



Kit Downes Trio Golden

2010 Barclaycard Mercury Prize – An Album of the Year

“unpretentiously brilliant and full of subtle touches”. **The Observer**

“A brilliant soloist who builds ideas slowly into cascades of melodic ideas... highly imaginative tunes and expansive, melodic solos.” **Time Out**

BBC Award-winning, 24 year old pianist/composer, **Kit Downes** exploded onto the British jazz scene as a powerful, dynamic presence in the much lauded band Empirical. He is a key member of the trios Troyka and Golden Age Of Steam and it was his startling contribution to these bands that first marked him out as a real talent to watch. However, it is now his superb piano trio that is his key artistic vehicle and that offers the clearest vision of one of European jazz's brightest emerging talents.

Born in Norwich, Downes is a graduate of London's prestigious Royal Academy and the trio features Royal Academy colleagues bassist **Calum Gourlay** (24) and rising drum star **James Maddren** (23) and their music displays a level of understanding and intelligence between players that can only come from working closely together for a number of years. While the playing is technically dazzling, there is a none the less a strong emotional investment in the songs making up **Golden** that immediately engages the listener.

Drawing on inspiration from a multitude of sources from Ravel to Ornette Coleman, film music to Nick Drake and Bill Frisell to David Attenborough, Downes' impressionistic pictures of people and places drive a work of real depth and earthy beauty. This is music that is both immediately arresting but which also stands repeated listening. The bands' ability to improvise around Downes' highly original music puts the trio at the very forefront of the contemporary jazz scene. And it this quality that makes **Golden** such an inspired nomination for the prestigious Barclaycard Mercury Prize as Downes endeavors both to celebrate the classic jazz piano tradition as well as develop it, without ever being tempted to abandon the music he loves.

4TH AUG 606 CLUB LONDON

7TH AUG BRECON JAZZ FESTIVAL

10TH SEP KOMEDIA BRIGHTON

11TH SEP KING'S PLACE LONDON

The band will be appearing at the **Barclaycard Mercury Prize Awards Show** on **Tuesday 7 September** when the overall winner of the 2010 Prize will be announced.

Siân Williams – 020 7223 7456 / sian@riotsquadpublicity.com and
Kerstan Mackness – 07775 655 573 / kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com

www.bashorecords.com | www.bashomusic.co.uk



BIOGRAPHIES

KIT DOWNES - Piano

After attending the Purcell School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music (taught by Tom Cawley who he later recorded a series of duets with), Kit now plays regularly with his own trio, Troyka, The Golden Age of Steam, Sam Crockatt, Asaf Sirkis and Clark Tracey – as well as having played with Joe Locke, Seb Rochford, Gilad Atzmon, John Warren, Empirical, Gerard Presencer, Stan Sulzmann, Jeff Williams and Eugene Skeef. He has also performed with leading British bands Fraud, Asaf Sirkis' Inner Noise, Stan Sulzmann's Neon, Gilad Atzmon's Orient House Ensemble, Acoustic Ladyland, Nostalgia 77, 2000 Black, Silhouette Brown and Dennis Rollins' Badbone and Co. He has also worked with up and coming Composer / Songwriter Micachu as well as his three years with Empirical, which took him to The North Sea Jazz Festival, The JVC Festivals in New York, Montreal and Newport, and Vancouver Jazz Festival. Empirical won „Best Album of the Year 2007“ in Jazzwise and the EBU Award at the North Sea Festival. Kit is a „Yamaha Jazz Scholar“ in 2009 and has twice been nominated for the British Jazz Awards whilst winning the „Rising Star“ Award in the BBC Jazz Awards 2008.

Having been together since their first year at the Royal Academy of Music, the 'Kit Downes Trio' have been playing together since 2005. Their music concentrates on walking the fine line between improvisation and composition through an eclectic mix of influences. The band, featuring Calum Gourlay on bass and James Maddren on drums, has always been interested in making its music accessible, whilst not sacrificing any of its intellect - and doing so through new and original music. It has done this at the London Jazz Festival 2008, Ronnie Scott's British Jazz Festival, Pizza Express' „New Food Night“ (which Kit curates).

CALUM GOURLAY – Double Bass

Born in Glasgow in 1986, Calum started playing double bass at the age of fourteen, having previously played cello and bass guitar. He recorded Rooftop Adventures with English pianist John Escreet and Canadian Saxophonist Seamus Blake, in New York in 2006 and has toured regularly with the Tommy Smith Group, TSYJO and the SNJO. In June 2008 Calum graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London with a first class honours B.Mus. (Jazz) degree, winning the Benjamin Dollinger Prize for his final recital and also a Yamaha/Classic FM Jazz Scholarship. He also leads his own band in London, a quintet featuring trumpeter Freddie Gavita, saxophonists Mike Chillingworth and George Crowley and drummer James Maddren.

JAMES MADDREN - drums

was born and brought up in Christ's Hospital School in Horsham, Sussex. When 11 he started school at Christ's Hospital and went on to play in several bands and orchestras. He left CH in summer 2005 and is currently studying jazz percussion at the Royal Academy of Music in London. James enjoys listening to and playing all kinds of music. He has plays with Marc Copland/Stan Sulzmann quartet, Phil Donkin, Gwilym Simcock, Kit Downes Trio, Martin Speake quartet, Phronesis, Jonathan Bratoeff quartet, Tangent, Andrea Vicari quintet, Quentin Collins, Claire Martin and many other musicians and bands across London and the U.K.

BASHO RECORDS

Hailed as "*one of the UK's most dynamic organisations in promoting and recording contemporary jazz*" by AllAboutJazz.com, **Basho Records** is one of the UK leading independent jazz labels and home to some of the UK's most important musicians from **Kit Downes** and acclaimed pianist **Gwilym Simock** to **Liam Noble** and **Julian Siegal**.