

Tommy Smith's Karma

UK TOUR

24 JUNE: **ABERDEEN** - Blue Lamp

25 JUNE: **SHETLAND** - Islesburgh Centre

29 JUNE: **GLASGOW** - Stereo, Glasgow Jazz Festival

26 JULY: **EDINBURGH** - Bosco Tent, George Square, Edinburgh Jazz Festival

10 AUGUST: **LONDON** - Ronnie Scott's * Brit-Jazz Fest 2011

29 SEPTEMBER: **BASINGSTOKE** - The Forge at the Anvil

30 SEPTEMBER: **CAMBRIDGE** - Modern Jazz Club Hidden Rooms

02 OCTOBER: **WELWYN GARDEN CITY** - Herts Jazz Club

04 OCTOBER: **MANCHESTER** - Band On The Wall

05 OCTOBER: **HULL** - The Goodfellowship Inn

06 OCTOBER: **WARRICK** – Arts Centre

07 OCTOBER: **WAKEFIELD** - Wakefield Sports Club

08 OCTOBER: **LIVERPOOL** - Capstone Theatre

An exciting new direction for leading Scottish saxophonist, Tommy Smith's grooving rhythms mix with atmospheric textures evoking Irish, Scottish, Japanese and Arabic folk influences. The result is a major statement from an internationally renowned master.

"It is quite possibly his finest recording yet." ******JAZZWISE**

"His toughest and most creative quartet yet." ******THE SCOTSMAN**

"A rare splicing of rich-toned, pipe-like themes, fiercely guttural up-tempo tenor improv, Arabic and Irish music, tight grooving that suggests Weather Report" ******THE GUARDIAN**

Tommy Smith is one of Europe's greatest jazz musicians, a peerless, powerful saxophonist who moves seamlessly between the Northern European jazz of Arild Anderson with whom he plays and the big-band majesty of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra – recently heard on tour with Kurt Elling he is a constant innovator and key figure in the development of a powerful jazz scene in his native Scotland. Hailed by critics as the toughest and most creative group of his career.

Tommy Smith's KARMA sees the brilliant saxophonist exploring new sounds and atmospheric textures with a brand new band: featuring some of Scotland's finest musicians and new music focusing on the reactions of his group.

Comprising Smith on tenor and soprano saxophones and Shakuhachi flute, mega-talented pianist and keyboardist Steve Hamilton, six string bass guitar sensation Kevin Glasgow and jet-powered drummer Alyn Cosker, KARMA presents music of gob-smacking energy and superb inventiveness.

For more information, images & interviews:-

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www.tommy-smith.co.uk

'KARMA - The result overall is music that's immediately appealing and allows the musicians scope to demonstrate their considerable virtuosity within well defined structures' **The Herald**

'Tommy has a unique sound and approach. I liked it from when I first heard him play as a student at Berklee.' **Chick Corea**

'Tommy Smith, the most talented sax star to arrive on the world scene in years.' **Gary Burton**

'Tommy is an incredible writer and a great, great player' **John Scofield**
Notes for editors

Born in Edinburgh in 1967, Tommy Smith is a noted saxophonist, composer, bandleader and Educator. A keen nurturer of young talent he formed The Scottish Youth Jazz Orchestra in 2002 and directs the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, one of the most successful orchestras of it's type anywhere in the world.

Tommy Smith first came to prominence when he won best soloist and best group titles at Edinburgh International Jazz Festival, aged 14, and he recorded his first album at 15. After studying at Berklee College of Music he joined Gary Burton's group, touring worldwide and recording the Whiz Kids album on ECM Records.

He signed to Blue Note Records in 1989 and having formed his own record company, Spartacus, has now released twenty-four solo albums. He has presented television and radio programmes for the BBC and Channel Four and has received awards and honours including a BBC Heart of Jazz award, Best Woodwind at the inaugural Scottish Jazz Awards (2008), the Scottish Jazz Expo Award (2009), and honorary doctorates from Heriot-Watt and Glasgow Caledonian universities.

His many compositions include four saxophone concertos, the symphonic work Edinburgh for Edinburgh Youth Orchestra, The Morning of the Imminent for Dame Cleo Laine and Sir John Dankworth, the Glasgow Jazz Festival commission Beasts of Scotland, and a series of large scale works, including Planet Wave, Beauty and the Beast, Torah and the World Of The Gods.

In March 2011 he toured the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra with special guest vocalist Kurt Elling and future plans include concerts with the great Norwegian bassist, Arild Anderson, SNJO tours with Bill Evans and Autumn dates with the Karma Band including a London Jazz Festival double-bill with SNJO.

www.tommy-smith.co.uk