

F-IRE @ KINGS PLACE

The F-IRE Collective has been a galvanising force in cutting-edge British jazz for more than a decade. Dreamt up by the visionary sax player and educator Barak Schmool, it began life as a loose network of players inspired by jazz collectives in France and America, and a belief in sustaining local creative music. Sharing their knowledge of rhythmic styles and African drumming, the ‘Fellowship for Integrated Rhythmic Expression’ then moved on into the wider scene, becoming active in organising samba street percussion, new groove hybrids, African music and dance workshops, and attracted bands like Polar Bear, Electric Ladyland and Panacea. Says Schmool, ‘Everyone I can think of in F-IRE has had experience in dance music. Jazz is a listening music built on the sensibility of dance, so we had the same thing at the core of our collective.’ He cites three driving principles to the current network: ‘We are here to enrich and sustain creativity in our community, by making and spreading performing opportunities, by sharing resources and knowledge and by promoting each other.’

F-IRE @ at Kings Place perfectly illustrates the Collective’s fresh, open-minded approach to jazz, and the way in which the musicians have forced the art form into an on-going dialogue with everything from classical music and global sounds, to electronica and punk. ‘We’ve all brought something different to the table over the years,’ comments Schmool, ‘There has been expertise in dance, circus, electronics, African drumming, improvisation and classical music. London is an amazing city full of musical sources. We really needed to connect to the people on our doorstep, and remind them of the importance of fresh stuff.’

F-IRE regulars are represented by drummer **Seb Rochford’s Polar Bear**, big hitters of the youthful, post-jazz scene, and the saxophonist/composer’s band **Ingrid Laubrock’s Nein**. Laubrock and trumpeter **Tom Arthurs** appear again in the debut of the latter’s new quintet **Subtopia**, while F-IRE cellist Ben Davis, brings his unique string ensemble, the Mercury-nominated **Basquiat Strings** on the Friday, with the contrasting new-classical **Elysian Quartet**, mixing composed and improvised music. The exciting next-generation **LOOP Collective**, show their hand on Wednesday night in Hall Two.

Characteristically generous, F-IRE will not be ‘hogging the limelight’ says Schmool, but showcasing the best of International jazz. He’s particularly excited to welcome the man who proved an inspiration decades ago, **Django Bates**, with his new Danish band stoRMChaser, guitarist **Jonathan Bratoëff’s** Quartet and **Thôt**, a radical group directed by Stéphane Payen, a spin-off from Paris’s insirational Collectif HASK. ‘Think funky Messiaen,’ suggests Schmool. There will also be a keenly-anticipated visit from the group **Octurn**, a post-fusion mini-big band that acts as exciting laboratory involving some of the most creative young Belgian-French improvisers.

Schmool is keen that children will find something new in the F-IRE week: ‘Younger children just don’t get exposed to this music, so there will be a rolling showcase of free events on the Saturday, animated films related to jazz and interactive workshops.’ One session for the under-10s is entitled ‘Wot is jazz?. Indeed, the bounds of the genre are shown to their widest extent in sets from the tuba player **Oren Marshall** with percussionist **Maurizio Ravalico**, and veteran pianist **Keith Nichols**, the great authority on ragtime, and his trio, whose jazz standard ‘face off’ with F-IRE’s Large Ensemble should prove a glittering finale.

ZOOM! The history and future of European Jazz Collectives.

Illustrated discussion chaired by Stuart Nicholson

St Pancras Room 6.30pm

Journalist Stuart Nicholson hosts a round-table introduction to music collectives, and announces ZOOM! a compilation of creative work from across the continent.

Octurn/7eyes

Hall Two 7.15pm

Lynn Cassiers voice

Jozef Dumoulin fender rhodes

Bo Van der Werf baritone saxophone

Gilbert Nouno electronics

Nelson Veras guitar

Jean-Luc Lehr bass

Chander Sardjoe drums

7 eyes

By Jozef Dumoulin and Bo Van der Werf

Octurn is always on the lookout for new ways of thinking. Their latest project 7 eyes originated from the wish to look for new sound landscapes based on the principles of balance, where harmonic or rhythmic complexity is a firm foundation beneath crystal clear, simple melodies and intense lyrics, where extreme sounds go hand in hand with dislocation, abstraction and primordial languages, where a simple children song can be glorified by radical sound spectra or treated silence. Gilbert Nouno (IRCAM) collaborates often with Octurn. For this project he plays a central role, actively manipulating his live electronics in the structuring of the music. As a special guest, they are joined by the talented young Belgian singer Lynn Cassiers.

Jozef Dumoulin writes of 7 eyes:

‘It has always been a great pleasure to hear the most insane music, flagrantly contradicting whichever grand rule or certainty I thought to have unravelled. In this sense, Morton Feldman’s quote: ‘I never understood what rules I was supposed to learn and what rules I was supposed to break’ is relevant. We ourselves mostly build the barriers to make a certain musical idea work as opposed to being ordered by music. And it feels good to see that what awaits us when we leave certain rules behind, is all but anarchy.’

“ Anyone concerned about the future of “little” big band could head off to Belgium where he or she will find that Octurn is doing an exceptional job. Listening to the multi-dimensional sounds on this, the band’s third CD, one would even suggest that Octurn, led by baritone sax player Bo Van der Werf, has an idea on how to extend that tradition still further.

Double Bill: Ingrid Laubrock’s Nein and Polar Bear

Ingrid Laubrock tenor and soprano saxophone

Tom Arthurs trumpet, flugel

James Allsop bass clarinet

Emma Smith violin

Ben Davis cello

Liam Noble piano/keyboards

Barry Green piano/keyboards

Larry Bartey bass

Tom Rainey drums

Music by Ingrid Laubrock

Nein’s music was originally commissioned by the Jerwood Foundation for the 2007 Cheltenham Jazz Festival and is a direct result of Ingrid Laubrock’s studies with American composer and pianist Myra Melford in San Francisco in 2006.

The unusual use of the two pianists Liam Noble and Barry Green as well as the two string players Emma Smith (violin) and Ben Davis (cello) creates shimmering and dreamlike as well as dark and brooding textures, offset by a highly energetic and creative rhythm section consisting of bassist Larry Bartley and downtown NY drummer Tom Rainey. The impressive line-up is completed by Ingrid Laubrock/saxes, James Allsop/bass clarinet) and Tom Arthurs on trumpet and flugelhorn.

Nein’s evocative music weaves between improvisations and written material, drawing on 20th century classical music influences, Henry Threadgill and Wayne Shorter. The listener can expect a wide palette of sounds and surprises.

Polar Bear

Mark Lockheart tenor

Tom Herbert bass

Pete Wareham tenor sax

Leafcutter John laptop

Sebastian Rochford drumkit

Music by Seb Rochford

Although polar bears on the outside seem very furry and cuddly, on further inspection we realise they have other issues... Music a polar bear would like you to listen to: Thelonious Monk, Venetian Snares, Vasks, The Bug, Daedelus, Miles Davis, Neutral, John Coltrane, the Staple Singers, Beethoven and Mark Turner.

‘This is not nu jazz, acid jazz, Jamie jazz, Parky jazz, Brit jazz, beardo jazz,post-jazz or twee jazz. It’s dream jazz.’

Paul Morley, *Observer Music Monthly*

Biographies

Jozef Dumoulin

Jozef Dumoulin discovered jazz as a teenager and obstinately sought his own way in the genre. In 1994 he went to the Brussels Conservatory where he was tutored by Diederik Wissels and Nathalie Lories. He also spent two years in Cologne with John Taylor. He played the piano, as in his collaboration with singer Barbara Wiernik on the CD *Eclipse*. In recent years, however, he has developed his unique sound on the Fender Rhodes combining it with electronics. Using this set-up, he joined forces a number of existing formations (Magic Malik Orchestra, Reggie Washington Trio Tree, Erwin Vann Quartet, Octurn, Dre Pallemmaerts, Othin Spake), still finding enough time for the Brussels Jazz Orchestra and Toots Thielemans. He lives in Paris and works on his own music with both acoustic and electronic formations.

Ingrid Laubrock

Ingrid Laubrock is a founder member of the F-IRE Collective, has won and been nominated for several BBC Jazz Awards and won the 2006 Arts Foundation Fellowship for Jazz Composition. She studied at the Guildhall School of Music and with David Liebman in the United States. Musicians she has performed with include Django Bates, Tim Berne, Guinga and Evan Parker, David Axelrod, Monica Vasconelos, The Continuum Ensemble and... many more. She leads her own quintet and co-leads several other projects,

This Week at Kings Place

Thur Oct 16 St Pancras 6.30pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place ZOOM! The History and Future of European Jazz Collectives
Hall One 9pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Double Bill: Ingrid Laubrock and Nein/Polar Bear
Fri Oct 17 Hall Two 7.15pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Thôt + Tom Arthurs + Julian Siegel
Hall One 9pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Basquiat Strings and Elysian Quartet
Sat Oct 18 St Pancras 12.30pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Clown Revisited - FREE
Hall Two 1.30pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Oren Marshall. Maurizio Ravalico Duo
Hall Two 2.30pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Tom Arthur's Subtopia
Hall Two 3.30pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Robert Mitchell's 3iO
Hall Two 4.30pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place Jonathan Bratoeff Quartet
Hall One 8pm	F-IRE @ Kings Place F-IRE Collective Large Ensemble & Keith Nichols Quartet
Sun Oct 19 Hall One 6.30pm	London Chamber Music Series Primrose Piano Quartet
Mon Oct 20 Hall One 7pm	Words on Monday Touching the Sky
Tues Oct 21 Hall Two 8pm	This Is Tuesday 'Lightworks': Solo pianist Leon Michener
Hall One 8pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week One The Fifth Symphony
Wed Oct 22 Hall One 7.30pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 1 Beethoven's String Quartets (1) Orion String Quartet

Biographies cont...

including Sleepthief with Liam Noble and Tom Rainey whose debut album will be released on Intakt Records this autumn, and Brazilian-tinged band Nois4.

Gilbert Nouno

Nouno is a composer, live electronic music designer and performer. Combining the fields of music, science and technology, he has collaborated with the French contemporary music research centre Ircam. He is involved in creative projects with composers and musicians to achieve new works with computers and recent interactive technologies. He has teamed up with Jonathan Harvey, Susan Buirge, Jose-Luis Campana, Philippe Schoeller, Kaija Saariaho, Michael Jarrell, Michael Levinas, Brian Ferneyhough, Steve Coleman, Magic Malik and the jazz collective Octurn. He was Kyoto Villa Kujoyama artist-in-residence in 2007.

Seb Rochford

Originally from Aberdeen, Seb is the extraordinary in-demand drummer and winner of BBC Jazz award for Rising Star 2004 whose influences include Napalm Death, Prince and contemporary electronica as well as a large dose of jazz. Rochford leads Polar Bear as well as working with Juliet Kelly, Tim Richards and Pete Wareham's Acoustic Ladyland. He also appears in various alt rock bands such as Menlo Park and Paul the Girl, and leads the electro-acoustic quartet Fulborn Teversham. Polar Bear was nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and the BBC Jazz Awards Best Band in 2005.

Bo Van der Werf

Saxophonist and composer Bo Van der Werf graduated from the Amsterdam Conservatory. He leads and writes for Octurn, the post-fusion mini-Big Band that's proved an exciting laboratory for some of the most creative young Belgian-French improvising musicians. He is member of the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, He also leads his own small ensembles and plays free-lance with different groups. Besides writing for his band Octurn, Bo also composes music for films, for dance performances and for contemporary classical ensembles. He recently directed his first documentary movie *Satyajit Ray Negatives* which was shown at many major international film festivals.

Exhibitions

Pangolin London	Peter Randall-Page	Rock Music. Rock Art
Kings Place Gallery	Nicolaus Widerberg	Past in Future
	Albert Irvin	Six Paintings

Our cafe, bar and restaurant opening hours are:

- Green and Fortune Cafe - 7am to 8pm
- Concert Bar - 6pm to end of interval
- Rotunda Bar - 9am to 11pm
- Rotunda Restaurant - 12pm to 11pm

Thursday 16 October

F-IRE @ Kings Place

Zoom! The history of future of European Jazz Collectives
Ingrid Laubrock & Nein/Polar Bear
Octurn/7eyes

Curated by the F-IRE Collective