

SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

DIRECTED BY TOMMY SMITH
AT RONNIE SCOTT'S

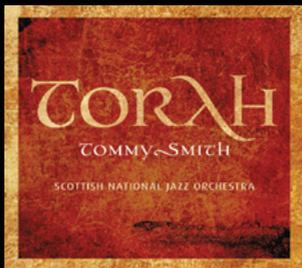
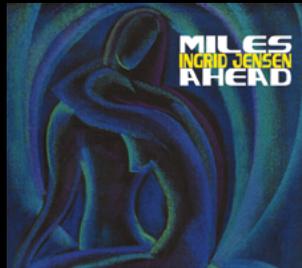
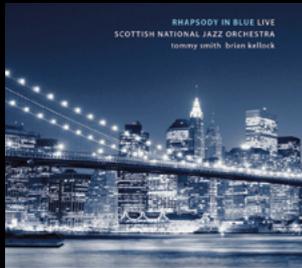
25 & 26 JANUARY 2019



ronnie
scott's 



SNJO ALBUMS



25/01 ALBA: SONGS OF SCOTLAND SPECIAL GUEST EDDI READER

26/01 BERNSTEIN'S WEST SIDE STORY PROKOFIEV'S PETER AND THE WOLF SPECIAL GUEST TAM DEAN BURN

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra led by founder/director **Tommy Smith OBE** are delighted to return to Ronnie Scott's and London with two contrasting evenings of big band jazz.

They are joined by two special guests: **Eddi Reader** who will present the songs of Robert Burns on Burns' night and on Saturday, the actor **Tam Dean Burn** will narrate *Peter & the Wolf*.

The SNJO is widely known for shaking things up with a refreshing approach to their music. This time, they are putting jazz fizz into musical cocktails that sparkle with the Songs of Scotland and blend Prokofiev's *Peter & The Wolf* with Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

Enjoy our two unique evening programmes.

snjo.co.uk

SPONSORS

We would like to extend special thanks to our main sponsors, Creative Scotland and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for their continued support of the orchestra.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



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SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

DIRECTED BY TOMMY SMITH

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) was founded in 1995 by saxophonist, composer and educator Tommy Smith OBE with a strong artistic vision and core values of versatility, discipline and expression.

The SNJO's wide-ranging repertoire features vivid re-imaginings of works by Basie, Mingus, Monk, Miles, Mary Lou Williams, and Coltrane, and acclaimed interpretations of Gershwin, Miles, Mozart and Ellington.

Countless jazz luminaries have shared the stage with the SNJO, including John Scofield, Courtney Pine, Cleo Laine, Branford Marsalis, Maria Schneider and Kurt Elling with whom they've created vibrant, modern, new music.

The commitment and enterprising spirit of the SNJO is also evident in specially commissioned arrangements, often of iconic works. Regular contributors such as Geoffrey Keezer, Florian Ross, Christian Jacob, and Bill Dobbins, alongside many others, have been

central to the SNJO's evolution as an innovative musical force.

The SNJO have made several recordings both live and in the studio. The first to appear was *Miles Ahead* in 2002 followed by a stunning re-arrangement of *Rhapsody in Blue* (2006). Other releases include *In The Spirit of Duke*, *American Adventure*, *Jeunehomme*, *Culloden Moor Suite*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Their most recent CD's are the specially commissioned *Sweet Sister Suite* (2018), composed by Kenny Wheeler, featuring Laura Jurd (trumpet) and Irini Arabatzi (voice); and *Peter and the Wolf* (2019), a live recording made in Edinburgh with Tam Dean Burn.

We look forward to sharing news of the SNJO with you as we move towards our 25th anniversary in 2020. So, if you have enjoyed our concert, please do sign up at snjo.co.uk to keep up to date, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Michael S. Clark



"The SNJO combined virtuosity with theatricality"

— The Scotsman

"...the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra continued to chalk up memorable performances, not least when they cast transformative brilliance over well loved classical pieces, Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf with a Scots translation by Liz Lochhead, narrated by the inimitable Tam Dean Burn and arranged with inventive wit by SNJO director Tommy Smith."

— Jim Gilchrist

snjo.co.uk

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EDDI READER

Celebrating 40 years as a live performer, Eddi Reader has effortlessly developed into one of popular music's most thrilling and affecting performers. Though first brought into the limelight as front woman for Fairground Attraction, who's #1 single, Perfect and parent album, First of a Million Kisses, both topped the British charts, it was Eddi's subsequent solo albums that signaled her ability to assimilate different musical styles and make them very much her own. Notably, The Songs of Robert Burns (2003) is a timeless interpretation showcasing the poems of Scotland's national bard and gained her an MBE for outstanding contributions to the arts.

What sets Eddi apart is the depth and quality of the emotional performance and ability not only to move the listener, but to connect her experience to that of her audience. From the traditional to the contemporary, Eddi Reader extinguishes the preordained boundaries of genre, bringing joyous life to all forms of song. Her rare blend of meltingly true vocals and towering romanticism combine with an astute and pragmatic nature to make her a unique and powerful figure in contemporary British music.

With 9 critically acclaimed solo albums, 3 BRIT awards, a #1 single and an MBE in tow, 2018 welcomes the release of Eddi's 10th solo venture, Cavalier. Co-produced by Eddi and her husband, John Douglas (Trashcan Sinatras) it incorporates both contemporary and traditional songs showcasing her wide-ranging artistry and marks a new creative peak in her already prestigious career.

ALBA: SONGS OF SCOTLAND

What does Scotland mean to you? It's a question that is often easier to ask than it is to answer. Eddi Reader and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) directed by Tommy Smith have very clear and distinctive ideas about the Scotland that they know and love. They have chosen to express them in Alba: Songs of Scotland through highly emotive traditional melody, evocative song and finely crafted orchestral jazz. In many ways, that describes how the world sees Scotland: a place where fine things are made from the best materials.

However, the music you will hear embraces modernity not just willingly, but enthusiastically too. In recent decades, a confluence of musical forms in Scotland (and beyond) has comfortably evolved to accommodate folk, jazz and overseas influences. Eddi Reader has been at the forefront of this new enlightenment in recordings and performances that have been consistently eclectic in outlook and appearance.

Alba: Songs of Scotland is ultimately a love poem to the nation from gifted and passionate artists, namely Eddi Reader and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra led by Tommy Smith. In musical terms, it describes where we came from and where we are now. More importantly, it looks forward with optimism to the future. That's what Scotland means to me. No matter what's gone before, and no matter what the future holds for us as Scots, we'll surely all go together?



PROGRAMME

ALBA: SONGS OF SCOTLAND 25/01

Jamie Come Try Me *arr. Florian Ross*

My Love Is Like A Red Red Rose *arr. Geoffrey Keezer*

Ae Fond Kiss *arr. Christian Jacob*

Brose & Butter *arr. Martin Kershaw*

Loch Tay Boat Song *arr. Florian Ross*

Ye Jacobites *arr. Florian Ross*

The Glen Of Tranquility *comp. arr. Paul Harrison*

Charlie Is My Darling *arr. Florian Ross*

Deirdre - *duo w/Steve Hamilton & Eddi on Harmonium*

The Glasgow Barrowlands *arr. Paul Harrison*

Wild Mountainside *arr. Florian Ross*

TAM DEAN BURN - Born in Leith, growing up in Clermiston, Tam has been acting in theatre, TV films and radio for almost forty years. He first got the acting bug at Craigmount High School with its brand new multifunctional theatre space and teachers Joyce Heller and Ken Morley, who went on to appear in Coronation Street. Tam trained at Queen Margaret College with renowned Scottish actor/director Callum Mill.

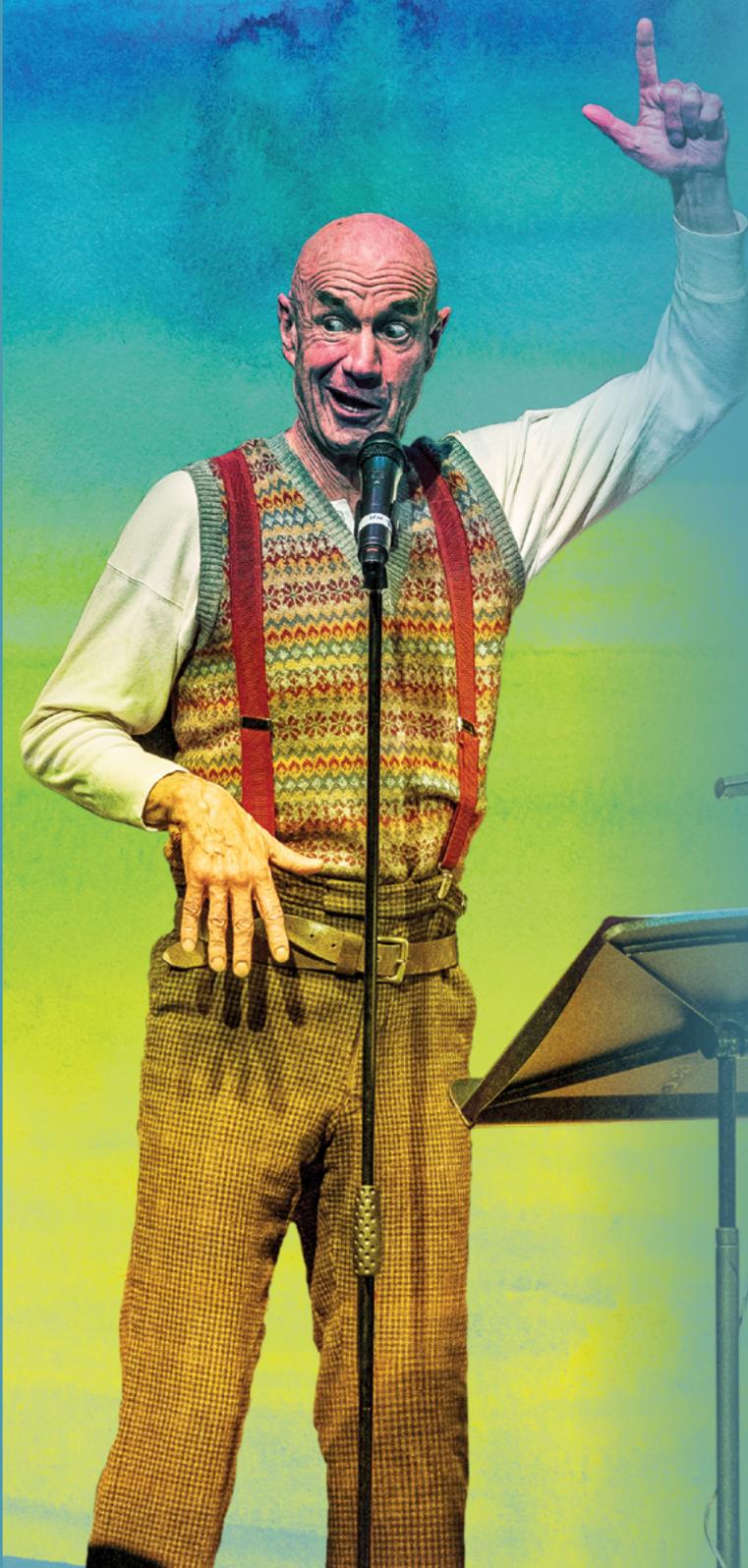
Although acting consistently since then, his greatest love has always been music, dating from the days when Tam was the singer in Edinburgh punk band Dirty Reds and his first play after college with his closest friends, the legendary Fire Engines. Tam currently sings with the Burnsian band The Bum-Clocks who performed live on BBC Radio Scotland's Janice Forsyth show on January 25 this year and the next night at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow University. Tam has also recently joined the Brass Aye band playing baritone horn for the first time since he attended Drumbrae Primary School.

Highlights of Tam's theatre career include his one-man show adaptations of *Filth* by Irvine Welsh and *Venus As A Boy* by Luke Sutherland. He also adapted and performed *The Cutting Room* by Louise Welsh at the Glasgow Citizens' and played Renfield, the fly eating lunatic in Liz Lochhead's *Dracula* at the Edinburgh Lyceum Theatre in 1985.

Tam's first feature film was *Local Hero* and he will appear in the forthcoming *Robert the Bruce* film, *Outlaw King*.

Television credits include several episodes of *Taggart*, *Fortitude* and as gangster McCabe in *River City*. He most recently recorded the audiobook for Irvine Welsh's forthcoming *Dead Men's Trousers*, his tenth Welsh audiobook.

In his first appearance with the SNJO, Tam performed the poetry of Tom McGrath in *Electric Contact* at the 2017 Edinburgh International Film Festival.



PROGRAMME 26/01

West Side Story (Bernstein)

arranged by Florian Ross

The SNJO plays a wonderful medley of Leonard Bernstein's most enduring tunes chosen from his memorable jazz musical, *West Side Story*, and specially arranged for our orchestra by Florian Ross.

As a makeover of *Romeo and Juliet*, *West Side Story* works on a visceral level that Shakespeare would surely recognize. Bernstein's music explored emotions as deep as the ocean, sentiment as raw as sunburn, and energy as boundless as youthful abandon. This could describe the very essence of jazz and these selections from *West Side Story* remain as relevant, vibrant and provocative to this day.

Peter and the Wolf (Prokofiev)

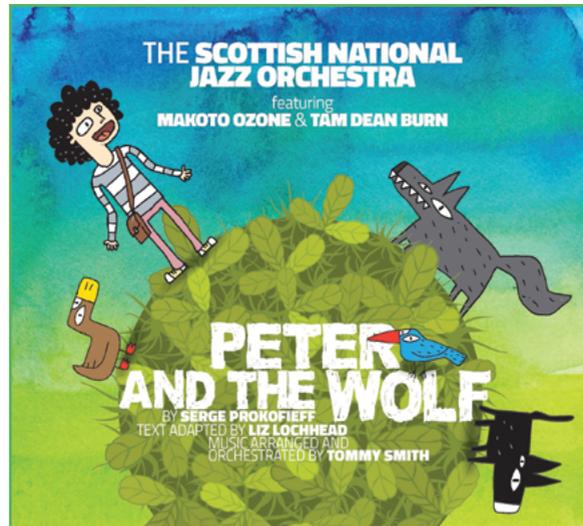
All music arranged and orchestrated by Tommy Smith
Text adapted by Liz Lochhead

Listen as Tam Dean Burn tells the story of brave Peter and the cunning Wolf in a narrative written especially for the Scots tongue by Liz Lochhead.

Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* was commissioned in 1936 as a symphonic tale for young children, and conceived as a piece for narrator and orchestra. Prokofiev completed the work very quickly, and *Peter and the Wolf* was first heard in performance at a Moscow children's concert later that same year. It is designed to introduce young people to the different instruments in an orchestra, woven around a text written by the composer. The suite is full of vivid colours and shrewd simplicity, and its originality always enchants.

In these concerts, Tommy Smith brings the re-telling of this story further up to date in new arrangement. His orchestral version of *Peter and the Wolf* will, of course, remain true to the premise that particular instruments are allocated to each character in the story. Prokofiev's wonderful motifs are also preserved, but will be thematically developed, both harmonically and rhythmically, using the humour, colour and the broad canvas of jazz.

JUST RELEASED!
OUR BRAND NEW ALBUM



★★★★★

"virtuosity and ingenuity with unadulterated theatricality... in a delightful collision between folk tale and big-band swing..."

THE SCOTSMAN

★★★★★

"In time, it will surely and deservedly rank alongside the great works"

BEBOP SPOKEN HERE (LANCE LIDDLE)

★★★★★

"it was a magical evening of music which this CD has managed to capture for posterity"

SOUTHSIDE ADVERTISER (TOM KING)

"the SNJO's Peter and the Wolf is a musical treat for all ages, and a timely reminder that great music can also be irresistible fun"

REVIEWSHERE

"The new orchestrations from Tommy Smith use the SNJO resources imaginatively and the positively symphonic music springs along with great pace and swagger"

LONDON JAZZ NEWS (MARK MCKERGOW)



Available here tonight or order online at
spartacusrecords.com

THE ORCHESTRA



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & SAXOPHONIST - Tommy Smith

SPECIAL GUEST - Eddi Reader

TRUMPETS

Jim Davison
Tom Macniven
Lorne Cowieson

TROMBONES

Kieran McLeod
Michael Owers

REEDS

Konrad Wiszniewski
Martin Kershaw
Paul Towndrow
Bill Fleming

PIANO - Steve Hamilton

BASS - Calum Gourlay

DRUMS - Alyn Cosker

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & SAXOPHONIST - Tommy Smith

NARRATOR - Tam Dean Burn

TRUMPETS

Jim Davison
Sean Gibbs
Tom Macniven
Lorne Cowieson

TROMBONES

Kieran McLeod
Liam Shortall
Michael Owers

REEDS

Gareth Lockrane
Konrad Wiszniewski
Martin Kershaw
Paul Towndrow
Bill Fleming

PIANO - Pete Johnstone

BASS - Calum Gourlay

DRUMS - Alyn Cosker

NEXT CONCERT SERIES

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra

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Queen's Cross Church

Sat 23 March

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