



Portico Quartet Knee-Deep In The North Sea

2008 Nationwide Mercury Prize – An Album of the Year

“The darlings of the jazz/leftfield jazz scene” **Big Chill website**

‘Sound like nothing you’ve ever heard” **Time Out**

“A phenomenon in the making” **The Independent**

Portico Quartet are four young musicians from South London who sound like nothing you’ve ever heard before. Living and playing together they describe their ethos as like an Indy band that plays post-jazz, and their unique sound has won them fans from *Gilles Peterson* to *Radio 4* and *Notion* to *BBC Music Magazine*. *Knee-Deep* was *Time Out’s Jazz, Folk and World music album of the year for 2007* and is a **Nationwide Mercury Prize** album of the year for 2008: the full list of nominated albums can be found at www.nationwidemercurys.com

Portico Quartet are **Jack Wyllie** (soprano Saxophone), **Milo Fitzpatrick** (double bass), **Nick Mulvey** (Hang and percussion) and **Duncan Bellamy** (drums and Hang), and it’s the mix of ethereal saxophone, flying saucer like Hang (imagine an otherworldly steel drum), clattering drums and earthy double-bass that gives their music it’s inimitable, beautiful sound.

It was the chance purchase of the Hang by Duncan Bellamy, at a music festival, that inspired the young friends to start a band, and while their largely intuitive music references jazz and African music it’s the Hang inspired trance-like repetitive patterns of Duncan and Nick Mulvey that propel the band into stranger pastures: invoking Philip Glass and Steve Reich’s gamelan inspired minimalism.

Their dance friendly, melodic brand of hook-heavy post-jazz was honed busking across Europe and playing in unusual spaces; churches, galleries and chill-out zones. A weekly session at the *South Bank* and residency at the *Brixton Ritzy* earned them a cult following and inspired London’s hippest jazz club, the **Vortex**, to start a label to release their music. Sessions on *XFM* and *Radio 1* followed and a storming set at the *Glastonbury Festival* had *Q* hailing their ‘*danceable chamber jazz soundscapes*’ that ‘*should make them a Glasto fixture*’. Further performances this year include the *Big Chill*, *Shoreditch Festival*, *Brecon* and *London Jazz Festivals* and the band return to the *Vortex* jazz club on August 27th.

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