

# Zoe Rahman

## Kindred Spirits

Manushi Records - manucd005 - release date 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

### Mercury-nominated pianist releases new album and announces UK tour!

**Zoe Rahman** should really need no introduction, a noted composer and pianist, she has been hailed as one of the UK's brightest talents and has worked with the likes of Jerry Dammers' Spatial AKA and Courtney Pine (who guests here). Her 2006 album, **Melting Pot**, was nominated for the **Mercury Music Prize** and her most recent album **Live** caught her trio in radiant form and was released to universal acclaim. The equally acclaimed **Where Rivers Meet** found her and her brother Idris Rahman (also featured here) exploring the music of their Bengali heritage in a brilliant fusion of jazz and world music.

**Kindred Spirits** her fifth album on her own *Manushi* imprint draws on all her many influences. The music is a powerful and fresh portrait of her combined English, Irish and Bengali heritage and features her brother **Idris Rahman** on clarinet alongside her regular jazz trio partners **Gene Calderazzo** and bassists **Daive Mantovani** and **Oli Hayhurst**. In Zoe's own words "We recorded this album after touring Ireland in 2011, a year that happened to coincide with the 150th birth anniversary of Bengali writer, musician, artist and Nobel Laureate Rabinranath Tagore. These two events account, in part, for my choice of music. Mostly though, it's a collection of my own compositions from the past couple of years and tunes that I love playing." Zoe adds, "From my experience of visiting my father's extensive family in Dhaka, music plays a huge part in the lives of Bengalis. At family gatherings, a harmonium seems to be produced at any opportunity, everyone taking it in turn to sing (more often than not, Tagore songs). The music sessions we were lucky enough to experience in the pubs around Ireland very much reminded me of that tradition, and the love of music. I've always been curious about my Grandmother's Irish roots and touring Ireland gave me the perfect excuse to connect with that side of my heritage".

**Kindred Spirits**, opens with the burning **Down To Earth**, a hard-grooving number that illustrates perfectly the powerful empathy of Zoe's trio. **Conversation with Nellie** features **Courtney Pine** with whom Zoe so regularly tours. **Maya** is named for Zoe's first niece who was born while she was touring Ireland. **Mana Na Manili** (the intro on track four), points to the interesting artistic connections that Tagore enjoyed with Ireland and is based on the Irish melody *Go Where Glory Waits Thee*. Elsewhere **Outside In** finds Zoe drawing her band into different territory, opening with an open improvised section before featuring Zoe and co improvising against a loop created by Zoe adding a melody to a drum loop created by Gene. The result is both beautiful and intriguing pointing to the deep empathy between Zoe and her band as well as the relationships she creates between all her many musical passions – her **Kindred Spirits**!

Further info:

**Kerstan Mackness at Riotsquad Publicity**

077 7565 5573 E: kerstan@riotsquadpublicity.com

## Kindred Spirits Tour 2012

**Mercury-nominated pianist to tour UK in support of new album, Kindred Spirits.**

**Zoe Rahman** – piano; **Idris Rahman** – clarinet & bass clarinet **Gene Calderazzo** – drums  
**Daive Mantovani** – double bass (NB **Alec Dankworth** replaces Mantovani on January dates)

19 Jan **Dorking** Watermill Jazz 07415 815 784. £11 mems/£14 non-mems 8.30pm

20 Jan **Wakefield** Wakefield Jazz 01977 680542. £12 (concs available) Doors 7pm,

27 Jan **Chichester** Minerva Theatre 01243 781312. £18, 7.45pm.

28 Jan **Much Wenlock** The Edge Arts Centre 01952 728911. £12/10 concs. 8pm.

2 Feb **Leeds** Seven Arts 0113 2626777. £15/12 concs. Doors 8pm, music 8.30-11pm

3 Feb **Sheffield**, Sheffield Jazz, Millennium Hall

4 Feb **Liverpool** The Capstone Theatre 0151 7093789. £12.50. 7.30pm.

6 Feb **London** Pizza Express 0845 6 027 017. £15, 8.30pm

7 Feb **London** Pizza Express 0845 6 027 017. £15, 8.30pm

3 Mar **Bradford on Avon** Wiltshire Music Centre 01225 860100. 8pm. £16 (concs available)

6 Mar **St. Ives**, St Ives Jazz, Western Hotel 01736 796082. 8pm, £12/£6 members.

7 Mar **Barnstaple** The Queen's Theatre 01271 324242. 8pm. £10.

10 Mar **Hampshire** Forest Arts Theatre 01425 612393

15 Mar **Warwick** Arts Centre details tbc

25 Mar **Gateshead** The Sage 0191 443 4661

*"Zoe brings a new slant to jazz composition and improvisation that never fails to grab my attention. This, coupled with an excellent piano technique, makes her an artiste of outstanding talent."* **Stan Tracey**

*"Pianist Rahman and her fine quartet began with a set of life-affirming music that was never less than entertaining and intellectually stimulating.....a fusion of Bengali and Irish musical influences that was truly remarkable"*

**Peter Collins, Western Mail (live review from Brecon Jazz 2011)**

*"Zoe joyfully celebrates her influences with originality, personality and a certain contemporary verve."* **Julian Joseph**

*"effervescent pianist Zoe Rahman, and her clarinettist brother Idris Rahman, were hugely entertaining, with a mix of good originals and standards"* **Bob Weir, Jazz Journal (Live Review from Brecon Jazz 2011)**

