



LIAM NOBLE QUARTET

"...his compositions...manage to pack quite a number of striking ideas into the ten titles, of which no two were alike... In this day and age of Jazz retreads, it's refreshing to encounter a genuinely original voice."

CADENCE MAGAZINE

"...it has an inner energy and quiet vigour that grows on you."

THE GUARDIAN

"The artificial divisions set up between "European" and "American" jazz are blown apart by carefully crafted collaborations like Romance Among The Fishes. Where the fusion of Ken Vandermark with Norway's Atomic explores the fiery side of jazz, this four-way collaboration investigates a cooler but no less fascinating aspect."

ALL ABOUT JAZZ

LIAM NOBLE Piano

Liam Noble studied music at Oxford University, and then in 1990 attended the Postgraduate Jazz Course at the Guildhall, after which he began working with Stan Sulzmann, Harry Beckett, Anita Wardell and others. In 1996, Noble recorded the solo piano album "**Close Your Eyes**", which featured free improvisations, compositions and interpretations of tunes by (amongst others) Ornette Coleman, Annette Peacock and Richard Rodgers.

In 1997 he joined the Bobby Wellins Quartet, the rhythm section of which continues today as the Liam Noble Trio, recently documented on the 2009 CD "**BRUBECK**", gaining an almost unprecedented 5 star review in The Guardian.

In 2001, "**In The Meantime**", released on Basho Records, explored longer compositional forms and unorthodox improvisational structures, and April 2002 saw a commission from Birmingham Jazz resulting in a song cycle based on **Japanese Death Poetry**. Noble plays keyboards and samples throughout, marking a new foray into electronica inspired by artists such as Aphex Twin and Arto Lindsay.

In 2004, following a Cheltenham Festival gig the previous year, Liam recorded the acclaimed "**Romance Among The Fishes**" on Basho Records with guitarist Phil Robson and the New York rhythm section of Drew Gress and Tom Rainey on bass and drums respectively.

Liam's working relationship has continued with Tom Rainey in the free improv trio, "**Sleepthief**" with Ingrid Laubrock, with an album released in September 2008. The duo of Laubrock and Noble, "Let's Call This..." came out on Babel records in 2007. Other frequent collaborators have included Christine Tobin, Paul Clarvis and Julian Siegel.

In 2009 Liam released his most successful release to date "**Brubeck**" (Basho) a trio tribute to the great pianist Dave Brubeck. The album attracted accolades everywhere and received a 5 star review in the Guardian, the UK's most prestigious newspaper for jazz journalism. Dave Brubeck heaped huge praise on the album and has been very complimentary about Liam's interpretations of his music saying *"This CD will be an inspiration and a challenge for me to carry on in the avenues that you have opened. I've never gone so far into the unknown as you three but I have opened the door and peeked in. Your CD is an invitation to enter."*

Dave Brubeck

Liam holds posts as Lecturer in Jazz at Birmingham Conservatoire and Trinity College of Music. He has published 4 volumes of transcriptions of the Bill Evans Trio, and "Jazz Piano; An In Depth Look at the Styles of the Masters", both published by Hal Leonard.



PHIL ROBSON Guitar



Winner of 'Best Jazz Musician of the Year' in the 2009 Parliamentary Jazz Awards, Phil Robson is a guitarist/composer based in London, UK. He is internationally regarded as a highly versatile and creative player who appears in all kinds of diverse settings.

Alongside composing and recording his own critically acclaimed projects Phil is a long term band member and frequent collaborator with Christine Tobin, whose ground breaking approach to singing and song writing is highly celebrated. He has also worked with many other distinguished musicians including David Liebman, Steve Lacy, Mark Turner, Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, Billy Hart, Mike Gibbs, Django Bates, Bobby Wellins, Iain Ballamy and Joe Lovano.

Phil has released several albums as a bandleader all of which have been received extremely well by both the press and public alike. His most recent album *Six Strings and the Beat* released on Babel received outstanding reviews and was nominated for 'Best CD of the Year' in the 2009 parliamentary Jazz awards.

He has also appeared on numerous successful recordings in addition to his own works, most notably on Liam Noble's *Romance Among the Fishes* on Basho Records, Alec Dankworth's *Spanish Accents* on Basho Records, on various albums with Christine Tobin and with the ever popular group Partisans alongside Julian Siegel, Gene Calderazzo and Thaddeus Kelly.

Phil is currently a member of the Liam Noble quartet, Alec Dankworth's 'Spanish Accents', the Christine Tobin band, the Paul Booth band and the BBC big band.

DREW GRESS Bass

Born: Yardley, Pennsylvania USA 1959, bassist/composer Drew Gress performs extensively with artists on the cutting edge of contemporary improvised music. His latest project-The Irrational Numbers (Premonition), features Drew's original compositions for quintet. Earlier releases include the critically acclaimed *7 Black Butterflies* (2005), *Spin & Drift* (2001), and *Heyday* (1997). Future projects include a new quintet project, a solo bass recording, and an electronics project soon to be unveiled.

Drew can also be heard within the ensembles of John Abercrombie, Ralph Alessi, Tim Berne, Don Byron, Uri Caine, Bill Carrothers, Ravi Coltrane, Marc Copland, Mark Feldman, Fred Hersch, John Hollenbeck, Tony Malaby, and John Surman.

(In an altogether previous musical life, he grounded the performances of Buddy Hackett, Phyllis Diller, Zoot Sims, Cab Calloway, and Pia Zadora).



Drew has toured North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and has served as Artist-in-Residence at St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, and Chamber Music America, and currently resides in New York. Drew is an endorsee for Thomastik Strings.

TOM RAINEY Drums



Tom Rainey was born in Pasadena, California in 1957. Since moving to New York in 1979 he has performed and recorded with the following artists: John Abercrombie, Ray Anderson, Tim Berne, Jane Ira Bloom, Ted Curson, Marc Ducret, Mark Feldman, Drew Gress, Mark Helias, Fred Hersch, Andy Laster, Joe Lovano, Tony Malaby, Carmen McRae, Mike Nock, Simon Nabatov, New and Used, Anita O'Day, Herb Robertson, Angelica Sanchez, Louis Sclavis, Brad Shepik, Swiss Romande Orchestra, Tom Varner, Ken Werner and Denny Zeitlin.

He has for many years been a regular collaborator with Tim Berne, appearing on recordings by "Science Friction", "Hard Cell", "Big Satan" and "Paraphrase" and is currently working with Ingrid Laubrock and Liam Noble in the improvising trio "Sleepthief".