

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

Report To: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 17 May 2004

Report Title: Dundee Jazz Festival/Assembly Direct

Report By: Director of Leisure and Arts

Report No: 358-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for grant funding to Assembly Direct for the Dundee Jazz Festival.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves support of £4,000 to Assembly Direct for the Dundee Jazz Festival.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The grant of £4,000 can be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's 2004/2005 Revenue Budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The grant awarded reflects a positive contribution to the Local Agenda 21 theme "access to facilities, service, goods and people is not achieved at the expense of the environment and is accessible to all" and "local needs are met locally".

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Particular consideration is given to applications which prioritise or maximise community involvement, generating interaction within specific groups, communities and organisations.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 The 21st edition of the Dundee Jazz Festival takes place from Wednesday 19 to Sunday 23 May and is a further landmark in the continuing growth of the Scottish jazz scene.

Jazz in Scotland is at an all time high. Live jazz is being presented at unprecedented levels. Audiences are bigger than ever. Scottish jazz musicians are performing to acclaim all over the world.

- 6.2 In 2004, the Dundee Jazz Festival expands to reflect this, with eighteen bands, sixteen concerts in three venues and musicians from USA, France, Hungary, Sweden, Venezuela, England and of course Scotland.

- 6.3 One of the hottest international groups in jazz today, Esbjorn Svensson Trio, headline the 2004 Festival with their highly exciting take on the jazz tradition. The major European piano star, Bojan Z makes his Dundee debut; the great, swinging US saxophonist Jese Davis is

also in the city for the first time and Preston Reed is back showcasing his unique guitar style.

Singers are also featured in this year's programme, with concerts lined-up by Niki King, Cathie Rae, Tam White and Dougie Martin.

The Festival also reflects the vibrant Scottish jazz scene - now widely recognised as one of the most dynamic in the world. Among the host of talent will be a special show by the piano maestro, Brian Kellock, celebrating the music of Fats Waller on his birthday exactly 100 years to the day. There are also concerts by the acclaimed Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, by trumpet virtuoso Colin Steele (playing the music of Miles Davis), Konrad Wiszniewski, John Rae's new project with gypsy musicians from Hungary and the stars of tomorrow playing in Tommy Smith's Youth Jazz Orchestra.

The Festival is also funded by the City of Discovery Campaign and the Scottish Arts Council.

- 6.4 The programme includes:
Mafia and Tam White Shoestring Band
If any band defines the spirit of Dundee's music scene, it's Mafia. Dougie Martin's trademark lived-in, blues, soul and r'n'b vocals and tight rocking sound make it seem like Marvin Gaye and Muddy Waters were living on the Tay. Plus Tam White and his Shoestring team of Fraser Spiers and Neil Warden who bring us an idiosyncratic mix of blues and ballads, originals and classics. A great blues double bill.
Wed 19 May, Dundee Rep, 8pm.
- 6.5 Boho Boffins: Why cities need Science and Jazz
A Scotland 2020/Dundee Jazz Festival/DCA debate
Cities thrive on scientific discovery, and creative people head for culturally vibrant places. Any city doing world class science has to aspire to be somewhere world class scientists want to live. This lively discussion will ask whether Dundee needs to become more like San Francisco.
Thurs 20 May, DCA, 8pm.
- Salsa Celtica
A glorious feast of musical pleasure where high octane jazz meets virtuoso folk music and fantastically extroverted, bombastic salsa. Featuring musicians from Venezuela, Argentina, Ireland and of course Scotland, the Rep will explode with musical exuberance.
Thurs 20 May, Dundee Rep, 8pm.
- 6.6 Brian Kellock's Handful Of Keys Play the Music Of Fats Waller, celebrating the centenary of one of the greatest characters in the colourful life of early jazz. Waller's glittering piano technique was a marvel and thrown into an extraordinary perspective through a life of spontaneity, rumbustious partying, singing, composing hits and clowning. Widely acclaimed as the UK's leading pianist, Brian Kellock, always includes humour and swing in his music and here he has a field day from solo stride, to madcap duo with John Rae and then with a full band featuring Freddie King who gets as close as possible to Waller's inimitable style. If this doesn't send you out with a smile on your face, nothing will.
Fri 21 May, Dundee Rep, 8pm.
- The Sellars Brothers Quintet featuring special guest Kevin Murray
Funky Blue Note sounds with a Dundonian edge. Influenced by such greats as Freddie Hubbard and Curtis Fuller intriguing solos mix with bossa rhythms – there's even a Jimmy Deuchar flavour.
Fri 21 May, Dundee Rep Foyer, 10.30pm.
- 6.7 Konrad Wiszniewski Quartet
The powerful and dazzling, young tenor saxophonist, plays hot and soulful modern jazz, leading an explosive, exciting international band: Dan Tepfer (piano) from Paris, American, Alex Goumas (bass) and Brazilian, Rodrigo Bonelli (drums).
Sat 22 May, Apex Hotel, 12.30pm.

Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra.

The most thrilling ensemble in today's jazz scene play the music of the best swinging jazz composer: Oliver Nelson. From his work in rhythm and blues (notably with organist, Jimmy Smith) or in modern jazz, with musicians like Eric Dolphy and Freddie Hubbard, Nelson always generates musical jubilation, while the set list reads like a greatest hits: "Stolen Moments", "St Louis Blues" and "Emancipation Blues". The Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra open the concert with a mix of classics from Basie to Schneider.

Sat 22 May, Rep, 2.30pm.

Cathie Rae

Distinctive songstress Cathie Rae, is among the cream of jazz musicians working in Scotland today. Her extensive repertoire slots original compositions between covers from Nat King Cole to Costello. With Steve Hamilton (piano) and a special guest.

Sat 22 May, Apex Hotel, 5.15pm.

John Rae Magic Feet

Jazz and folk overlaid with latin, salsa, funk and raga rhythms create a rich, supercharged, groove-based, persuasive sound from joyful reels to slow laments. Two Hungarian musicians add gypsy folk music to the mix. John Rae (drums), Julian Arguelles (saxophones), Mario Caribe (bass), Brian Kellock (piano), Eilidh Shaw (fiddle), Martin Green (accordion), Robi Farkas (violin, accordion), Mihaly Farkas (cymbalom).

Sat 22 May, Dundee Rep, 6pm.

Colin Steele plays Kind Of Blue with special guest Jesse Davis

Colin Steele's beautiful, evocative trumpet soars against the classic arrangements of Miles Davis music from the 50s and 60s: "Milestones" and "Kind Of Blue". Phil Bancroft (sax), David Milligan (piano), Kenny Ellis (bass) and Stuart Ritchie (drums) get to the heart of the musical.

Sat 22 May, Apex Hotel, 8.30pm.

Niki King

Diva in the making, Niki King has an amazing vocal talent. A sultry, sophisticated fusion of jazz, soul and funk. With her seven-piece band and a pad of original material she is at once intimate and caressing then soulful and funky.

Sat 22 May, Dundee Rep, 9.30pm.

6.8 Jesse Davis Quartet

Davis is the burning, swinging alto saxophonist from New York, who specialises in feel good music, whether you like your alto in the style of Johnny Hodges, Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderley or Kenny Garrett. Big excitement and adventure sit alongside great beauty. This is jazz in its most vibrant, living, organic state. Blues and swing, sophistication and improvisation, delivered with overflowing warmth and charm.

Sun 23 May, Apex Hotel, 12.30pm.

Bojan Z

Piano playing doesn't come with greater musicality or virtuosity than this. Bojan takes the spirit of Keith Jarrett's solo concerts to a new level: exploring his heritage in jazz, European classical music, the Beatles, Brazilian rhythms and Balkan folk song. His fast-moving, expressive, compositions bristle with a passionate, warm, all-enveloping sound.

Sun 23 May, Apex Hotel, 4pm.

John Etheridge Sweet Chorus

John Etheridge is a guitarist of dazzling technique and eloquent expression. He played with the great violinist Stephane Grappelli for five years and now delivers a very personal homage steeped in the Hot Club tradition, with exquisite, passionate textures and warm, subtly driving rhythms. John Etheridge and Dave Kelbie (guitar), Christian Garrick (violin) and Simon Kubryck Townsend (bass).

Sun 23 May, Dundee Rep, 4.30pm.

Preston Reed

Combining fearsome technique and stunning invention, the American guitarist has a unique genre-breaking style that amazes guitar fans, and enthuses audiences. From dirty blues to romantic Bill Evans tunes, he can pick and pluck. He is also an expert at the new pianistic style of guitar playing.

Sun 23 May, Apex Hotel, 7.30pm.

Esbjorn Svensson Trio

The band that is leading a revolution in jazz selling-out concert arenas around the world, winning standing ovations whenever they play. With striking themes and audacious adaptations they give the acoustic jazz piano trio a different edge - an explosion of new life and a different future - without betraying their melodic subtlety, group empathy and detailed nuance.

Esbjorn Svensson (piano), Dan Berglund (bass) and Magnus Oström (drums)

Sun 23 May, Dundee Rep, 8.30pm.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have all been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS
28 APRIL 2004