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World class live-jazz returns to Epsom

6 September 2023

Epsom Jazz Club returns this Tuesday 12th September for another three highly anticipated world class jazz concerts, beginning with their first intimate duo show.

The wondrous pair of Cuban Jazz violinist **Omar Puente** and Italian pianist and composer **Ilario Ferrari** have performed their "**Mediterranean meets Cuba**" show numerous times in London to sellout crowds and now Epsom Jazz Club has encouraged them to bring it to our Borough to launch the new Season. Omar can often be seen leading his own sextet in venues such as Ronnie Scott's and upon many a Jazz Festival stage. Ilario is equally busy, having just released his third album as band leader, a work for piano and string quartet that combines Classical music, contemporary Jazz and Indian rhythms. They promise to take the audience on a journey from Cuba, the shores of south Italy and back, exploring the common ground and new possibilities that come from the encounter of the Afro-Cuban Jazz tradition and the Mediterranean Culture.

Next month, on Tuesday 10th October Epsom Jazz Club plays host to an all-star Saxophone Quartet led by swing and the straight-ahead focussed **Fraser Smith**. In-demand pianist **Rob Barron** makes his return to Epsom after his visit in August (with vibes player Nat Steele), alongside revered bassist **Simon Read** and stalwart jazz drummer **Steve Brown**. Swinging sax quartets are often so popular with audiences and these four musicians are amongst the best. Following Fraser's album release in April this year, the band has been gigging all over the UK showcasing much of the music from "TipTop!" as well as hard bop / bebop arrangements of popular standards.

And finally, on Tuesday 7th November arguably one of the world's best jazz clarinettists, **Giacomo Smith**, will be performing on the Oaks Room stage. Born in Italy and raised in upstate New York, Giacomo leads many great projects (including Kansas Smitty's, Hot Five, Trav'lin Light) as well as being in demand all over the world as a soloist and collaborator. He's produced recordings for Jamie Cullum, rising star Jas Kayser and the debut album from actor Damian Lewis alongside performing regularly as a featured soloist with Gregory Porter the Southbank Sinfonia and other international orchestras. His writing, production and collaborations have garnered 10m + streams and counting. Alongside New Zealand born jazz guitarist and banjo player **Alexander 'Honey' Boulton**, and US born (and Manhattan School of Music and Royal Academy of Music graduate) double bassist **Will Sach**, Epsom Jazz Club has booked a phenomenal trio for their Autumn Season finale!

Tickets for all these concerts are on sale now and available to buy in advance either via their website **EpsomJazzClub.com** or by going directly to the **ticket site**.

http://twitter.com/EpsomJazzClub

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After Ronnie Scott's? Epsom of course!

6 September 2023

Fresh from their 'Two for the Road' concert at **Ronnie Scott's**, internationally renowned virtuoso jazz guitarist visiting from Norway, **Frode Kjekstad** is pairing up with local legend **Nigel Price**. Together with Italian drum sensation **Laura Klain** and the brilliant **Mikele Montolli** on double bass, they will give a special live concert in the heart of Epsom on **Saturday 11th March**.

Epsom Jazz Club, resident in the Oaks Room, Church Street, Epsom has sold out all its regular Tuesday concerts this season. So this is the last chance to enjoy the unique cabaret seated venue until next season starts in May. A real taste of the world famous Ronnie Scott atmosphere and music brought to your own Town.

Frode has wowed audiences whilst playing alongside heavyweight jazz stars such as Dr Lonnie Smith, Mike LeDonne and Eric Alexander.

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Epsom Jazz Club advises buy your tickets in advance. Go to www.epsomjazzclub.com for tickets.

Spring comes early for Epsom and Ewell jazz fans

6 September 2023

Question: What do the following three people all have in common? An accordion player with the Strictly Come Dancing live band, one of the most exciting vocalists of her generation and a finalist in the 2022 BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year competition?

Answer: Starting on Tuesday the 17th of January at 7.30pm in Epsom's cabaret style venue at the Oaks Room, Church St, Epsom, they are all playing at the Epsom Jazz Club in the next three months!

The Epsom Jazz Club launches its "Spring season" of concerts on **Tuesday 17th January** with the tantalising **L'Esprit du Jazz** quartet taking to the stage in **The Oaks Room** for a highly anticipated performance.

Incepted less than a year ago, Epsom Jazz Club has gone from strength to strength, steadily building its audience for their monthly Jazz gigs. The cream of UK Jazz have accepted invitations to perform at the new Club and have collaboratively helped create something rather special. The intimate 70-seater venue, with each table adorned with a charming cocktail table lamp, is the perfect setting to sit back and listen to some of the very best professional Jazz musicians the UK has nurtured. The venue has a bar open just for the jazz guests.

Accordionist **Karen Street** along with her bandmates **Sam Dunn** (guitar), **Charlie Pyne** (double bass & vocals) and **Katie Patterson** (drums) kick things off for Epsom Jazz Club at 7:30pm this coming Tuesday evening (17th January). Dave Gelly from The Observer noted that "Karen Street has evolved an entire vocabulary for the accordion that works beautifully in the jazz context without forfeiting the instrument's awkward individuality".

The vast array of jazz styles explored at Epsom Jazz Club and the variation of instrument lineup each month is purposeful and well-curated. A Piano Trio may perform one month, followed by an all-string Gypsy Jazz ensemble the next. French Musette and the world of Tango will be explored on one given Tuesday evening, while lilting Afro Cuban inspired grooves and hard hitting modern jazz & funk numbers will be offered up at a subsequent event.

The acts booked are no strangers to the renowned jazz stages of London's **Ronnie Scott's**, Nottingham's **Peggy's Skylight** or Brighton's **Verdict Jazz Club**. For the price of a train fare into London you can now buy a ticket to see world class jazz musicians performing within the Borough of Epsom & Ewell. A growing number of local residents clearly appreciate this and are in the audience for every concert. Other jazz fans are more selective and only pop along every so often when the lineup suits their tastes. And some are just waiting for leading UK jazz guitarist and longtime Epsom resident **Nigel Price** to make his return to the Club's stage (hint: he'll be back in June!).

Epsom Jazz Club welcomes everyone equally – there's no members-only clique, no tiered ticket pricing, and not a raffle in sight! If the accordion isn't your thing, how about a wondrously charismatic and mesmerizing jazz singer with outstanding vocal ability? **Emma Smith** brings her loyal trio of gentlemen (**Jamie Safir** piano, **Conor Chaplin** double bass, **Luke Tomlinson** drums) with her to Epsom on **Tuesday 21st February**. Or how about going to see multi-award winning young saxophonist and composer **Emma Rawicz** perform, accompanied by **David Preston** (guitar) and **Scottie Thompson** (piano), on **Tuesday 21st March**?

The Oaks Room venue with bar open for just the jazz club is at the back of the Conservative Club on Church Street, Epsom and is a fine addition to Epsom's Live Music venues. Tickets are just £15.

For more information on the Spring 2023 jazz programme please visit http://EpsomJazzClub.com or @EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook – tickets are on sale now!

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Organic growth for Epsom Jazz Club

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Epsom Jazz Club – Tobie Carpenter Organ Trio – Tuesday 15th November 2022 .

The Tobie Carpenter Organ Trio delightfully entertained the Tuesday night audience with witty and inventive covers of standards including “I’m Gonna Sit Right Down (And Write Myself A Letter)”, “When You’re Smiling” and “Gee Baby, Ain’t I Good To You”, alongside a fabulously clever Beatles medley.

Guitarist **Tobie Carpenter** was on fine form leading the Trio throughout the evening, and **Jamie Safir** was just masterful on the organ and particularly strong during the opening number of the second set, “Night Train”. Drummer **Tim Giles** was clearly relishing being sat between his bandmates as they all traded solos, and within several tunes effortlessly took command of the fluid tempo changes.

The Oaks Room on Church Street has now been established as the monthly go-to venue in Epsom for an evening of quality live jazz. At this Autumn finale concert, the first three lineups for 2023 were revealed.

The Spring season will feature EJC’s first visiting jazz accordionist, one of the most exciting vocalists of her generation, and a finalist in the 2022 BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year competition (the final takes place Saturday 19th November, and is televised the following day on BBC4 at 8pm).

After only five events, Epsom Jazz Club has created something rather special. The intimate 70-seater venue, with each table adorned with a charming cocktail table lamp, is the perfect setting to sit back and listen to some of the very best professional jazz musicians the UK has nurtured.

For more information on the 2023 jazz programme please visit http://EpsomJazzClub.com or @EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook – tickets are on sale now.

D-jangling Jazz in Epsom

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The **London Django Collective** (LDC) charmed the capacity audience at Epsom Jazz Club on Tuesday 18th October sweeping all along with their infectious enthusiasm for Gypsy Jazz, playing fabulous versions of Django Reinhardt compositions including “Flèche d’or” and “Nuages” alongside the band’s own music.

This Quartet don’t just perform standards from the early 20th century, they write their own tunes within this genre as well. LDC exquisitely delivered the captivating “Marrakech” and “Samoreau”, composed by guitarists **Kourosh Kanani** and **Harry Diplock** respectively.

Violinist **Matt Holborn** solidly commanded **The Oaks Room** venue, both on his instrument and on the microphone between tracks. And the audience were kept waiting until the very last track (“Billets doux”) for a tantalising solo from bassist **Pete Thomas**.

An incredible foursome, and such accomplished ambassadors for this well-loved style of Jazz.

Epsom Jazz Club returns with its final concert of 2022 on Tuesday 15th November, welcoming the **Tobie Carpenter Organ Trio** to The Oaks Room. For more information and tickets visit www.epsomjazzclub.com

@EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook

Piano jazz cabaret in Epsom

6 September 2023

Jazz pianist Gabriel Latchin’s Trio performed in the Oaks Room (Conservative Club, Church St Epsom) on Tuesday last. The ever-growing **Epsom Jazz Club** audience were thrilled with the booking. The Trio performed wonderfully varied sets featuring unique versions of songs by Bossa Nova pioneer João Gilberto, a beautiful reworking of “They All Laughed” by the inimitable Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong, and Latchin’s own composition “Carlora” (a dedication to his parents).

Gabriel Latchin, Jeremy Brown and Josh Morrison

American jazz bassist Christian McBride is quoted as saying “Gabriel is an excellent musician and one hell of a nice guy”. No-one could possibly argue with that.

He’s made a name for himself as one of the UK’s finest musicians, known for his effortlessly swinging feel, deep repertoire and compelling performances, and Epsom’s Tuesday night crowd lapped the three musicians up.

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Gabriel Latchin was accompanied on stage by the rock-solid **Jeremy Brown** on double bass and long-standing collaborator **Josh Morrison** on drums. A truly wonderful Jazz Trio and understandably a number of the audience were keen to purchase and take home a personalised CD.

Juliya Komyshan plays Bandura

And if that wasn't enough, Epsom Jazz Club had also organised an interval act! Ukrainian refugee **Yulia Komyshan** had previously performed on the Bandura at a Ukrainian Music Evening held at Epsom Methodist Church, and her remarkable rendition of a blues number went down equally well this week with the Jazz enthusiasts. Incidentally, there's another Ukrainian Music Evening this Saturday 24th September – again featuring Yulia and her Bandura!

The next Gabriel Latchin Trio album is scheduled for release in early 2023. But until then we'll just have to make do with listening to his first three albums "Introducing", "The Moon And I" and "I'll Be Home For Christmas" on rotation.

Epsom Jazz Club returns with its monthly residency at The Oaks Room on Tuesday 18th October, featuring the ever-gigging and ever-swinging **London Django Collective**. This is sure to be a popular concert – for more information and to purchase tickets in advance visit EpsomJazzClub.com

@EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook

Top line Jazz soothes the heart of Epsom

6 September 2023

Sandwiched between weekend Festival performances to sizeable crowds in Harrogate and Swanage, **Jo Harrop** delighted Epsom Jazz Club's modest audience on 7th July by taking to the stage for a sublime midweek concert.

Wonderfully accompanied by local jazz guitarist Nigel Price, Dave Chamberlain on double bass, and Matt Home on drums, Jo effortlessly commanded the room with songs from Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and more.

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Image – Terry Tomlinson

After moving to London from her home city of Durham, Jo quickly established herself as one of the most unmistakable voices in British jazz, performing everywhere from Ronnie Scott's to the Royal Albert Hall. Epsom Jazz Club is still in its infancy having only been launched in 2022, and was elated to welcome Jo in the midst of her busy touring schedule.

Epsom Jazz Club rests in August and will announce its Autumn programme soon.

More at EpsomJazzClub.com

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