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ABINGDON JAZZ FESTIVAL

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ABINGDON JAZZ FESTIVAL

Friday 12th May – Saturday 13th May

Abingdon Jazz Festival 2017

Presented by The Friends of Abingdon & Music At The Unicorn

Main Venue: The Long Gallery,
Abingdon Abbey Buildings,
Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3JB

Tickets: Remade Guitars,
Stratton Way, Abingdon
www.abingdonjazzfestival.org.uk
info@abingdonjazzfestival.org.uk
@abjazzfest

Friday 12th May

The Big Band at Abingdon School was created in about 1990, when it became clear that the school's then distinguished saxophone teacher, John Daniels, was teaching his sax students to improvise in their lessons, but without any band in which to develop their jazz playing! It was quite a simple operation for the Director of Music, Michael Stinton, to invite John to start a big band, which would bring trumpets, trombones and a rhythm section to join his saxophones.

Soon after John celebrated his 75th birthday at the school, the band's direction was handed first to Steve Cadd and, since 1995, to Simon Currie, who has been the band's leader since then. Simon has brought the band to great heights over the years and has given valuable experience to many young musicians, many of whom have gone on to forge careers as jazz musicians, notably Tom Richards (Jamie Cullen's band leader) and Nathan Hawken, who enjoys an illustrious career as a freelance sax player.

Since those early days, the band has gone from strength to strength, releasing two recordings and embarking on tours to France, Greece, Italy and the USA. The next destination is set to be Japan in July 2019.

It's the 60's and Maxine Day, a well known South African jazz singer, is on the run from the law. Her so called crime? Falling in love with a white man in apartheid-era South Africa and sitting next to him in his car. Experience Maxine's incredible voice and passion, performing with a superb band. Maxine Day - Vocals, Martin Pickett - Piano, Tim Richardson - Drums, Steve Smith - Bass.

Saturday 13th May

Thixotropy is an exciting modern jazz ensemble, playing new compositions by it's members as well as standards and post bop tunes. The quintet comprises some of Oxfordshire's best musicians. Expect some thrilling and sometimes laid back performances. Ottone Caretta - Alto Sax, Lloyd Payne - Trumpet, Martin Pickett - Piano Esther Ng - Bass, Tim Richardson - Drums.

Funk Bake is a 7-piece instrumental ensemble. It was born in 2009 with the mission of bringing some groove to the heart of music lovers. It brings together the energy and passion of some of the finest groove masters in the country. The repertoire includes some of the most famous jazz-funk tunes. Lloyd Payne - Trumpet and Flugelhorn, Ottone Caretta - Alto Sax, Ross Law - Trombone, David Holmes - Drums Jake Kirkpatrick - Bass, Elliott Rooney - Piano.

The Oxfordshire Youth Big Band (OYBB) started in 1974 after a highly subscribed 3 day jazz course. Since then, the big band programme has developed into three progressive big bands and three small jazz ensembles. OYBB plays a range of big band style music from early Count Basie to more modern charts by Gordon Goodwin. Over fifty developing jazz students attend our big band programme on Tuesday nights, from 7:30-9:30, at Bayards Hill School, Oxford. All students, aged eleven to nineteen, who are above a grade five standard and play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or a rhythm section instrument, are encouraged to come on a Tuesday night and join in our groups. No audition needed to become a member of the OYBB programme.

Band leader Chuck Lloyd studied Jazz Performance at Arizona State University and earned a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies. He has performed with jazz groups throughout Arizona, California, north India and England.

Dorothy Shaw started learning piano at age 6 and went through all the grades. At age 15 she got into jazz and studied on many holiday jazz courses. Having played with various local bands she went to Berklee college of Music in Boston, USA in 1993-4. Her style is based on Bill Evans and Keith Jarrett with influence from Red Garland (Miles Davis mid-1950s).

A self-taught musician, Themen played tenor saxophone with a university jazz band while studying medicine at Cambridge. After qualifying as a doctor, he moved to London and in the early 60s played in several blues and R&B bands and also worked in the backing groups for numerous pop sessions, including playing for Rod Stewart and Joe Cocker. In the late 60s and early 70s his musical direction shifted towards jazz. A highly individual playing style marks Themen's performances and had he chosen to adopt music as a full-time career he would have doubtless been an international artist of considerable stature. That he has achieved his present high standing in the jazz world while at the same time pursuing his medical career as a consultant surgeon, is testimony to his remarkable gifts. Art Themen - Tenor and Soprano Sax, Paul Eldridge - Piano, Steve Kershaw - Bass, Ron Hetherington - Drums

A modern take on vintage funk, brimful of energy with a raw edge, catchy hooks/ melodies and tight grooves. The band combine a retro Hammond organ based sound with a virtuoso horn section, soulful lead and harmony vocals. Crowd Company are renowned for dynamic, engaging live performances.
"Excellent. Dirty, lowdown funk" "We love Crowd Company on the show"
Craig Charles, BBC Radio 6
"One of the most danceable sets I've heard in ages. They FUNK!!!!" *Music News.com*
"The groove is nothing short of irresistible." *Soulful Corner*