

HERETO STAY!

THE 2023 JPN CONFERENCE & SHOWCASES
31 OCT - 2 NOV 2023, BIRMINGHAM



JAZZ
PROMOTION
NETWORK

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE



INTRODUCTION

The 2023 JPN conference is our most extensive to date and includes a brand-new dimension - our exciting programme of showcase performances. Our aim longer term is to grow this event into the main UK/Irish annual gathering for the jazz sector as well as an opportunity for promoters from across the UK and beyond to see some of the most exciting new artists on the scene. This year is just the start!

With the vital support of our arts funders - Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council Wales, Culture Ireland, - we bring you performers from Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. You may not recognise all the names, but we are sure you will enjoy their work, and we hope some of you will follow things up by booking artists directly for your programme. Our sponsors - Making Music and the National Jazz Archive - have supported the conference programme with a wide range of speakers and a dedicated exhibition.

The conference sessions are organised around a number of themes. WHERE ARE WE NOW sessions focus on areas under discussion for many years- inclusion and international working- examining what has and hasn't yet been achieved., IN PRACTICE sessions will focus on two areas of the music industry - Labels and Radio- away from the world of live promoting. Sessions focussing on NEXT GENERATION explore both how young musicians and promoters can be supported to work within a professional setting.

On the second day of the conference, we will learn from those directly involved about the riches of the jazz scene in Birmingham- - not just about activity in the conference venues but through the work of a myriad of enterprising independent promoters.

Our colleagues at BCU have put together a fascinating programme of breakout sessions revealing how much they have been working with the UK jazz scene in recent years- through collaborations with West Midlands based

organisations and festivals, through research, and through providing a base for part of the National Jazz Archive - items from which are presented in a exhibition specially curated for the conference.

JPN membership includes, alongside some major venues and festivals, many volunteers working at the smaller scale, and a special session facilitated by Julia Payne will be a new opportunity for those involved to explore issues of common concern.

This conference has been organised in close cooperation with our conference hosts: B:Music and BCU/Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and we are very grateful both for their contribution to the content of the programme and also for their practical help in the complex logistics involved in running multiple events across several venues!

I am also grateful to my fellow JPN trustees for their support in organising the event. They are as follows:

Agnese Daverio FMLY Agency
Mark Kass Chair, National Jazz Archive
Nod Knowles Promoter and JPN Company Secretary
Keith Michael Musician, En Rapport
Orphy Robinson Musician, Ivors Academy
Peter Slavid Writer
Heather Spencer Programme Manager, Jazz North
Roger Wilson Black Lives in Music

Ros Rigby Chair, Jazz Promotion Network.

*Cover: Soweto Kinch and
Louis Hamilton-Foad*

BUILDING A STRONG INCLUSIVE NETWORK

**Nod Knowles reports back on the JPN
Conference held in Birmingham between
31 October - 2 November 2023**

As with the 2022 conference in Belfast, which was energised by the charismatic Brian Irvine, JPN's annual conference was kicked off this year by the equally engaging keynote speaker, Birmingham-born Soweto Kinch.

Kinch's forthright address to the 150+ conference delegates (a record attendance for a JPN event) focussed on the need for uncompromising truth, in the telling of the history of jazz and the history of slavery, racism and denial within jazz – in the USA and, by more than just implication, in the home nations of the JPN. Truth was essential, too, in the handling of the music amongst the complications and conflicts in today's social and political milieu. Here To Stay would only be a meaningful assertion if it applied to the people of all our communities as well as to the music that they play, promote and listen to. Art Blakey had famously said that, ultimately, the community would decide about the validity of music and, avowed Soweto, it was essential for the jazz world to be honest and to avoid superficial or tokenistic approaches to issues of diversity and inclusivity in our community.

The conference programme that ensued, hosted by B:Music at Symphony Hall, Birmingham City University and Royal Birmingham Conservatoire was packed with a plethora of showcases, speakers, panel sessions and discussions, all of which focussed on the current situation and future potential for jazz in the UK and Ireland.

Two sessions subtitled 'Where Are We Now?' examined the current state of play on essential issues for the jazz community. One mirrored Soweto Kinch's concerns about the reality of inclusion and diversity in jazz; the other concentrated on how the Brexit implosion had affected opportunities for musicians to work abroad



HERETO STAY!

*Nathan Somevi - nominated
for a Scottish Alternative
Music Award.*

*Right: Soweto Kinch
keynote address*



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B:Music



Supported by public funding from
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

 **Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru**
Arts Council of Wales



 **Cultúr Éireann**
Culture Ireland



and for promoters to present artists from overseas and what could be done to improve the situation.

The 'New Generation' strand of sessions looked at ways in which musicians starting out on a career in jazz could expect to be supported and then at how young promoters new to jazz could be encouraged and equipped. 'In Practice' sessions focussed on the work of jazz labels and radio broadcasting.

Other sessions – with a similar broad spectrum of speakers and panellists from all sides of the jazz community and across the UK and Ireland – continued to tell the story of other aspects of today's scene. The conference heard about the thriving Birmingham jazz scene, about current academic research, the challenges facing volunteer promoters, special projects such as Jerwood Jazz Encounters and the looming implications of AI for the whole music scene.

Threaded throughout the two days were seven performances by showcase artists plus three additional guest artists and a new commission (pages 8-11), in a pioneering programme that presented artists from all five countries of the JPN. Supported (as the conference was) by the various funding bodies from across the British Isles the showcase programme put down a clear marker for future years in which JPN aspires to put British and Irish bands in front of an invited international audience of jazz professionals.

Summing up the two days of music and discussion JPN Chair Ros Rigby, who had been helped by other JPN Board members and the Birmingham hosts to structure the event, invited contributions from two other successful and long-standing music network organisations – Making Music and Europe Jazz Network. Their representatives were emphatic about the value of networks, which had achieved far more for the collective benefit of their respective sectors than any individual or sub-group could ever have managed. In essence it was this understanding that motivated the development of the JPN – and the 2023 conference and showcase programme, undertaken this year with considerable voluntary effort and with slender resources underlined JPN's commitment to the maxim 'Here To Stay' and to building a strong, inclusive network worthy of the music and musicians that inspired everyone involved in the UK and Irish scene.

Nod Knowles

*Left: Robbie Moore of
BIGHEADMODE*



HERETO STAY!

Rachael Cohen "...deceptive quietness and the hipness with which she plays off the rhythm section" (Guardian).

SHOWCASE AND SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS

TUE 31 OCT @ B:MUSIC & WED 1 NOV @ ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE



NEW COMMISSION

With the support of PRS Foundation, B:Music has commissioned Birmingham based neo-fusion jazz duo: BIGHEADMODE.

BIGHEADMODE

(Robbie and Ewan Moore) and South London vocalist / composer / multi-instrumentalist / bandleader Plumm to create a new suite inspired by iconic Midlands band Black Sabbath.

bigheadmode.bandcamp.com



Seonaid Aitken Ensemble

Seonaid Aitken violin & vocals, Katrina Lee violin, Patsy Reid viola, Alice Allen cello, Helena Kay tenor saxophone & flute. From Fife, singer / composer / broadcaster / improvising violinist Aitken, created Chasing Sakura both for Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival and this hand-picked line-up.

seonaidaitken.bandcamp.com/.../chasing-sakura



Duski

Aidan Thome double/electric bass, Greg Sterland saxophones, Matt Holmes drums. Signed to Philly-based Ropeadope Records, Duski have been touring Wales and southern England with Pillowtalk Sessions Vol 1. The name comes from the Welsh dysgu (learn & teach). 'Melodic fragments ring out and hang in the air' (Dave Sumner).

www.duskimusic.co.uk



Nathan Somevi Trio

Nathan Somevi guitar, Rachel Duns saxophone, Alex Palmer drums. Ghanaian / Scottish guitarist Somevi grew up playing churches and takes what he learned there into his own music. Playing a hybrid bass / guitar, its encapsulating sound inspires his recent projects and he's been nominated for a Scottish Alternative Music Award.

www.nathansomevi.com



Bianca Gannon

Her simultaneous piano and percussion improvisations deliver ethereal pulses out of a unique ensemble of metallophones, singing bowls and gongs. Otherworldly tunings create resonant waves of sound. Her four star reviewed debut with // without was selected by Rhythms Magazine as Best Instrumental Album 2020.

www.biancagannon.com



Marco Woolf

Marco Woolf acoustic guitar & vocals, Carmel Smickersgill electric guitar, percussion & synth, Tom Harris piano & keyboard. Woolf's introspective storytelling and thoughtful instrumentation defy categorisation. Francine, I (Phlexx Records, 2023) follows the narrative of an African woman as she migrates for the sake of her children.

phlexxrecords.co.uk/storytelling-through-music-with-marco-woolf/



Collidescope

Liam Brennan alto saxophone, James Borland trumpet, Josh Vadiveloo bass, Kai Chareunsky drums. With their shifting ensemble roles the Birmingham-based ensemble generates a dynamic that can be startlingly fresh and engaging. They were selected to work with Laura Jurd through the Jazz Central mentorship scheme.

www.liambrennan.org



AKU!

Harry Weir saxophone, Liam Shortall trombone, Graham Costello drums. Doom Jazz at its finest, this hard-boiled fusion of noise-rock, afrobeat and hip-hop dancing in the footsteps of Sons of Kemet and Fela Kuti takes you on a raucous, foot-stomping journey through the dreich underbelly of Glasgow.

fmly.agency/artist/aku

Rachael Cohen Band

Rachael Cohen saxophone, Artie Zaitz guitar, Josh Vedivaloo double bass, Jim Bashford drums. The Guardian notes a deceptive quietness and the hipness with which she plays off the rhythm section (Guardian). MOJO describes her dancing over her own unpredictable chord structures with articulacy and with, elegantly blending Desmond's cool, Konitz's quirk and Coleman's lyrical astringency.

www.rachaelcohenmusic.com



Above: Impromptu afternoon jam session in the café, with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire students led by tutor Arnie Somogyi (double bass).



Fergus McCreadie

Fergus McCreadie piano, David Bowden bass, Stephen Henderson drums.

With a unique blend of jazz and traditional music, McCreadie's 2022 Forest Floor catapulted him into the spotlight. With innate depth and natural expression he moves between radiant pulse-wash and tranquillity in a moment; between delicate shades and high energy.

www.fergusmccreadie.co.uk

Soweto Kinch

Soweto Kinch saxophones, Nick Jurd bass, Louis Hamilton-Foad drums.

Mercury nominated, MOBO winning Kinch is one of the most exciting and versatile musicians on British jazz and hip hop scenes. Jurd joined him for 2022's White Juju album and tour. Hamilton-Foad is a founder member of Birmingham-based The Outer Circle.

www.soweto-kinch.com



On the day after the conference delegates were also invited to the Eastside Jazz Club to hear:

PAUL DUNMALL INVITES: with Percy Pursglove, Olie Brice and Will Glaser.





THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Our conference partners were B:Music (formerly known as Symphony Hall) , Birmingham City University and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. They generously provided use of venues, staff and technical support either free or at greatly reduced rates. BCU also contributed much of the content of the second day's conference programme drawing on the expertise of their researchers and staff; students from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire also provided informal music making throughout the day and evening.

Our Gold Sponsor was the UK wide charity Making Music who represent over 4000 amateur music makers and promoters from across the UK; their CEO Barbara Eifler assisted Julia Payne is a panel specifically for volunteer promoters, and also spoke about the value of networks at the final plenary event.

We also had sponsorship in kind from the National Jazz Archive through their support for the creation of a special exhibition for the conference drawing on items from the jazz archive collection based at BCU.

Tony Dudley Evans, long term jazz promoter in Birmingham and former JPN Chair also played an active role as a member of the Birmingham planning team. Finally, our sincere thanks to Nick Gebhardt, Professor of Jazz and Popular Music Studies and Director of Research in Birmingham School of Media at BCU for making the original offer to host the JPN Conference in Birmingham, coordinating the different partners, and providing calm and positive support throughout!

The showcase and bursary programme was supported by the following arts funding bodies - **Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council Wales and Culture Ireland.**

A special thank you to Trevor and Josh Bailey for all photography.

*Right: Rachael Cohen and
Josh Vedivaloo*



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Barbara Eifler, CEO of Gold Sponsor Making Music who represent over 4000 amateur music makers and promoters from across the UK.



HERETO STAY!

DELEGATES & SPEAKERS

Rob Adams	Journalist	Robert Farhat	Serious
Mobo Agoro	Forij	John Ferguson	SoundCellar Poole
Seonaid Aitken	Musician	Marie-Danielle Fleurant	BCU
Melissa Avdeef	University of Stirling	Mike Fletcher	BCU
Trevor Bailey	Photographer	Mike Flynn	Jazzwise
Josh Bailey	Photographer	Niall Ford	Musician
Rhys Baker	Tru Thoughts	Matt Fripp	JazzFuel
Esther Bennett	Singer	Alice Fuller	Generator
Carl Billson	Jazz Steps Nottingham	David Fuller	Music Spoken Here
Alex Bishop	Jazz at the Lescar	Bianca Gannon	IMC
Pauline Black	Jazz at the Blue Lamp	Paula Gardiner	RWCMD / Musician
John Blandford	Cambridge Jazz Festival	George Gatehouse	NYJO
Fred Bolza	New Soil	David Gaydon	Cheltenham Jazz Festival
Karl Bos		Nicholas Gebhardt	BCU
Christian Bragg	Jazz FM	Lynne Gornall	Brecon Jazz Club
Nathan Bragg	Manchester Jazz Festival	Lynne Gornall +1	Brecon Jazz Club
Anna Brooks	Musician	Louis Green	
Patricia Brown	Musician and producer	Lee Griffiths	BCU
Amadeus Brzezinski	Musician	Petra Haller	Dancer
Goetz Buehler	jazzahead!	Henry Hanssen	
Marco Cafolla	Musician	Alanna Henry	Jazz Refreshed
Oliver Canham		Simon Herberholz	Musician
Roger Cannon	Brecon Jazz Club	Clare Hewitt	Creative Scotland
Alex Carr	B:Music/Cheltenham Jazz Festival	Noor Hingorani	
David Carter	Jazz Steps Nottingham	Brian Homer	BCU
Celia Cashman	Sheffield Jazz	Vincent Hudson	
Winston Clifford		Janine Irons	Tomorrow's Warriors
Philip Clouts	JazzSpace	Stuart Isaac	EMJAZZ
Amy Coates	Fizzle	Tamora James	Sheffield Jazz
Grace Conner		Shanti Jayasinha	Musician
Emilie Conway	Singer	Dominic Johnson	Guitarist
Ben Cottrell	Erpi Records	Emily Jones	Jerwood Jazz Encounters
Taylor Cottrell	Folded Wing	Marcus Joseph	Musician
Pedro Cravinho	BCU	Hillary Juma	Attitude is Everything
Maureen Currie	Gloucestershire Music	Mark Kass	London East Jazz Network / JPN
Freddie Dal		Helena Kay	Musician
John Daly	Musician	David Kayode	Purple Collective
Agnese Daverio	FMLY Agency / JPN	Paul Kelly	Events and Festival Manager
Juliane Deil		Raheel Khan	Musician
Liam Detar		Christian Kiely	Charalambous
Anita Dinham		Soweto Kinch	Musician
Louise Dodds	Vocalist	Penny King +1	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
John Donegan	Musician		
Tony Dudley-Evans	TDE Promotions	Gerry Kirby	
Barbara Eifler	Making Music	Noel Knowles	All Of The Above / JPN
Joy Ellis	BCU	Fish Krish	Tomorrow's Warriors
Nathaniel Evans		MaKeda Krish	J to Z
Roger Fagge	University of Warwick	Christy Lakeman	

Ben	Lawrence		Dominic	Reilly	Teddy D Promotions
Kat	Lee-Ryan	Musician	Ros	Rigby	JPN
Will	Lee-Ryan	Musician	Adam	Roberts	Musician
Harvey	Lees		Orphy	Robinson	The Ivors Academy / JPN
Aaron	Liddard		Jill	Rodger	Glasgow International Jazz Festival
Matt	Lush		Megan	Roe	Musician
Izzy	Maclachlan	BCU	Josh	Rose	
Giulia	Marro	Cherry Red	Phil	Rose	Birmingham Jazz
Peter	Martin	Gloucestershire Music	Anna	Ross	
Peter	Martin	Open Studio	Patrycja	Rozbicka	Aston University
Jez	Matthews	Jazz at the Lescar	Sebastian	Scotney	London Jazz News
Ni	Maxine	Musician	Lucy	Scott	Sage Gateshead
Steve	Mead	Manchester Jazz	Ben	Shankland	Pianist and composer
Phil	Meadows	Musician	Donald	Sharples	The Blue Lamp, Aberdeen
Tamsin	Mendelsohn	Deep Dive Music	Andy	Shearer	Perth Theatre and Concert Hall
Claire	Mera-Nelson	Arts Council England	Richard	Short	
Naomi	Mccarthy	ISM	Shannon-Latoyah	Simon	British Council
Paula	Mccoll	Moving on Music	Peter	Slavid	Jazz writer / JPN
Justin	Mckeon	Birmingham Jazz	Nathan	Somevi	Musician
Jamie	Mcleish		Heather	Spencer	Jazz North / JPN
Peter	Martin	Gloucestershire Music	Wesley	Stephenson	Jazz North East
Peter	Martin +1		Greg	Sterling	Musician
Steve	Mead	Manchester Jazz Festival	Harry	Stobart	Musician
Blair	Melville	Langtoun Jazz	Ian	Storror	Promoter
Claire	Mera- Nelson	Arts Council England	Alastair	Swainger	Composer
Tony	Minvielle	Jazz FM	Heather	Taylor	
Keith	Michael	En Rapport / JPN	Paul	Thomas	Sheffield Jazz
Katrina	Miller		Aidan	Thorne	Musician
Helen	Morgan		John	Thurlow	Jazz in Britain
Pete	Nickless		John	Thurlow +1	
Piera	Onacko	Musician	Claire	Umney	Jazz FM
Pelin	Opcin	Serious/EFG London Jazz Festival	Rebecca	Vasman	Musician
Fiona	Ord-Shrimpton	On The Edge	Iwan	Vanhetten	Musician
Paul	Pace	Ronnie Scott's	Tim	Wall	BCU
Lou	Paley	Women in Jazz	Thomas	Ward	BCU
Patricia	Pascal	Tomorrow's Warriors	Huw	Warren	Musician
Jamie	Paxton		Sarah	Weller	Ronnie Scott's
Julia	Payne	the hub	Barney	Whittaker	Presto Music
Ian	Perry	Freelance Promoter	Tony	Whyton	BCU
Simon	Phillips	Jazz FM	Adam	Williams	Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Tom	Phillips		Adam	Williams +1	
David	Porter	Creative Arts Promotion	Rebecca	Williams	Arts Council England
Jeremy	Price	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	Tom	Winter	
Andrew	Procter	JPN	Andrew	Woodhead	Musician
Ed	Puddick		Pete	Woodman	Jazz In Britain
Will	Lee-Ryan	Musician	Matthew	Yee-King	Goldsmiths/University of London
Maeve	Ramsey	JPN	Susie	York Skinner	NYJO
Thomas	Rees	J to Z			

JAZZ PROMOTION NETWORK

JOIN JPN!

By joining you would be supporting the only national organisation established to support the UK/Irish jazz sector and help it continue to thrive. You could also contribute to JPN's future plans and become involved in JPN working groups or even the Board of Trustees.

Benefits include:

FREE CONFERENCE PLACE

As a JPN member you are entitled to a free conference place at the only annual jazz sector conference for the UK/Ireland.

MEMBER MEET-UPS AND ROUND TABLES

Opportunities to meet with other members and focus on regional/national issues affecting the jazz sector.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREE/REDUCED PRICE TRAINING

Though partner organisations like Attitude is Everything, Jazz Fuel and more.

GET INVOLVED WITH JAZZ ACTIVITY RIGHT ACROSS EUROPE
via JPN's membership of the **EUROPE JAZZ NETWORK**.

To join JPN and/or subscribe to our newsletter go to:

www.jazzpromotionnetwork.org.uk

Ros Rigby (Chair) ros@jazzpromotionnetwork.org.uk

Maeve Ramsey (Coordinator) maeve@jazzpromotionnetwork.org.uk

