



SCOTTISH GERMAN JAZZ COLLECTIVE

Scottish highlands meet German plains. The 'Scottish German Jazz Collective' is a joint project of seven musicians from Hanover and Glasgow.

At first sight, both cities do not necessarily belong to the big players of jazz metropolises. Their scene however, is more intimate and therefore, more bustling. Every single musician contributes their part to the exciting jazz culture. Especially in cities which are not automatically a centre of attraction for international artists, it is very important to consciously establish the connection with musicians from all over the world. Hence, it was no coincidence, artists of these two cities joined for this project in fall 2015.

In the course of rewarding the two cities Glasgow and Hanover as 'Unesco City of Music', the idea to form a band and start a longlasting exchange between the two Jazz scenes within the 'Creative City Network' emerged. Forming a collective of like minds was the next thing to do. This was the beginning for the 'Scottish German Jazz Collective' which has played at festivals in Germany and Scotland since then and released its debut album in June 2016.

WWW.SCOTTISH-GERMAN-JAZZ-COLLECTIVE.COM

WWW.SOUNDCLOUD.COM/SCOTTISHGERMANJAZZCOLLECTIVE



LINE-UP:

ANJA RITTERBUSCH – VOCALS

MICHAEL BUTCHER – SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

ADAM JACKSON – ALTO SAXOPHONE

ARNE PÜNTER – TENOR SAXOPHONE

EIKE WULFMEIER – PIANO

BRODIE JARVIE – BASS

STEPHEN HENDERSON – DRUMS

All members of the collective are highly sought after freelance musicians who studied at prestigious universities and called upon to perform their own music in a smaller or bigger frame. Members have received national awards, and have been a part of international tours. Here, not only individual musical biographies, but also different cultural areas merge with one another, allowing these diverse influences become a unified whole. This is how exciting art arises in this collective that comes together in concert and working phases (with performances at the International Jazz Festival Glasgow, Fête de la musique, Kuppelsaal Hannover a.o.). It is a matter of experimenting and finding new paths. The search for commonalities, inspiration through contrast, and the therefore resulting process of developing a search for something new is what makes this ensemble particularly special.

The result is a wonderful mixture of Jazz, Scottish folk music tradition, and the compositions of the seven group members. Lyrical melodies that are catchy and go right under your skin meet pulsating and electrifying rhythms, German poetry melts with English lyrics. The 'Scottish German Jazz Collective' presents music with influences from all parts of the jazz world and also from Scottish folk and world music. The expressive voice of Anja Ritterbusch, dynamic sounds of the saxophone and the band's explosive play full of nuances guarantee a very special listening pleasure.



BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BAND MEMBERS

Anja Ritterbusch – Vocals

Anja Ritterbusch is a freelance singer, composer, performer and vocal coach from Germany. She studied jazz singing at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media. In 2013 she graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with a Master in Musical Theatre Performance with distinction. As a professional and accomplished vocalist she has gained extensive experience in versatile projects and genres. She has performed on club, theatre and festival stages in India, Ireland, Scotland, England, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Switzerland, Austria, Poland and all around Germany as well as on radio and TV (BBC, NDRKultur and Deutschlandradio



Kultur a.o.). With her quartet she performed in numerous concerts and at festivals including 'Jazznachwuchsfestival' Leipzig and Jazzahead Bremen. Her debut album 'When night is almost done' was published in August 2010 by A-Jazz. She was a member of the renowned Germany's Youth Jazz Orchestra. In 2015 Anja has been awarded a composition scholarship by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony. She was a soloist award winner at *Winning Jazz* in both 2005 and 2007. Furthermore, she performed in several musical theatre productions and world premieres of shows, e.g. at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2013. Since 2013 Anja teaches singing at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media.

www.anjaritterbusch.de



Adam Jackson – Alto Saxophone

Adam Jackson is a composer and saxophonist based in and around the Glasgow area. Adam began studying music at the age of 5, learning basic tunes on the piano. In high school he started to play saxophone and played in various bands, that is where he first discovered his love for jazz and improvisation. At the age of 17, Adam moved to Birmingham, England to study

at the Birmingham Conservatoire. and was lucky enough to study with some of the world's most incredible musicians, including Julian Siegel, Jean Toussaint, Mike Williams, Hans Koller and Liam Noble. He also studied with visiting artists, such as Dave Holland, Dave Binney, Dan Weiss and John Hollenbeck. Upon graduating, Adam has performed with his own band at numerous venues including the renowned Cheltenham Jazz Festival. Since then he has been a sideman with the likes of Hans-Uwe Teschke, Brodie Jarvie, Ben Macdonald, Thomas Gibbs, Euan Burton, Pete Johnstone and John Lowrie.

Michael Butcher – Soprano and Tenor Saxophone

The son of a classical pianist, Michael grew up surrounded by music and began studying piano at the age of seven and continued with clarinet and saxophone. After hearing Sonny Rollins' classic Saxophone Colossus album at the age of fifteen, he began playing jazz under the instruction of his then saxophone teacher, John Woodhouse. A year later, Michael formed his own group with like minded musicians from his high school. In 2009 Michael was accepted onto the jazz course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly the RSAMD), graduating in 2013.



World renowned saxophonists and educators Tommy Smith and Julian Arguelles were huge influences during his time there and have given him the tools to understand music from his own perspective. Michael has been fortunate to play with some great musicians during his time on the course and since graduating, for example The Brodie Jarvie Septet, a creative band comprised of some phenomenal talent from the Glasgow Jazz scene. He was also lucky enough to play with the Tom Green Septet, a London based Trombonist who won the Dankworth prize for composition in 2013. Tommy Smith's Youth Jazz Orchestra has been a platform to showcase young talent on the Scottish Jazz scene for a number of years now which Michael feels very lucky to have been a part of.

Arne Pünter – Tenor Saxophone



Arne Pünter lives and works as a freelance musician, composer and music pedagogue in the city of Hanover. He first started his career as a social education worker in Berlin. Yet, the dream of becoming a professional musician persisted and so, at the age of 27, he decided to leave Berlin in order to study Jazz saxophone at the music academies of Barcelona and Hanover which he finished in 2010 obtaining the diploma.

He received lessons by saxophone players and composers Matthias Schubert and Jonas Schön, as well as Xavier Figuerola and Buster Flood. Besides his participation in numerous bands, he was a very active street musician in Germany and Spain for many years. Arne Pünter is actively involved as a musician and organizer in Hanover's free Jazz scene. As composer and bandleader he performs with his Indie jazzband the "Arne Pünter band" and is also bandleader of the gypsy swing formation "Strada si Gitara". Furthermore, he is initiator and curator of the concert series "Jazz GUT unterwegs" and works in the creators team of the festival "Jazz week Hannover", promoting passionately contemporary jazz culture in the city of Hanover. He is also an experienced saxophone and ensemble teacher.

www.arnepuenter.de

Eike Wulfmeier - Piano

Eike Wulfmeier is a freelance pianist, composer and lecturer. Since the age of four he has been a committed player of both the guitar and the piano. Later on he studied jazz piano at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media. Furthermore, he received lessons and masterclasses from Fred Hersch, Horace Parlan, Marc Copeland and John Taylor a.o.. Eike Wulfmeier was awarded a number of prizes including the 2nd prize at 'New German Jazz Award' (Neuer Deutscher Jazzpreis) in 2012, the Jazzpodium Award in 2007 and 'Winning Jazz' (2005 and 2007).



In 2015 he has been awarded a composition scholarship by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony. His performances were broadcasted by numerous radio and TV programmes and he can be heard on numerous CDs with a diverse range of casts. His multi-dimensional compositions which often comprise fascinating multiple musical voices and subtle melancholy are a far cry away from mainstream jazz. They cleverly combine abstract and familiar elements to create a confident and complete musical picture. Besides his work with his piano trio *Center* Eike Wulfmeier is involved in several projects amongst which are *Klaus Spencker's Elements*, *Anja Ritterbusch Quartet*, *JMW Quintet*, *Lars Stoermer Quartet* and the jazz orchestra *Fette Hupe*.

Eike Wulfmeier lives in Hanover where he teaches jazz piano at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media since 2008. www.eikewulfmeier.de



Brodie Jarvie – Upright Bass

Brodie Jarvie graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2013 with a First Class Honours degree in Jazz. During his time there he performed with artists such as Tommy Smith, Peter Erskine, The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Bobby Wellins and Scottish pop band Texas. Right now, Brodie leads his own septet playing his own original compositions and co-leads a piano trio with fellow RCS graduates Peter Johnstone and John Lowrie who recorded their debut album 'Moat Brae' in 2013. He is also an in demand sideman in the UK and beyond, this summer 2015 he performed at Rochester Jazz Festival as part of a tour around the United States with 'Trio Red'. Brodie currently lives in Amsterdam where he is studying on the Jazz Master course at the Conservatorium van

Amsterdam where he is taught by the great Dutch bassist, Frans van der Hoeven. "Brodie Jarvie is fast becoming one of the most prominent bass players on the UK scene. I have watched him develop as a musician for 7 years. He is an accomplished soloist, bandleader and sideman, and one of the UK's exceptional talents". - Laura Macdonald

Stephen Henderson – Drums

“Stephen is a remarkable player: awe-inspiring, intelligent, cool, professional, committed and extremely meticulous in every musical environment he finds himself in.” (Tommy Smith)

Stephen started playing drums at the age of 9, inspired by his parents, both of whom are musicians. The fascination for Jazz came at the age of fourteen when he successfully auditioned for the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland.



At the age of 17 he successfully auditioned and won a scholarship for a place on the Jazz Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland lead by Tommy Smith. There Stephen had the opportunity to play with many international guest artists, including the great Bob Mintzer (The YellowJackets.) Since graduating in June 2015 with a first class honours in Jazz, Stephen is currently involved in many different exciting projects. With the band Square One he recently won the prestigious Peter Whittingham Jazz Award. In 2014 Stephen performed with LA Singer James Tormé at the International Glasgow Jazz Festival, as well as with the young and talented Fergus McCreadie in 2015. The trio also performed at the Edinburgh International Jazz Festival. Most recently Stephen played a concert with New York based musician John Webber and performed a televised set with 5 piece folk/rock band Dosca (which he is a member of) at the Scots Trads Music Awards. He has performed at the Shetland Folk Festival, Celtic Connections and Piping live.



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