

ALBA: SONGS OF SCOTLAND A TOUR OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and special guest, Eddi Reader.



The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) celebrated its twentieth anniversary in adventurous style by touring Scotland and its island communities. From Arran to Mull, South Uist to Ullapool, Shetland to Orkney, the SNJO with their special guest, Eddi Reader played twelve nights of amazing music.

The tour premiered an exciting new commission, Alba: Songs of Scotland. It was an extraordinary marriage between jazz and traditional music, as the freedom of big band orchestral jazz met the most evocative of Scots songs: An Ataireachd Ard (the high surge of the sea), the beautiful Glen of Tranquility, and lilting Loch Tay Boat Song as well as many by Robert Burns, whose songs Eddi Reader interprets with such emotion. It promised concerts to remember.

And so with the sun shining on 10th June, the SNJO's 18 strong party set off by van, coach, car and ferry on the first leg of our tour. First up was Port Ellen on Islay: a tiny stage, lack of seats and a little sun burn (!) did not deter us. Soon the stage was snugly set, a convoy of chairs arrived from all over the island, and music rang out round the hall. Alba's première received a resounding thumbs up and The Ieach, reported:

"Alba will become a modern classic..... a masterful work honed almost to perfection."

The next day, we travelled to Arran via two ferries and a coach ride along the narrowest of roads. Having arrived at the High School in Lamlash, Tommy and Alyn Cosker gave a masterful rhythm workshop for senior pupils in the hall, whilst we unpacked the PA around them. Special thanks go to Joni Keen and her staff at the Altachorvie Hotel who provided a tasty supper for all, before once again, Alba played to an enthusiastic audience.

Next morning, it was the early ferry and then to Glasgow Airport from where we flew to Shetland! We were incredibly lucky with the weather as the sun continued to shine and between the two concerts, the SNJO explored Shetland with the help of congenial hosts, Jeff Merrifield and friends. What a wonderful facility the Mareel offers Lerwick.

Incredibly so far, things had run smoothly other than a forgotten passport and they continued to do so as we visited Mull, Skye and then South Uist where the remote hall of Eochdar was our destination. This concert certainly generated excitement. Many were grateful that we had made the effort to visit and were delighted at the audience response. The Big Band sound was new to many and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Apparently they have been talking about our concert ever since!

And so to Friday 19th and an early start to catch the 7am ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh. After an hour, we appeared to be going round in circles midstream in the Minch – the steering had failed as the crew thought a sheep or other object had knocked out the steering. Eventually we returned to Berneray to be met by the musicians arriving for the non-existent 10am ferry. What to do? Stormway expected a concert and two musicians were flying up from Glasgow. There was just one solution – a dash back to Lochmaddy to

catch a ferry across to Skye and then back to Tarbert on Harris – a 4hour round trip to gain 15 miles! With no guarantees that there would be room for the van on the ferry, the double bass, drums and equipment had to be offloaded and carried onboard – quite a sight as 14 musicians manhandled gear up a gangplank. Fortunately, space was found and by 6pm, we were all driving into Stormway, and after a rapid set up and soundcheck, the concert started on time – Phew!

The tour thereafter progressed smoothly again with Ullapool, Inverness and Orkney enjoying our music followed by two later concerts at Glasgow Jazz Festival and Edinburgh Fringe.

It was a very successful tour. Together the SNJO and Eddi created a unique sound that was rich, joyous and powerful yet at times reflective and charged with emotion. It was an unforgettable experience for audience and musicians alike. I hope that we will hear this soon on CD but in the meantime look out for us at Celtic Connections.



THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2015

20TH ANNIVERSARY 1995-2015

November 2015 marks 20 years of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra. Founded by saxophonist Tommy Smith in 1995, the SNJO has grown in stature and quality to become a dazzling musical enterprise, renowned for its versatility, quality of sound and internationally recognized as a "genuinely world class outfit."

2015 has been a busy year to date for the SNJO with a celebration of Billy Strayhorn's contribution to jazz, five outstanding concerts with Kurt Elling to mark 100 yrs of Frank Sinatra and a twelve date tour to the Highlands and Islands with folk singer, Eddi Reader. In between, our newest CD, Jeunehomme was released. It is a reworking of Mozart's 9th piano concerto with Makoto Ozone and is receiving critical acclaim.

Enjoy reading our news, put the concert dates in your diaries and do join us soon - we look forward to seeing you with friends and family. It is with your help and support that the SNJO hopes to continue for many more years to come!

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA directed by TOMMY SMITH

proudly presents

BENNY GOLSON PLAYS BENNY GOLSON

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra is privileged to welcome as their special guest Benny Golson: an inspirational tenor saxophonist and a hugely influential figure in twentieth century jazz. This unique concert experience features a jazz master (and raconteur) whose long career has confirmed his status as one of the all-time greats of modern jazz.

Benny Golson was there at the beginning when he and John Coltrane were "two young kids growing up in Philadelphia - aspiring to be musicians". Golson became a powerful driver of creative jazz in the 1950's and '60's as co-leader of the famous Jazztet with Art Farmer, and appeared as a valued sideman on dozens of records. He can be heard alongside Dizzy Gillespie, Lee Morgan, Roland Kirk and notably Art Blakey on the classic Moanin' album. Golson is an authentic originator too, and the composer of numerous jazz standards such as Killer Joe, I Remember Clifford, Along Came Betty and Whisper Not.

A hugely diverse career has also seen Benny Golson bring a distinctive jazz voice to incidental music for film and television music. However, his greatest moment of screen fame arose unexpectedly with a cameo appearance

in Spielberg's "The Terminal" featuring Tom Hanks. It's the fictional story of Viktor Navorski, a man who spends nine months living in an airport, striving to get Benny Golson's autograph.

Benny Golson, now eighty-six years young, proves beyond doubt that the jazz flame stays constantly lit by the creative spark. As Golson recently explained to a young reviewer, "Jazz is all about imagination. We're going to the same forest, but not to the same trees. I have no idea what solo I'm going to play. I play what's on my mind."

The SNJO's twentieth anniversary year continues with this special celebration of Benny Golson's outstanding contribution to jazz. His music, his experiences and his personal history draw a clear line from A Great Day in Harlem right up to the present day in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow.

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra directed by Tommy Smith are guaranteed to match gravitas with style, and respect with good-humour as they warmly welcome Benny Golson to the Scottish stage. Together they will demonstrate how great jazz was made in the beginning, and what makes it so wonderfully alive today.



Fri 18 September 2015
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh
thequeenshall.net
0131 668 2019

Sat 19 September 2015
Music Hall, Aberdeen
aberdeenperformingarts.com
01224 641 122

Sun 20 September 2015
Royal Conservatoire, Glasgow
rsc.ac.uk
0141 332 5057

All Concerts start at 7.30 pm with
a free preconcert talk at 6.45pm



snjo.co.uk

SNJO BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Connarty • Stephen Duffy • George Duncan • Lennie Herd
Heather Macintosh • Campbell Normand • Tommy Smith • Peter Wilson

We have completed our biography series to introduce you to our current members of the SNJO Board and with our AGM fast approaching; we invite our readers to consider becoming more involved with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra. We have openings for 2 new members and especially welcome those with business or marketing experience who could help the SNJO further develop our goals and aspirations.

Any expressions of interest as well as constructive comments or suggestions should be sent to the Orchestra Manager, Lindsay Robertson (see contact details)

Scottish National Jazz Orchestra
Reg in Scotland No. 193446 - Charity No: SC 028653
Scottish National Youth Jazz Orchestra Ltd (TSYJO)
Registered in Scotland No. 231400 - Charity No: SC 033191

SPONSORS

We extend our very grateful thanks to the Dundee and one Council for their tremendous partnership support of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra this year.

First the Foyle Foundation have provided us with a generous grant to replace and upgrade some of our sound and recording equipment – this has the dual benefit of improving the quality of sound and making it lighter in weight - which proved very helpful whilst on tour.

We would also like to thank both the Carntyne and Hope Scott Trusts for their support of some of the considerable costs of our recent tour to the Highlands and Islands - in particular this allowed us to play an additional concert in Ullapool and so increased the number of communities we visited.

Dundee City Council is very supportive of the SNJO, helping it return regularly to Dundee and we thank them for their belief and vision.

In terms of in kind sponsorship, we are delighted to thank three hotel groups, who have given accommodation to our guests.

In Glasgow and Aberdeen, Thistle Hotels gave rooms for Kurt Elling for the Sinatra concerts whilst the Apex Hotels similarly donated rooms in Dundee and Edinburgh.

The Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen – now under new management: The Hotel Collection, has offered us rooms for Benny Golson.

Thank you



The Carntyne Trust



Youth Jazz Orchestra

We apologise that there have been no TSYJO dates recently but are delighted to announce that we will be restarting our TSYJO concerts in November with a concert as part of the Day of Jazz in Glasgow on Saturday 14th November and thereafter we will establish regular monthly concerts in Edinburgh and Glasgow in the New Year.

CONTACT DETAILS

To find out more re the SNJO or TSYJO, concerts, bookings or sponsorship Please contact our Manager, Lindsay Robertson on T: 07827 966735 E: lr@snjo.co.uk W: snjo.co.uk / tsyjo.com

CAN YOUR BUSINESS HELP TOO?

As registered charities devoted to jazz music, the SNJO depends on the support and good will of everyone to enable them to provide exciting, high quality, innovative concerts. Why not consider sponsoring a whole concert series or a local concert – we can offer benefits such as advertising, corporate hospitality, CDs and concert tickets in return. In particular for this coming year, we are also looking for help in kind such as printing, bus hire, air miles and petrol vouchers - we would love to hear from you!

THE GLENN MILLER SOUND

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra is delighted to announce that they will close this year's programme with a celebration of one of the most iconic sounds of the 1940s: The Glenn Miller Orchestra

The warm and wonderful sound of the Glenn Miller Orchestra is synonymous with some of the most instantly recognizable and universally loved melodies of all time.

Miller was a composer who dared to imagine. His success came after a long period searching for his own unique sound. It was a sound that he carried in his head and struggled to express, only to triumph with music that has transcended the passing of time.

There have been many tributes to Glenn Miller and his musical legacy. Most are content to imbue his music with affectionate nostalgia but there is more to discover about Miller's delightfully memorable and expressive sound. Only so much can be attributed to the choice of instrumentation, the arrangements, the artistry of the musicians and an understanding of the period, the SNJO will add the frequently missing ingredient: the remarkable power to emote, and offer audiences imaginative insights into this great music.

The SNJO look forward to bringing Glenn Miller's unforgettable music to spirited life with feeling and respect, creating a wonderful evening to remember.



Friday 13 Nov
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh at 7.30pm

Saturday 14 Nov
Royal Concert Hall, New Auditorium, Glasgow at 7.30pm

Sunday 15 Nov
Concert Hall, Perth at 7.00pm

REVIEWS FOR OUR LATEST CD JEUNEHOMME

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

WITH MAKOTO OZONE

Spartacus records: MAY 2015

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra with special guest Makoto Ozone are proud to announce the release of Jeunehomme: a startling re-interpretation of Mozart's 9th Piano Concerto K.271

This vivid jazz arrangement of Jeunehomme by Japanese piano virtuoso Ozone is unquestionably a jazz record, but also embraces modern thinking about 18th Century classical music. Makoto Ozone and the SNJO have been liberal in their interpretation, but remain true to the challenging intellect and fertile imagination of a prolific composer

The 9th Piano Concerto K.271, or Jeunehomme as it is popularly known, was written when the composer was only twenty-one years old, and its youthful exuberance is self-evident. It seems only fitting that this work should find fresh expression through jazz, a perennially young and energetic art form. In fact, several of the UK's most respected jazz writers emphatically agreed with that view:

★★★★★ "The whole recording brims with life-affirming virtuosity and wit."
Jim Gilchrist, Scotsman

★★★★ "It's a clever, sympathetic and truly musical example of the treacherous art of jazz/classical cohabitation."
John Fordham, Guardian

"Jeunehomme will be milestone album for Makoto Ozone. This is a very special recording."
Sandy Brown Jazz



It seems that the classical critics also agree:

"A magnificent, life-enhancing achievement: mandatory listening for both Mozart buffs and jazz fans."
The Arts Desk, Classical Cd Reviews

"There have been several instances where jazz musicians have arranged classical music for a host of different ensembles with varying results. For this reviewer, this is the most successful yet."
John Marley, York Press

An album that will surely delight open minded jazzers and classicists alike."
Bebop Spoken Here

This remarkable recording captures a live performance at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh on 26th April 2014 and features exceptional solo contributions from Ru Pattison (soprano sax), Tom Walsh (trumpet), Chris Greive (trombone), Calum Gourlay (bass) and Alyn Cosker (drums).

Make sure you obtain your copy soon - They can be ordered through www.spartacusrecords.com or bought at all our concerts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER 2015

BENNY GOLSON plays BENNY GOLSON

Friday 18th Sept. at 7.30pm
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 0131 668 2019

Saturday 19th Sept. at 7.30pm
Music Hall, Aberdeen, 01224 641122

Sunday 20th Sept. at 7.30pm
Royal Conservatoire, Glasgow, 0141 332 5057

All concert have a free preconcert talk at 6.45pm

NOVEMBER 2015

THE GLENN MILLER SOUND

Friday 13th Nov.
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 0131 668 2019

Saturday 14th Nov.
Royal Concert Hall, New Auditorium, Glasgow 0141 353 8000

Sunday 15th Nov.
Concert Hall, Perth, 01738 621031

NB: Pre concert talk (6.45pm) at Edinburgh ONLY: Perth concert starts at 7pm other concerts at 7.30pm

FEBRUARY 2016

MIKE STERN MEETS THE SNJO

Friday 18th Feb. at 7.30pm
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, 0131 668 2019

Saturday 19th Sept. at 7.30pm
Gardyne Theatre, Dundee, 01382 434 940

Sunday 20th Sept. at 7.30pm
Royal Conservatoire, Glasgow, 0141 332 5057

All concert have a free preconcert talk at 6.45pm For more info and ticket details, please visit our website www.snjo.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE SNJO / TSYJO - MEMBERSHIP FORM

By becoming a Friend of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and its youth wing, the Youth Jazz Orchestra, you will be making a vital contribution to the funding of our concerts, education projects and commissions. Support from private individuals underpins much of the SNJO and TSYJO's ability to continue bringing exciting jazz projects to audiences in Scotland, UK and abroad. Thank you.

SNJO/TSYJO Supporter: As a Supporter, you will

1. Be kept up-to-date with SNJO/TSYJO news via regular newsletter.
2. Receive advance information and notice of concert bookings.
3. Provide vital support to the SNJO and its youth wing.
4. Get to know us better!

Annual Friend: As an Annual Friend, you will

1. Receive all benefits of SNJO/TSYJO supporter.
2. Be acknowledged in our concert brochures and on our website.
3. Receive invitations to open concert rehearsals with Friends/Family.
4. Receive a copy of the latest SNJO or TSYJO CD.

Life Friend: As a Life Friend, you will

1. Receive all of the above benefits of annual Friend/Supporter.
2. Be included on our guest list for a complimentary ticket to each of our own concerts.
3. May purchase additional tickets at concession rates.
4. Join the Artistic Director/guests post-concert for informal drinks.
5. Receive a copy of every CD recorded by the SNJO/TSYJO.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

EMAIL

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

LIFE FRIENDS

Ellington £2500
Gillespie £1000
Gil Evans £500

ANNUAL FRIENDS

Kenton £250
Basie £100

SNJO/TSYJO SUPPORTER

Annual Single £30
Annual Joint £50
Additional Donation £
Total Remittance £

GIFT AID: If you are a UK tax-payer, we can claim an additional amount from the Inland Revenue to help your donation go further.

Please treat my donation as Gift Aid

I wish to remain anonymous: Yes / No

Signature

All cheques should be made payable to SNJO Ltd and sent to L. Robertson, SNJO Manager, 25 Dreghorn Loan, Edinburgh EH13 0DF.

I am happy to receive emails from the SNJO/TSYJO and understand that I may unsubscribe at any time: Yes / No