

Scarborough Jazz Spring season 2010

Music starts at 8.45pm

Advance tickets (where appropriate) available from The Cask or Mojo's Music Cafe,
20 Northway, Scarborough, YO11 1JL, telephone 01723 351983

The resident Mike Gordon Trio comprises: Mike Gordon (keyboards), Dennis Hitch (drums) and Bob Walker (bass).

MARCH 3

Steve Whitehead

£2 on the door

Reeds player Steve began with the clarinet at thirteen and was soon playing in pubs and clubs. His first saxophone was an alto and recently he's added soprano, tenor and baritone. Steve is a professional artist, selling his paintings in London and he teaches art part-time.

"Jazz is my second love," he says, "especially mainstream swinging melodic jazz". Steve plays with General Cluster and currently works as a duo with Mike Gordon at a local restaurant.

MARCH 10

Mick Donnelly

£2 on the door

Sadly Mick was snowed in for our February gig so we're hoping for good weather this time! He is a very busy saxophonist with extensive experience in many musical genres, which is not surprising as he began at the tender age of eleven. He was soon performing professionally in and around his native Hartlepool. Moving to London, he supported the great James Moody at Ronnie Scott's. Mick has toured with Sammy Davis Jr, Sting, Tony Bennett and Shirley Bassey. Jazz stars he has played with include Alan Barnes, Dave O'Higgins, Mark Nightingale and Bobby Shew among others.

MARCH 17

Thom Whitworth

£2 on the door

Thom plays two unrelated instruments – the guitar and trumpet – switching between them with ease. He is a very inventive player with a high level of technical skill. His great harmonic sense coupled to his attractive sound makes him a popular figure at festivals and other jazz venues. Thom has gained many accolades including prize winner in The Kenny Baker Memorial Competition and Perrier Jazz awards semi-finalist.

MARCH 24

Anita Wardell Quartet

£7 on the door (£6 in advance)

Anita received the prestigious BBC Jazz Award for Best of Jazz category in 2006. She is a major jazz artist whose amazing vocal abilities have brought her a signing with Proper Records. She attracts high praise from her peers and her recordings are regularly given 5 star reviews. Jazzwise writes: "...the singer's mercurial musicality and sense of improvisation freedom can at times take the breath away." Anita's formative years were spent in Australia – her music degree is from Adelaide University – and she further studied in the UK at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She brings top musicians with her: Robin Aspland - piano, Jeremy Brown – bass and Steve Brown – drums. These players contributed to the success of her last two albums; *Noted* and *Kinda Blue*.

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MARCH 31

Jim Birkett

£2 on the door

One of the most talented and stimulating jazz guitarists on the circuit, Jim is in demand at venues all over the North. He has accompanied top Americans like Kenny Davern, Spike Robinson and Scott Hamilton, and British stars such as Don Weller, Dick Morrissey, Digby Fairweather and Roy Williams. Jim is a great friend of Scarborough Jazz, where his repertoire of Latin numbers, standards and jazz classics always appeals.

The resident trio tonight has Simon Coles on piano.

APRIL 7

Frank Brooker

£2 on the door

Frank's tenor and clarinet sounds are attractive and warm and he swings on any tempo. He has a popular quartet and an attractive trio with whom he has recorded. Presenting a wide range of jazz through an interesting, diverse programme, he champions unfairly neglected tunes. His appearance tonight coincides with The Scarborough Literature Festival, so we will hear literary contributions from the audience.

APRIL 14

Joel Purnell

£2 on the door

Joel is one of the most in-demand jazz saxophonists around and is also a highly respected composer and educator. He has a hard-hitting technique coupled with a lyrical style and is renowned for his innovation. Jazz UK described him as "a muscular, assertive saxophonist whose fluent solos show a strong sense of direction". Joel has an ever growing discography and has played with notable jazz musicians. He is a member of Jamil Sheriff's Octet and Nicki Allan's Sextet.

Tonight Simon Coles is on piano with the backing trio.

APRIL 21

Lee Jones Quintet

£6 on the door (£5 in advance).

Young guitarist Lee has appeared at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival, the Birmingham International Festival and has won Jazz FM's 'Best New Instrumentalist' award. He has a jazz degree from The Birmingham Conservatoire and was special guest of guitar virtuoso Martin Taylor at the famous Pizza Express. Lee's debut CD 'Swish' features his own compositions and was warmly received, reviewers detecting influences from George Benson and Pat Metheny. The Observer's Dave Gelly writes: "Musicians in their early twenties regularly astonish the world with their technique and Lee Jones has plenty of that, but it is far less common to find a fully developed personal style at such an early age." His fellow musicians are: Chris Aldridge – sax, Andy Bunting – keyboards, Ben Markland – bass, and Jim Bashford – drums.

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APRIL 28

Martin Nickless

£2 on the door

Martin is a London based freelance whose main love is the clarinet. He has worked with The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, The Nick Ross Orchestra and jointly runs a quartet with Karen Sharp. He has appeared all over the UK including the Swanage Jazz Festival and the National Theatre. Martin's influences were Peanuts, Hucko, Bob Wilber, Benny Goodman and Buddy de Franco. He has a wide repertoire that includes standards and bop. With Simon Coles on piano.

MAY 5

Julia Wray Quartet

£2 on the door

Since graduating from Hull University's Scarborough Campus, saxophonist Julia has built a strong reputation across the region. The quartet cross musical genres with ease, giving performances of high energy fun. They have a great blend of originals, Latin and funk. With Julia on saxes are Simon Coles – piano, Paul Baxter – bass and Paul Tilley on drums. Julia has promised "lots of new material and great new arrangements".

MAY 12

Tony Burcherello

£2 on the door

A saxophonist who improvises with energy and enthusiasm, Tony is a front-liner with some of the best bands in the region. He appeared at the 2006 Scarborough Jazz Festival with Big Band Byrne, and has proved to be very popular at The Cask. Tony was inspired by Charlie Parker, Dexter Gordon, 'Lockjaw' Davis and 'Cannonball' Adderley among others. He is very versatile, as good on an up-tempo number as on a moving and lyrical ballad

MAY 19

Sarah Ellen Hughes Quartet

£6 on the door (£5 in advance)

Sarah, a London based vocalist works the whole of the UK. She began singing while quite young when studying piano and flute. She was principal vocalist for three years with The National Youth Jazz Orchestra, appearing at The Stables, Pizza Express Dean Street and Ronnie Scotts. Sarah has had an eight month residency at The Pizza in the Park and has worked with Dave O'Higgins, Jim Hart and Gareth Lockrane among others. She brings her regular quartet of excellent musicians. "Sarah Ellen Hughes...delightful work!" (Jack Massarik, Evening Standard). "Outstanding vocal performance" (Peter Green, The Stables at Wavendon).

MAY 26

Matt Smith Band

£2 on the door

Saxophonist Matt is a graduate of the Leeds College of Music who works as a professional combining composition with teaching as well as performing. He works in many genres and accordingly is associated with a wide range of bands. Matt is creative, versatile and has been very popular with Scarborough audiences over the years as a soloist with the resident trio. On this occasion he is bringing his own group, but is being secretive about who they are; saying merely, "they are all young, exciting musicians."

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Dates for your diary

21 July

5 Pieces of Silver

featuring Louise Gibbs

24 – 26 September

Scarborough Jazz Festival

www.scarboroughjazzfestival.co.uk