

Chris Hodgkins Quartet

In 2005, Chris Hodgkins Trio featuring Alison Rayner on double bass and Max Brittain on guitar, released Present Continuous and Future Continuous followed a year later. In 2008 the Chris Hodgkins Quartet featuring Alison Rayner on bass, Max Brittain on guitar and Dianne McLoughlin on alto sax released an album based on Boswell's London Journal, co-composed by Chris Hodgkins and Eddie Harvey and arranged by Eddie Harvey.

The Chris Hodgkins Jazz Quartet album, Boswell's London Journal, garnered critical praise and scooping the Evening Standard's prestigious Jazz CD of the Week slot. Boswell's London Journal is inspired by the daily diary kept by James Boswell, best known as the biographer of Dr Samuel Johnson, between 1762 and 1763. The album perfectly captures this account of a very different London to today, as seen through the eyes of the 22 year old Scot, and offers an emotionally charged landscape that amply illustrates the human condition: from the low and the vulgar to profound conversations with Samuel Johnson, the real-life incidents in the London Journal offered the composers a wealth of rich material for the album's suite of 15 original tunes.



Left to right: Max Brittain, Alison Rayner, Diane McLoughlin, Chris Hodgkins, 2008

Alison Rayner toured the world in the 80s with the critically acclaimed Latin-jazz group the Guest Stars. She has worked on the London jazz scene for over 20 years since then, playing with such jazz luminaries as guitar legend Tal Farlow and New York jazz poet Jayne Cortez. She performs and records regularly with the Deirdre Cartwright Group, Chris Hodgkins Quartet, US based singer/songwriter Zoe Lewis and many others, also co-running Blow the Fuse Jazz Club. She was awarded a Jazz Services Recording Subsidy Award 2014 for her quintet ARQ with a CD release and touring planned for next year.

Max Brittain's inventive and sensitive guitar playing has accompanied a diverse range of musical greats including the late Humphrey Lyttelton, Ronnie Scott, Cleo Laine, Georgie Fame, Herb Ellis, Charlie Byrd, Barney Kessell, and Marion Montgomery, as well as the National Symphony Orchestra. In 1990 he was invited to establish the electric guitar faculty at Eton College, and is now senior visiting teacher of this department.

Diane McLoughlin is well known on the London jazz scene as a saxophone player and composer. After studying jazz performance and composition at the Guildhall School of Music, she wrote for, and directed, her own 17-piece jazz orchestra Giant Steppes. In addition to this, Diane led the quirky Di's New Outfit, which blended improvised music with European cabaret styles. She also composed for her own contemporary jazz quartet, co-created Zdravets with piano and accordion player Kim Burton, and the Boogie Wonderland Big Band. At present she is writing for and playing in her own jazz ens

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