



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

KIT DOWNES TRIO

"GOLDEN"

"Kit Downes is about to emerge as a formidable force in his own right...his originals were haunting, and his hypnotic, Mehltau-influenced playing fizzed with ideas that got hotter by the moment. Three to watch." **John Fordham, JazzUK**

"Virtuosity without showing off - The trio makes a cool, refined sound, overlaid with the soft patter of drummer James Maddren and punctuated by the deft, understated bass of Calum Gourlay. They're ideal partners for pianist Kit Downes, whose touch at first seemed as elfin and light as the man himself. This gig was a reminder of what makes him special...a hot virtuoso." ****

Ivan Hewett, Telegraph

"A brilliant soloist who builds ideas slowly into cascades of melodic ideas...His prodigious keyboard skills avoid obvious neo-bop tendencies with highly imaginative tunes and expansive, melodic solos."

Mike Flynn, Time Out

*"an exceptional talent" **** - Stuart Nicholson, The Observer Music Monthly*

Pianist/composer **Kit Downes** exploded onto the British Jazz Scene playing with the band Empirical, taking him through Europe and America, and then with Troyka, Fraud and Acoustic Ladyland. Now, two years on, Kit has moved on to his own trio project and this debut album sees him developing as a strong voice both as a performer and composer. Joined by his two Royal Academy colleagues award winning bassist Calum Gourlay and rising drum star James Maddren the music displays a level of understanding and intelligence between players that can only come from working closely together for a number of years. They read each other perfectly.

The band has spent these years developing their own personal sound. The music is immediately arresting and stands repeated listening. It uses melody, inspired from a range of sources ranging from Bela Bartok to Keith Jarrett to Rufus Wainwright, and endeavours both to celebrate the classic piano trio tradition as well as develop it.



Title: Golden
Release Date: 2nd November 2009
Artist: Kit Downes
Cat. Number: SRCD 31-2
Barcode: 832929003127
Label: Basho Records

Kit Downes - piano
Calum Gourlay - double bass
James Maddren - drums

Tracklisting:

1 Jump Minzi Jump - 7.01	6 A Dance Took Place - 7.28
2 Golden - 5.16	7 Roots - 6.58
3 Homely - 7.40	8 Tom's Tune - 6.24
4 Power and Patience (the bear) - 7.05	
5 Madame - 5.15	Total time - 53.11

BIOGRAPHIES

KIT DOWNES - Piano

After attending the Purcell School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music (taught by Tom Cawley who he later recorded a series of duets with), Kit now plays regularly with his own trio, Troyka, The Golden Age of Steam, Sam Crockatt, Asaf Sirkis and Clark Tracey – as well as having played with Joe Locke, Seb Rochford, Gilad Atzmon, John Warren, Empirical, Gerard Presencer, Stan Sulzmann, Jeff Williams and Eugene Skeef. He has also performed with leading British bands Fraud, Asaf Sirkis' Inner Noise, Stan Sulzmann's Neon, Gilad Atzmon's Orient House Ensemble, Acoustic Ladyland, Nostalgia 77, 2000 Black, Silhouette Brown and Dennis Rollins' Badbone and Co. He has also worked with up and coming Composer / Songwriter Micachu as well as his three years with Empirical, which took him to The North Sea Jazz Festival, The JVC Festivals in New York, Montreal and Newport, and Vancouver Jazz Festival. Empirical won 'Best Album of the Year 2007' in Jazzwise and the EBU Award at the North Sea Festival. Kit is a 'Yamaha Jazz Scholar' in 2009 and has twice been nominated for the British Jazz Awards whilst winning the 'Rising Star' Award in the BBC Jazz Awards 2008.

Having been together since their first year at the Royal Academy of Music, the 'Kit Downes Trio' have been playing together since 2005. Their music concentrates on walking the fine line between improvisation and composition through an eclectic mix of influences. The band, featuring Calum Gourlay on bass and James Maddren on drums, has always been interested in making it's music accessible, whilst not sacrificing any of it's intellect - and doing so through new and original music. It has done this at the London Jazz Festival 2008, Ronnie Scott's British Jazz Festival, Pizza Express' "New Food Night" (which Kit curates). www.kitdownes.com

CALUM GOURLAY – Double Bass

Born in Glasgow in 1986, Calum started playing double bass at the age of fourteen, having previously played cello and bass guitar. He recorded Rooftop Adventures with English pianist John Escreet and Canadian Saxophonist Seamus Blake, in New York in 2006 and has toured regularly with the Tommy Smith Group, TSYJO and the SNJO. In June 2008 Calum graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in London with a first class honours B.Mus. (Jazz) degree, winning the Benjamin Dollinger Prize for his final recital and also a Yamaha/Classic FM Jazz Scholarship. He also leads his own band in London, a quintet featuring trumpeter Freddie Gavita, saxophonists Mike Chillingworth and George Crowley and drummer James Maddren.

JAMES MADDREN - drums

was born and brought up in Christ's Hospital School in Horsham, Sussex. When 11 he started school at Christ's Hospital and went on to play in several bands and orchestras. He left CH in summer 2005 and is currently studying jazz percussion at the Royal Academy of Music in London. James enjoys listening to and playing all kinds of music. He has plays with Marc Copland/Stan Sulzmann quartet, Phil Donkin, Gwilym Simcock, Kit Downes Trio, Martin Speake quartet, Phronesis, Jonathan Bratoeff quartet, Tangent, Andrea Vicari quintet, Quentin Collins, Claire Martin and many other musicians and bands across London and the U.K.

ENDS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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Album distributed in the UK by Proper Music Distribution Ltd.

The New Powerhouse, Gateway Business Centre, Kangley Bridge Road, London, SE26 5AN
Tel. 020 8676 5100 | e-mail: info@proper.uk.com

ALSO AVAILABLE AT www.jazzcds.co.uk



KIT DOWNES TRIO 2009 DATES**14th September London (Album Launch)**

Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, Soho, London, W1D 3RW
0845 6027 017 www.pizzaexpresslive.com

27th September Leeds (Lunchtime Show)

Seven Arts Centre Harrogate Road, Leeds LS7 3PD
0113 2626777 www.sevenleeds.co.uk

27th September Edinburgh

The Jazz Bar, 1A Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HR
0131 220 4298 www.thejazzbar.co.uk

3rd October Maidstone

Pizza Express, 32 Earl Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1PS
0845 6027 017 www.pizzaexpresslive.com

6th October St Ives

St Ives Jazz Club, The Western Hotel, Royal Square, St Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2ND
01736 795277 www.stivesjazzclub.com

7th October Cardiff

Dempseys Jazz Club, 15 Castle Street, Riverside, Cardiff, CF10 1BS
029 20496802 www.myspace.com/dempseysjazz

8th October London

The Forge, 3-7 Delancey Street, Camden, London, NW1 7NL
020 7 383 7808 www.forgevenue.org

10th October Burnham

The Balcony, Burnham, Norfolk
01328 730740

14th October Birmingham

The Cross, 147, Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8JP
0121 449 4445 www.cobwebcollective.com/thecross

15th October Dorking

Watermill Jazz, Friends Provident Social Club, Pixham Lane, Dorking, RH4 1QA
01737 210454 www.watermilljazz.co.uk

16th October Bristol

The Bebop Club, The Bear, Hotwell Road, Bristol. BS8 4SF
0117 987 7796 www.thebebopclub.co.uk

18th October Norwich

The Forum, 2 Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF
01603 727950 www.theforumnorwich.co.uk

21st October Hove

The Brunswick, 1 Holland Road, Hove, BN3 1JF
01273 733984 www.brunswickpub.co.uk

18th November London

606 Club (as part of the London Jazz Festival), 90 Lots Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0QD
020 7352 5953 www.606club.co.uk

21st November London

Royal Festival Hall Freestage (as part of the London Jazz Festival)
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

This tour is generously supported by Jazz Services

