



PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

## GWILYM SIMCOCK

### "BLUES VIGNETTE"

*"Just when you thought the piano could go no further in jazz one emerges to raise the bar of invention and virtuosity still higher. On this recording Gwilym Simcock seems to have breached a dam of inhibition and let loose a flood of music that is truly exhilarating".*

**Helen Mayhew, Jazz FM**



**London** - Basho Records is to release pianist and composer **Gwilym Simcock's** new double album ***Blues Vignette*** mid November.

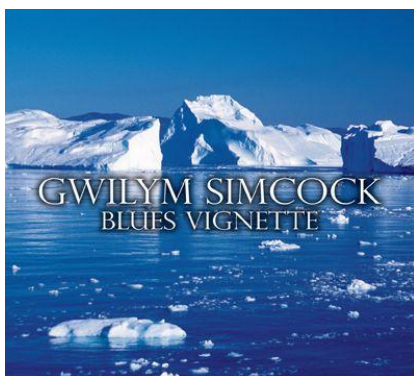
The album introduces his new trio featuring extraordinary, classically trained Russian bassist **Yuri Goloubev** and young UK drum star **James Maddren** as well as documenting Gwilym's emerging voice as a solo pianist.

The first CD offers a mix of stunning improvisations and new original compositions as well as insightful interpretations of Grieg's Piano Concerto and a unique reading of the popular tune 'On Broadway'. It also provides a brief window into the mind of a composer who mixes classical and jazz effortlessly, with a recording of a suite for cello and piano originally written for the opening of London's celebrated new classical and chamber venue King's Place. Classical cellist **Cara Berridge** features on this work.

The trio CD is a mix of Simcock compositions and imaginative interpretations of great classics such as 'Black Coffee' and 'Cry Me A River'.

In Gwilym's own words 'recording an album is like taking a photograph. An album is a document of a specific moment in time, a vignette, an insight into the stage that one as a musician has reached. This album marks both the beginning of a fresh journey with a new trio, and documents my continuing quest towards finding an individual voice as a solo pianist.

He continues 'All of this music is neither 'jazz' nor 'classical'. It is just music, and the type of music that interests and stimulates me. What I feel is important in music is lyricism, subtlety and clarity in harmonic and rhythmic movement, and an overall sense of an emotional connection with the listener, whatever the context of the music may be".



<b>Title:</b>	<b>Blues Vignette</b>
<b>Release Date:</b>	<b>16th November 2009</b>
<b>Artist:</b>	<b>Gwilym Simcock</b>
<b>Cat. Number:</b>	<b>SRCD 32-2</b>
<b>Barcode:</b>	<b>832929003226</b>
<b>Label:</b>	<b>Basho Records</b>

**Disc 1****GWILYM SIMCOCK - Piano**

- 01 Little People 6:56
- 02 Exploration on Mvt. II of Grieg Piano Concerto (Edvard Grieg) (arr. Simcock) 8:34
- 03 On Broadway (Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil) (arr. Simcock) 4:13
- 04 Improvisation I - Statues 3:06
- 05 Improvisation II - Letter to the Editor 3:49
- 06 Improvisation III - Be Still Now 4:04
- 07 Caldera 8:38
- 08 Jaco and Joe 9:21

*Suite for Cello and Piano***CARA BERRIDGE - Cello****GWILYM SIMCOCK - Piano**

- 09 Part 1 - Kinship 14:57
- 10 Part 2 - Homeward 6:04

**Disc 2****GWILYM SIMCOCK - Piano****YURI GOLOUBEV - Double Bass****JAMES MADDREN - Drums**

- 01 Introduction 4:46
- 02 Tundra 7:04
- 03 Blues Vignette 8:12
- 04 Black Coffee (Sonny Burke) (arr. Simcock) 5:23
- 05 Longing To Be 12:17
- 06 Nice Work If You Can Get It (G. Gershwin) (arr. Simcock) 6:35
- 07 Cry Me A River (Arthur Hamilton) (arr. Simcock) 8:05
- 08 1981 8:29

**Gwilym Simcock** - Widely regarded as one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers on the British scene Gwilym moves effortlessly between jazz and classical music

He has been described as stylistically reminiscent of Keith Jarrett, complete with 'harmonic sophistication and subtle dovetailing of musical traditions' as well as being a pianist of 'exceptional', 'brilliant' and 'dazzling' ability. His music has been widely acclaimed as 'engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex and wonderfully optimistic'.

Winner of the **Perrier Award**, **BBC Jazz Awards 2005** and **British Jazz Awards 2005** Gwilym was the first **BBC Radio 3 New Generation jazz Artist**. He was voted '**Jazz Musician of the Year**' at the 2007 Parliamentary Jazz Awards nominated for the **2008 BBC Jazz Awards** as **Best Instrumentalist**. His impressive formal education includes Trinity College of Music (London), Chetham's School of Music (Manchester) – where he studied classical piano, French horn and composition and the Royal Academy of Music (London) where he graduated from the jazz course with first class honours and the coveted 'Principal's Prize' for outstanding achievement.

Aside from his renowned solo piano work, Gwilym has worked extensively throughout Europe with the cream of British and international jazz artists including Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Bruford's Earthworks, Bob Mintzer and Bobby McFerrin. His own groups as leader range from trio to big band. His debut album "Perception" featuring his sextet with Stan Sulzmann (saxophones), John Parricelli (guitar), Phil Donkin (bass), Martin France (drums) and Ben Bryant (percussion). was nominated for **Best Album in the BBC Jazz Awards 2008** and has been critically acclaimed at home and abroad.

[www.gwilymsimcock.com](http://www.gwilymsimcock.com)

**AUTUMN TOUR DATES**

To celebrate the launch of the new CD there will be a mix of solo and trio dates in the UK and Germany with more dates to follow in the Spring. There will also be a special **London Jazz Festival** performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall featuring both the trio with special guest Klaus Gesing and a 100 voice choir 'The Voice Project' performing a special commission by Gwilym Simcock originally written for the Norfolk and Norwich Festival in May 2009 entitled 'I Prefer the Gorgeous Freedom'. At the end of November there will be a nine day residency at Pizza Express Dean Street where Gwilym will be promoting his new album in the company of a special guests including: Julian Arguelles, Stan Sulzmann, Klaus Gesing, Gerard Presencer, and Wolfgang Muthspiel.

02-Nov-09	Mannheim, Enjoy Jazz Festival	Solo
04-Nov-09	Munich, Black Box	Solo
12-Nov-09	Leverkusen	GS Trio
15-Nov-09	Teignmouth Jazz Festival	Solo
20-Nov-09	Cambridge	Solo/Duo with John Taylor
21-Nov-09	Queen Elizabeth Hall, LJF	GS Trio with The Voice Project
22-Nov-09	National Centre for Early Music, York	Solo
23-Nov-09	Oxford, Holywell Music Room	GS Trio
25-Nov-09	Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester	GS Trio
26-Nov-09	Dortmund Jazz Festival	GS Trio
27-Nov-09 to 03-Dec-09	Pizza Express Dean Street	GS Trio with special guests
06-Dec-09	Sevenoaks	GS Trio
08-Dec-09	Cardiff University	GS Trio

*For further information, review copies, press tickets of interview requests please contact  
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