



# THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

DIRECTED BY TOMMY SMITH PRESENTS

THE CULLODEN MOOR  
& CALEDONIAN SUITES  
WITH GUEST SAXOPHONIST  
**BOBBY WELLINS**



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# THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

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## THE CULLODEN MOOR & CALEDONIAN SUITES WITH GUEST SAXOPHONIST BOBBY WELLINS

ROBERT COULL "BOBBY" WELLINS was born on 24 January 1936 and is a Scottish tenor saxophonist best known for his collaboration with Stan Tracey on the seminal 1965 British jazz album *Under Milk Wood*. Born in Glasgow, Wellins studied alto saxophone and harmony with his father before moving to London in the mid-1950s. He was a member of Buddy Featherstonhaugh's quintet in the late 1950s, together with Kenny Wheeler and around that time also joined drummer Tony Crombie's Jazz Inc., where he first met up with pianist, Tracey, and going on to join Tracey's

quartet in the early 1960s. He is probably the most original and creative jazz musician to appear outside America since the war and is one of the few thoroughgoing jazz improvisers, relying on inspiration rather than formula, always trying to play something you've never heard before, so one has to study the invention even after getting used to the style. Wellins has all the technical hallmarks of the real masters – an endless fund of melody and of differently shaped phrases, consistent variation of the volume, tone, length and inflection of individual notes and of their relation to the beat – but he is even stronger on intangibles. The strong Scottish tinge to his playing gives it folk roots every bit as raw and resilient as those of the blues, and his fragile sound gives it the compulsive honesty of a public confession Wellins can and does play everything that might occur to him, and yet one's first impression is of his unusual economy. His method is to create the maximum diversity of ideas, and yet the effect is one of tremendous swing. Above all, he successfully combines the qualities of graceful poise and nervous tension, in a way, which can be compared with hardly anyone. His influence and importance to several generations of British jazz musicians and improvisers is obvious just by checking out how many of them mention him as either an influence, collaborator, teacher – or all three.

### FLORIAN ROSS

Born in 1972, Florian studied piano and composition in Cologne, London and New York. Since 1998 he has released seven albums featuring both small and large ensembles and written over one hundred compositions and arrangements for large jazz ensembles. He received the prestigious Thad Jones Composition Competition Award in 2000 and the WDR Jazz Composition prize in 2006. His commissioned works include pieces for the German NDR and WDR big bands, the Netherlands Metropole Orchestra, the BBC Big Band, the Danish Radio Jazz Orchestra, RTE Irish Radio Orchestra, and Sydney Mothership Jazz Orchestra and artists including David Liebman, John Scofield, George Duke and Gary Burton. SNJO regulars will remember Ross's *A Day in the Life* commission in 2002 and his brilliant imaginative arrangements of *Giant Steps*,



### THE CULLODEN MOOR SUITE

Glasgow born Wellins finds inspiration in great Scottish historical events and literature. His Culloden Moor Suite is an eloquent celebration of one of Scotland's most haunting historical events composed Bobby Wellins and arranged for orchestra by Florian Ross.

5 Movements – Culloden Moor Suite:

*The Gathering, The March, The Battle, Aftermath and the Epilogue*

– Intermission –

### CALEDONIAN SUITES

Inspired by James Barke's books about Burns, these pieces richly evoke the sounds of Scotland's landscape and life. They have been rearranged for orchestra by some of the world's finest jazz musicians.

<i>Song In The Green Thorn Tree</i>	arranged by Florian Ross
<i>The Wind That Shakes The Barley</i>	arranged by Geoffrey Keezer
<i>Bonnie Jean</i>	arranged by Chris Greive
<i>The Tartan Rainbow</i>	arranged by Christian Jacob
<i>Dreams of Free</i>	arranged by Tommy Smith
<i>Culloden Moor Suite</i>	arranged by Florian Ross

### SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

with guest **Bobby Wellins** tenor saxophone

saxophones: Martin Kershaw, Paul Towndrow, Tommy Smith, Konrad Wiszniewski, Bill Fleming

trumpets: Noel Langley, Tom Macniven, Cameron Jay, Lorne Cowieson

trombones: Chris Greive, Phil O'Malley, Michael Owers, Lorna McDonald

piano: Steve Hamilton, bass: Calum Gourlay, drums: Alyn Cosker





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Crepuscule with Nelly and Humpty Dumpty for SNJO's Coltrane, Monk and Corea tributes. In addition to writing and touring with his own trio and Nils Wogram's Nostalgia, Ross teaches piano and composition at the Hochschule fur Musik und Tanz in Cologne. [www.florianross.de](http://www.florianross.de)

### CHRISTIAN JACOB

Born in Lorraine, France, Christian studied classical piano from the age of four and went on to study with Pierre Sancan at the Paris Conservatory. Having heard Oscar Peterson and Dave Brubeck when he was nine, he played jazz as a hobby throughout his Conservatory years but after graduating, decided to change allegiances and without knowing a word of English, moved to the USA to study jazz at Berklee College of Music. Here he won a number of awards, including the Oscar Peterson Jazz Masters Award, the Great American Jazz Piano Competition and Down Beat magazine's distinction as Top Collegiate Jazz Soloist. On graduating in 1985, he joined Berklee as a piano tutor, toured with Gary Burton and with Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau Band as musical director and in 1997, recorded the first of his five trio CDs for Concord Records, with Peter Erskine and John Patitucci. He has since worked with many big names and composed and arranged for big bands and orchestras, including the Bangkok Symphony. [www.christianjacob.com](http://www.christianjacob.com)



### GEOFFREY KEEZER

Born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 1970, Geoffrey grew up in a musical family and began studying piano aged three. In 1989, after his first year at Berklee College in Boston, he joined Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and has since worked with virtually all of jazz's living legends and appeared on countless recordings both as a leader and accompanist. He has written commissions for the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Saint Joseph Ballet, Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego, and the Zeltsman Marimba Festival and was a recipient of Chamber Music America's 2007 New Works grant. He has played bass in a rock band and contributed artwork



to David Mack's comic *Kabuki*. Keezer's composition and arranging talents will be familiar to the SNJO's audience through his *South Alaska Suite*, premiered in February 2005 and his arrangements for their John Coltrane and Chick Corea tributes. His latest project, *Aurea*, is a highly acclaimed adventure into South American folkloric music, featuring collaborators from Peru, Argentina and New York. [www.geoffreykeezer.com](http://www.geoffreykeezer.com)

### CHRIS GREIVE

Born in Perth, Western Australia in 1969, Chris started playing trombone at the age of eleven and attended Churchlands High School on a Music Scholarship from 1981-86. He obtained his degree in Jazz Performance, Arranging & Composition at the West Australian Conservatorium of Music in 1991, was a finalist in the Australian Jazz Brass Awards 1996 and toured with a host of musicians including Ray Charles, Natalie Cole and Shirley Bassey. Since moving to Scotland in 2002, he has recorded with his own band, NeWt, as well as the Haftor



Medboe Group, Salsa Celtica and Live Sciences. He has also composed and arranged for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Perth Jazz Orchestra and has contributed as composer and arranger to SNJO's Orcadian Suite and Thelonious Monk tribute as well as scoring the orchestra's collaboration with Scottish blues legend Tam White

### TOMMY SMITH

Born in Edinburgh in 1967, Tommy is a noted saxophonist, composer, bandleader and Educator. A keen nurturer of young talent he formed his Youth Jazz Orchestra in 2002 having founded the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra in 1995, one of the most successful orchestras of its kind anywhere in the world. Tommy first came to prominence at age 14, when he won best soloist and group titles at Edinburgh International Jazz Festival and then recorded his first album at 15. After studying at Berklee College, he joined Gary Burton, touring worldwide and recording the Whiz Kids album on ECM Records. He signed to Blue Note Records in 1989 but later formed his own record company, Spartacus, and has released twenty-four solo albums. He has presented television and radio programmes and received many awards including three British Jazz Awards(1989, 1996, 2002), BBC Heart of Jazz award, Creative Scotland Award (2000), Best Woodwind Scottish Jazz Awards (2008), the Scottish Jazz Expo Award (2009), honorary doctorates from Heriot-Watt and Glasgow Caledonian universities, a professorship from the RSAMD (2010), and Best Educator in the Scottish Jazz Awards (2011). His many compositions include two sonatas and four saxophone concertos, the commissions *Beasts of Scotland*, *Misty Morning & No Time*, and a series of large scale jazz works, including *Planet Wave*, *ALBA*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Torah* and *The World Of The Gods*. Currently, he tours with Norwegian bassist Arild Andersen, the SNJO and his quartet, Karma.  
[www.tommy-smith.co.uk](http://www.tommy-smith.co.uk)



### FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA – see [www.snjo.co.uk](http://www.snjo.co.uk) for more info

- London Jazz Festival
- Sat 19 Nov Queen Elizabeth hall – *The World of the Gods* – 3pm
  - Sun 20 Nov Queen Elizabeth Hall – *Celebrating the Music of ECM* – 3.30pm
  - 23–26 Feb, 2012 The SNJO presents *The Music Of Weather Report* featuring legendary drummer Peter Erskine
  - 24 March, 2012 Shetland Jazz Festival
  - 24–27 May, 2012 *A Celebration of Michael Brecker* featuring his brother, Randy Brecker on trumpet.

#### TOMMY SMITH YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA – see [www.tsyjo.com](http://www.tsyjo.com) for more info

- Fri 9 Dec **Glasgow** Royal Conservatoire – 7.30pm  
0141 332 5057 [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)
- Sat 10 Dec **Stirling** Tolbooth – *Afternoon Jazz* – 2pm  
01786 274000 [www.stirling.gov.uk/tolbooth](http://www.stirling.gov.uk/tolbooth)
- Sun 11 Dec **Edinburgh** Cabaret Bar – *Afternoon Jazz* – 2pm  
0131 650 4673 [www.eusalive.co.uk](http://www.eusalive.co.uk)
- Fri 3 Feb, 2012 **Glasgow** Royal Conservatoire – 7.30pm [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)
- Sat 4 Feb, 2012 venue tbc
- Sun 5 Feb, 2012 **Ulverston**, Cumbria – *Afternoon Jazz*  
01229 587140 [www.corohall.co.uk](http://www.corohall.co.uk)

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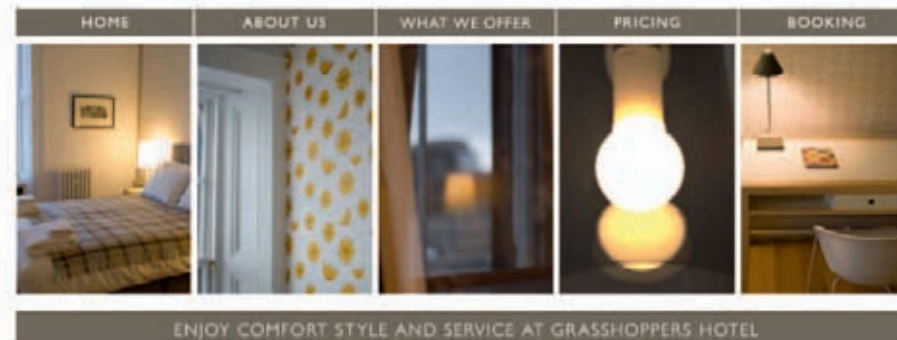


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