

Chris Hodgkins And His Band

Chris Hodgkins And His Band Ealing Jazz Festival 2015 - Photos courtesy of Chris Taylor LRPS

Chris Hodgkins And His Band have been described as a mature mainstream band drawing its inspiration from the 50's but with up-to-date arrangements, original tunes, ideas and influences. The line-up: Max Brittain (guitar), Charlotte Glasson (saxes, flute, saw, and penny whistles), Diane McLoughlin, (saxes), Alison Rayner (double bass) Cheryl Alleyne (drums) and Chris Hodgkins (trumpet).

Cheryl Alleyne studied jazz and classical music at the College of Arts & Technology in Newcastle upon Tyne. On returning to London she worked with Loose Tubes, The Jazz Warriors, The Reggae Philharmonic Orchestra and toured the world extensively with hip-hop/rap group Us3

Cheryl won places to study music in the United States at Berklee College of Music, The Manhattan School of Music and the New School of Jazz and although unsuccessful in finding funding to take up any of those positions, she went on to live, teach and play music in the USA and was also the show band drummer for 9 months on the Renaissance Eight and Golden Princess cruise liners, which travelled to South America and the Bahamas respectively. More recently Cheryl worked with the Courtney Pine Quartet at the Mermaid Theatre in a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of 'Desert Island Discs' with the BBC Concert Orchestra. Cheryl is a SONOR and SABIAN endorsee.

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, American 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.

Charlotte Glasson is an award winning multi-instrumentalist and composer playing saxophones, flutes, violin, percussion and even the saw. She likes mixing up music from around the world and blending it to fit under the jazz umbrella. She runs her own band which has released 6 CD's and have played Ronnie Scotts, and many festivals including the London Jazz Festival. As a session musician she has worked with Oasis, Nick Cave, The Divine Comedy, James Blackshaw, Jah Wobble and Julian Lloyd Webber and performed all over the world including Sydney Opera House with The Lost and Found Orchestra, BB Kings in New York with 'Three Friends play music of Gentle Giant, Main Concert hall in Bangkok with Claire Martin, and had was a featured artiste in a film 'JazzLive at The Crypt' alongside Tony Kofi. More info at www.charlotteglasson.com

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 ensembles.

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