

Jim Hart – Press Pack

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Jim Hart - Biography

Originally from Cornwall, Jim Hart began playing Drums and Piano at age four and soon furthered this to include tuned and orchestral percussion.

Two years at Chetham's school of Music saw him reach the finals of the '96 BBC Young Musician of the year competition and receive the John Dankworth award for most promising musician in the BBC Big Band of the year competition. He went on to study at the Guildhall school of Music and Drama in London.

From 2001 – 03 Jim was the regular drummer for The National Youth Jazz Orchestra giving him the opportunity to work with the likes of Phil Woods, John Dankworth and Cleo Laine among others.

One of the most in demand musicians on the London scene on Drums, Vibes and Piano, he now plays regularly with Martin Drew's New Jazz Couriers, Stan Sulzmann, Gwilym Simcock, Alan Barnes, Paul Clarvis and The Matt Wates sextet to name just a few, as well as leading two groups of his own. He has also played with Shaun Escoffery, The Herbaliser, Franco Ambrosetti, The Heritage Orchestra, Airtó Moreira and many more.

Jim was the winner of the 2006 British Jazz award for 'Rising star' and also won the 2006 Worshipful company of musicians Bronze medal.

Quotes

"Hart has developed an impressively individual voice, using a four mallet technique that allows him to switch between pointed chords and mellifluous runs with ease....."

Daniel Spicer – Jazzwize

"His Vibes playing is a revelation."

Alan Shipton – The Times

Bands and Projects

Jim Hart's Gemini

Press Release

Jim Hart's Gemini was formed in the summer of 2003 and has, since then, been making a big impression on the London and the wider UK Jazz scene as part of much talked about Loop Collective. Their debut album 'Emergence' reveals a band with a fresh sound but one which has some years of playing together behind it.

The music is all written by Vibes player Jim Hart - winner of both the 2006 British Jazz award for 'Rising star' and also the Worshipful Company of Musicians 'Young Jazz Medal 2006'. It is rhythmically charged whilst always melodic and ranges from straight ahead swing through free-improvisation, West African, Latin and Funk grooves to simple and soulful ballads. In his writing the influences of Chick Corea, Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler and Keith Jarrett can be heard.

Much of the music on the album is written in such a way that the pieces can become journeys from one place to another rather than always returning to an already stated theme. This method of 'through-composition' can be heard on the opening track 'So You Said' and on 'The Code' and 'Waiting Game' which are linked to create over 15 minutes of continuous music.

'No Noodle', 'Checkout' and the title track 'Emergence' are all played to a more conventional structure but are rhythmically very interesting and showcase the dynamic rhythm section of Mick Coady on Double Bass and Tom Skinner on Drums. Ivo Neame completes the quartet on Alto Sax. His individual style creates a real openness within the music. This is particularly evident on 'Liner Notes', a playful tune with freely improvised solo sections.

Gemini's sound and rhythmic feel is fueled by the fact that all the members of the quartet are rhythm section players. Both Jim and Ivo are much in-demand on other instruments. Jim works a lot on the Jazz scene as a drummer and also as a pianist. While Ivo Leads his own piano trio, soon to release their debut on 'Loop records', as well as playing piano and keyboards in several other bands from the collective. With this shared sense of time combined with the strong melodic nature of the writing and the openness of the improvising 'Emergence' is an album which is uplifting and exciting.

Reviews

Jim Hart's GEMINI *Emergence* - *Jazzwise*

The first recorded product of the Loop Collective is a no-nonsense quartet that might be described as straight-ahead, if that didn't appear to downplay the creativity and the chance-taking on offer.

Unlike some debut albums, it doesn't waste time on mere versatility, so there's no evidence of Hart playing piano or drums, on both of which he's more than competent. There is, though, a lot of his writing ability and featuring all-original material seems to be no problem, given the variety of the feels invoked - including passages of 7/4 on both 'Checkout' and the title-track that are so convincing you don't stop even stop to count. Other compositional bonuses are the near calypso 'No Noodle', the Ornettish 'Liner Notes' and a couple of Vibes ballads that actually translate the influence of Bill Evans rather than just approximating it.

The unconventional Neame, who also doesn't double on other instruments, is a considerable asset as are Coady and Skinner - though all three suffer from a rather dry mix. But the music triumphs, and its attractions grow on repeated hearings.

April 2007 Brian Priestley - Jazzwise

Gemini featuring Jim Hart - Swansea Jazzland, St James' Club, Swansea

Having first heard Jim Hart's exceptional musicianship several years ago at the Brighton jazz Club, sounding confident beyond his years in such senior company as Laurence Cottle and Mornington Lockett, it's little wonder he's now one of the most talked about players in London. A multifaceted musician who combines his wide ranging knowledge of rhythm and harmony on both kit and vibes, his increasingly impressive ensemble Gemini are stepping out more frequently with a clutch of dates this month. With a perpetual motion to his writing and improvising there are few stylistic stones that remain unturned from the epic to small but perfectly formed his is a voice that is clear and heading upwards.

Jazzwise Listings March 2007

Band Biography's

Ivo Neame - Piano

Ivo started learning piano at the age of seven, but went on to take up a host of other instruments such as drums and clarinet. In his teens he took up the saxophone and later made it his principal study at the Royal Academy of Music, whilst still maintaining his reputation as a fine multi-instrumentalist. Since graduating, however, he has refocused his attention on piano, appearing at most of the major London jazz venues including Ronnie Scott's, Pizza Express Dean Street, 606 Club with musicians such as Tim Garland, Gerard Presencer, Gene Calderazzo and Liam Noble.

Mick Coady - Bass

Born in Waterford, Ireland. After some time working with local rock and Irish traditional groups he moved to Dublin.

In 1996 Michael began working regularly with guitarist Louis Stewart, and many visiting artists such as Ronnie Cuber, Scott Hamilton, Mark Murphy and others.

Michael continued his studies, attending Banff Center for the Arts Jazz Summer Program, Alberta, Canada in 1997, completed the L.G.S.M. diploma course at Newpark Music Center, Dublin, 1998. Attended Berklee School of Music, U.S.A. and the Karnatic School of Percussion, Bangalore, India under T.A.S. Mani in 2001.

Michael is now based in London and plays with leading musicians on the UK and International Jazz scene.

Dave Smith - Drums

Since graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Dave has worked with musicians such as Peter King, Liam Noble, Stan Sultzmänn and Eddie Henderson. He also works in some original creative music projects such as Arnie Somogyi's 'Ambulance', the Jonathan Bratoeff Quintet (F-ire Collective) and 'Outhouse' (LOOP Collective).

Dave's experiences with West African music began in 2002, in The Gambia, when he attended an ECCO International (Education through Communication and Culture Organisation) cultural course. Since then he has made three return trips to research the drumming tradition of 'Wolof'. As well as setting up collaborative projects, with Gambian musicians and jazz musicians, he now leads a Wolof group which is giving workshops in schools, performing and playing for ceremonies within the Wolof community in London.

The Jim Hart Quartet

Press Release

This dynamic group first got together in 2005 for the purposes of recording. Although this was the first time the four had played as a group, Jim had had musical associations with them all in other groups for some years. The result was a common ground combined with an exciting freshness which is still surprising them all.

The band plays arrangements of standards and some lesser known jazz repertoire ranging from Sarah Vaughan to Lee Konitz as well as some of Jim's own tunes. It is straight ahead jazz at it's most invigorating. Boundless and open it has the potential to go anywhere whilst still swinging like mad.

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Tristan Mailliot - Drums