



## **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](http://www.nationwidemercurys.com)

**Portico Quartet** are **Jack Wylie** (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 27<sup>th</sup>.

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## PRESS QUOTES

"Will it win? Unprecedentedly for the jazz one – it might well do" **The Times**

"A phenomenon in the making" **The Independent**

"Uber-cool jazz buskers" **the Guardian**

"What Portico do is not simply jazz, it's well structured instrumental pop - sometimes upbeat and danceable like on Cittagazze; at other times dreamy, languid and atmospheric". **Q (The Music) Website**

'As traditionally hook based as anything from rock, to hip hop" **The Guardian**

"This unforgettable disc shimmers with brilliance." **BBC Music Magazine**

"Haunting, beautifully austere sound" **Metro**

"Danceable chamber jazz soundscapes combine hectic soprano sax riffing over a dynamic rhythm section and should make them a Glasto fixture' "best of the rest" **Q Glastonbury Review 2008**

"Strange but beautiful stuff" **Notion**

"Hummable melodies" **the Sun**

"Floating somewhere between jazz and modern classical music, this young group make a strikingly original sound." **The Times**

"The group generates pieces with a recognisably human pulse – ECM with a little extra passion, if you will...chamber jazz with a Late Junction twist" **Sunday Times**

'Fresh, fun and different...an ear for a highly quotable melody" **jazzwise**

" Great stuff,... a cross between jazz and modern classical. It's mellifluous, exuberant and jaunty, full of catchy tunes and strong hooks" **Allaboutjazz**

"A band who make experimental and adventurous music sound wonderfully accessible, Portico Quartet are like nothing you've heard before." **Straight No Chaser**



<b>Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Glastonbury (Jazz World Stage)</b>
<b>Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Barbican Centre (<i>supporting</i> Maria Schneider)</b>
<b>Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Koko, Camden – Itunes festival (<i>supporting</i> Neil Cowley)</b>
<b>Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Roughtrade East, E1 (instore), 7pm</b>
<b>Friday August 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Big Chill festival – main stage, 6pm</b>
<b>Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Brecon Jazz Festival (Guildhall), 3.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup> (Music on the Lift Stage)</b>	<b>Shoreditch festival Shoreditch Park, New North Road - Free</b>
<b>Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Eastbeach café – Littehampton</b>
<b>Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vortex Jazz Club, Dalston - 8pm</b>
<b>Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Hoxton Square Bar and Kitchen, Hoxton Square, N1</b>
<b>Wednesday Nov' 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>South Bank Centre – London jazz Festival (with Gamelan master Supangah)</b>