

# **Kevin Figs Quartet**

**Kevin Figs – Saxes, flutes and compositions**

**Jim Blomfield – Piano**

**Riaan Vosloo – Bass**

**Mark Whitlam – Drums**

**Figs' Quartet play his own distinctive compositions and have performed all over the UK for many years to enthusiastic audiences. Four recordings have been released to widespread critical acclaim and airplay.**

**There is a striking level of empathy and interplay within the Quartet that comes from a combination of highly accomplished players, all great improvisors in their own right, who have worked closely together for some time.**

**The compositions are constantly developing to produce work which is challenging and contemporary . Influences (in no order) include David Binney, Paul Hindemith, Dave Holland, Henry Cow, Chris Potter, Hermeto Pascoal, John Escreet, Soft Machine and much '70s prog rock. The aim is to produce personal music in a fearless and evolving way.**

## **Jim Blomfield (piano)**

**A much in demand player, Jim has performed at numerous venues and festivals throughout the UK. As sideman, bands include long standing engagements with the Andy Hague Quintet and Kevin Figs Quartet with whom he has toured and recorded extensively. He has accompanied a firmament of national and international names – Andy Sheppard, Pete King, Alan Barnes, Simon Spillett, Ed Jones and US saxophonists Benn Clatworthy and Greg Abate to name but a few. As a composer and bandleader Jim has written eclectic music for a variety of ensembles – from quartet and septet to contemporary big band and jazz/classical collaborations with the Bristol Ensemble. His critically acclaimed 2013 album release ‘Wave Forms and Sea Changes‘ saw Jim compose for the more intimate setting of the piano trio, a format he has concentrated on for the last few years.**

**'...brilliant pianist Jim Blomfield often packs more into a single solo than seems wholly decent.' (Jazz UK)**

### **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)**