

Kevin Figes Quartet

Band Member Biographies

Kevin Figes (saxophones, compositions)

Kevin began studying saxophone with Elton Dean (Soft Machine) and later attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama studying with Tim Garland. He composes for his own quartet which has released three CDs: "Circular Motion" (2008, Edition), "Hometime" (2010, Pig) and "Tables and Chairs" (2012, Pig) which received much critical acclaim. The Quartet tours the UK regularly, with help from Jazz Services, and has been broadcast several times on Radio 3.

He also wrote for the 15 piece big band 'Resonation' which features some of the finest musicians from the west and beyond, a live recording of which will be released in 2016 on Figes' own Pig Records. He has a notable connection with Keith Tippett, performing in his big band "Tapestry" in Portugal and Canada and in his Octet including broadcasts on Radio 3 and a CD release on Ogun. Kevin has also performed with Dave Stapleton and recorded an album for his label (Edition). In 2011 he formed the band "4 Sided Triangle" which included guitarist Mike Outram, and their first CD was released on Pig records in July 2012 to excellent reviews and widespread radio play.

Two new recordings, "Weather Warning" by the Quartet and "Time Being" by the Octet, will be released on 10th April 2016 together with the launch of Pig records' website.

"Compelling Bristol-based altoist Figes mixes up old school bop with a contemporary attack and edgy harmony" Time Out

Jim Blomfield (piano)

Since moving to Bristol in 1991, Jim has often been the pianist of choice to accompany many of the UK's finest jazz musicians including Bobby Wellins, Andy Sheppard and Pete King. Somewhat a specialist in Latin piano styles, Jim played in Salsa band K'chevere for many years. Jim has played at many UK venues and festivals, including *Ronnie Scott's*, *The Jazz Café*, *Glastonbury Festival* and a solo recital at *St. George's* in Bristol, alongside *Gwilym Simcock*.

Jim's recording work includes his own album '*Peaks and Troughs*' (ASC Records), containing both quartet and septet original pieces. His arranging skills for larger ensemble include compositions commissioned by the *Bristol Brass Consort* and *The Bristol Ensemble*, the latter involving collaborations for the contemporary/crossover '*Elektrostatic*' concerts at Bristol's *Colston Hall*.

In addition to his trio, recent projects include co-leading and composing for acclaimed contemporary big band '*Resonation*' alongside *Kevin Figes* and bassist *Jeff Spencer*.

"Jim Blomfield is a marvel" Independent on Sunday. "...seemingly limitless imagination ..."Venue magazine.

Riaan Vosloo (bass)

As well as occupying the Bass chair in the Nostalgia 77 Octet, Riaan Vosloo has worked with among others Keith Tippett, Matthew Bourne, Art Theman, Andy Shepherd, Spring Heel Jack, Liam Noble, Pee Wee Ellis and Iain Ballamy. Riaan was a founder member of the The Electric Dr M (with Matthew Bourne) and plays in the Gary Boyle quartet with Mercury nominee Zoe Rahman.

Mark Whitlam (Drums)

Mark is also hugely in demand and has performed many of the UK's finest jazz musicians including Alan Barnes, Gareth Williams, Tina May, Dave Newton, Jim Mullen, Mike Outram and Chris Biscoe. He also plays in the Jim Blomfield Trio, the Nick Malcolm Quartet, Moonlight Saving Time and Jake McMurchie's trio and has recordings coming out with each of these groups. Mark has appeared at most of the UK's leading jazz festivals including Brecon, Cheltenham, Manchester and Swanage and also Glastonbury Festival, having received air play on BBC Radio 3 'Late Junction' and Radio 6 'Introducing ...' programmes. As an educator, he tutors undergraduate students as a member of the drum faculty at BIMM Brsitol

***"Whitlam's neatly energetic drumming ... is consistently bright, inventive and responsive"* (Ian Mann)**