/2012		Yardbird	Birmingham	0121 2122524
1/02/2012	8.00pm	Vortex Jazz Club	London	020 7254 4097
2/02/2012	7.00pm	Haymarket	Basingstoke	01256 844244
3/02/2012	7.30pm	St George's	Bristol	0117 9230359
4/02/2012	8.00pm	Slak Bar	Cheltenham	01242 524011
5/02/2012	7.30pm	Blind Tiger Club	Brighton	01273 688869

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

Jazz Services Limited
First Floor, 132 Southwark Street
London SE1 0SW
t: 020 7928 9089
f: 020 7401 6870
e: education@jazzservices.org.uk
w: www.jazzservices.org.uk





