



Ronnie Scott's All Stars
The Ronnie Scott's Soho Songbook
James Pearson *piano/MD* - Alex Garnett *sax* - Sam Burgess - *bass*
Chris Higginbottom *drums* - Emma Smith *vocals*

Friday 8 July, 2022 - Stahl Theatre

Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club returns to Oundle with a brand new collection of music, narration and projected archive images and footage, celebrating Ronnie Scott's 'Soho Songbook'.

Since its humble beginnings as a basement music bar where musicians would jam, through to the internationally acclaimed music venue it is today, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club has showcased the music of some of the world's greatest and most influential artists. Hosting landmark performances from the likes of Nina Simone, Ella Fitzgerald, Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck and Michael Bublé, not forgetting surprise appearances by the likes of Jamie Cullum, Stevie Wonder and Prince!

Featuring classic music from the jazz greats who have performed at Ronnie Scott's, alongside narration and projected archive images and rare footage from the club.

'The Ronnie Scott's Songbook' is a glimpse into this unique world and its incredible history.

James Pearson is a pianist, composer and the creative tour de force and Artistic Director at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club who is equally at home as a concert pianist. With collaborations ranging from Paul McCartney to Wynton Marsalis, James is fast becoming one of the country's most sought after pianists. His own recent compositions include *The Big Smoke*, commissioned by the BFI, and his collection of footage of London accompanied by an 80 minute score. His work can also be heard performed by Brodsky String Quartet, Sir John Dankworth, BBC Concert Orchestra and BBC Big Band. As a performer his work covers all music genres, especially contemporary music, jazz and classical. He is a graduate of the Guildhall School where he studied with Robert Saxton, Francis Shaw, Peter Bithell and James Gibb. James has broadcast on all the major radio and television networks and was the pianist in the Steve Martland Band. His work as a jazz musician has taken him all over the world. His fine piano playing and arrangements can be heard on over 50 albums and he has worked with many stars including Dame Cleo Laine, Marian Montgomery, Petula Clark, Wynton Marsalis, and Paul McCartney.

Alex Garnett has been one of the leading saxophonists in the UK and Europe for over two decades, instantly recognisable by his dark, husky sound. A versatile musician, he has enjoyed success as a jazz artist, composer and arranger, and an in-demand session, studio and commercial saxophonist. A performer with many of Europe's leading bands from underground to pop, and has performed in over 30 countries worldwide appearing at venues such as the Blue Note, Birdland, as well as the Perugia, North Sea, Vittoria, Montreux and Oslo Jazz Festivals, with artists including Sir John Dankworth, Wynton Marsalis, Pete King, Humphrey Littleton, Scott Hamilton, Van Morrison, Evan Parker and The Rolling Stones. Alex's first solo album, *Serpent*, was released in September of 2011. Recorded in New York at Systems Two Studios, it features drummer Willie Jones III, Anthony Wonsey on piano, and bassist Michael Janisch, while showcasing eight original compositions from the leader. The album proved to be one of the most anticipated debuts for years in the UK, winning universal acclaim by press, fans and musicians alike.

Sam Burgess is a stalwart of the UK jazz scene and has appeared on numerous film soundtracks such as *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Hannibal*. Sam's thumping, pounding, relentlessly driving bass lines have been heard accompanying the likes of Bob James, Billy Kilson, Gary Novak, Joe Lock, Dave Kekowski, Guy Barker, Dave O'Higgins, Pete King, Gareth Williams, Claire Martin, Jim Mullen, Alan Barnes, Tim Whitehead, John Horler, Gwyneth Herbert, John Dankworth, BBC Big Band and Robbie Williams.

Chris Higginbottom, one of the UK's most in-demand drummers, is currently a member of the Kyle Eastwood band and the Ronnie Scott's All Stars. A Royal Academy of Music graduate, Chris lived in New York for eight years where he played with many of the biggest names in jazz including Mark Murphy and Seamus Blake. He has performed all over the world including the Blue Note Tokyo, Birdland in New York, the House of Blues in Chicago, The Roxy in LA, Montreal Jazz Festival, Marciac Jazz Festival. Since relocating to London in 2010, Chris has also performed and toured with the BBC Big Band, Westlife, Marti Pellow, Georgie Fame, Carleen Anderson, the James Taylor Quartet, Lisa Stansfield, Gabrielle, and Omar. He has released two albums as a leader: *One* (2005, Basho records), and *Where Land Ends* (2013, F-IRE).

Emma Smith is recognised as one of the most exciting voices of her generation, spanning many genres, scenes and stages and has performed everywhere from the O2 Arena to the Graham Norton Show to the top jazz clubs of NYC. She began performing professionally from the age of 15, and since that time has performed and recorded with some of the biggest artists in the world, (including the likes of Michael Buble, Robbie Williams, Georgie Fame, and Seal) and has been collecting awards in her own name along the way; including the London Music Awards Rising Star of 2015 and winner of the Worshipful Company of Musicians Medal. Emma is one third of the chart topping vocal harmony group The Puppini Sisters, as well as being featured vocalist with the Ronnie Scott's All Stars. Emma also hosts *Jazz Now* on BBC Radio 3.

Supported by Virginia Graham