

PRESS RELEASE

Bassist John Williamson set to record debut album with Nikki Iles as producer

John Williamson, already an established and versatile bassist on London's jazz scene, is preparing to mark the end of his postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music by recording his original music for the first time.

Featuring renowned tenor saxophonist Alex Hitchcock and in-demand drummer Jay Davis, the trio is augmented by vibraphonist Jonny Mansfield, while legendary pianist and composer Nikki Iles is enlisted as producer.

John's writing is informed by an unusually varied life in music and a ruthlessly focused melodic instinct. Influences from Tristano to Haden combine to create something "detailed and hugely compelling... so much more than what appears on the page."

John says: *"I write the melodies I want to hear. Melodic lines have always been my way into music, whether they convey beauty, exuberance, heartbreak, subversion, or all these at once. It's exciting that musicians and friends I respect so much have committed themselves to bringing this music to life."*

Hailing from Saltburn-by-the-sea in northeast England, John Williamson began as an electric bassist alongside temporary jobs in academic physics, while living in Leeds, Washington DC, and now London. Known for his musical ear, creativity and bulletproof sight-reading, he is at home in small and large ensembles ranging from straight-ahead jazz to contemporary originals projects.

Since arriving in the capital he has played with many of the city's finest, including Jason Brown, Nigel Price, Emma Rawicz, Sam Leak, Alex Garnett, Gene Calderazzo, Dominic Ingham, Jo Harrop, Matt Anderson, Rachael Cohen, and Sam Braysher.

In 2020, shortly after taking up the double bass, John won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where he is tutored by an array of luminaries including Kit Downes, Nikki Iles, Jim Hart and Orlando Le Fleming.



"Razor sharp reactions to a constantly-shifting musical landscape... promised much and delivered in spades" — Bebop Spoken Here

Line-up

John Williamson — double bass, compositions
Alex Hitchcock — tenor saxophone
Jay Davis — drums
Jonny Mansfield — vibraphone
Nikki Iles — producer, guest piano

Listen/find out more

youtube.com/watch?v=ua592McRxW8
instagram.com/jjwilliamsonbass
johnjosephwilliamson.com

Recording schedule

28-29 June
Fish Factory Studio, London

Financial support

Help Musicians

Booking/enquiries

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Musicians