



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

KIT DOWNES TRIO

"QUIET TIGER"

"Everyone's favourite young pianist... unpretentiously brilliant and full of subtle touches". **The Observer**

"A brilliant soloist who builds ideas slowly into cascades of melodic ideas... highly imaginative tunes and expansive, melodic solos." **Time Out**

"A choosy, patient storyteller, if one of his distinctive original themes only requires a handful of notes and a lot of spaces, he leaves it like that." **The Guardian**

"Pianist Kit Downes's slender frame and shy demeanor hide a lightening musical intelligence and an engagingly slow-burn energy." **The Daily Telegraph**



1. Boreal 2:14
2. Tambourine 8:11
3. With A View 6:52
4. Frizzi Pazzi 6:21
5. Attached 6:47
6. In Brixen 8:50
7. Wooden Birds 3:57
8. Fonias 4:43
9. The Wizards 5:33
10. Skip James 9:55
11. Quiet Tiger 3:14

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Quiet Tiger is the second album from BBC Award-winning, 24 year old pianist/composer, **Kit Downes** and the follow-up to his **Mercury Prize** nominated debut album **Golden**. A nomination that announced to a wider audience, what the jazz world already knew, that Downes is one of the most brilliant musicians of his generation. A gifted composer and sparkling improviser, who whether playing with the bands *Neon*, *Troyka* and *Golden Age Of Steam* or leading his own lauded trio, brings an under-stated verve and earthy brilliance to the music. Inspired by artists as diverse as Bill Frisell, Bartok, Skip James, Paul Bley and Bjork as well as singer-songwriters Elliot Smith and Nick Drake, his compositions have a cinematic, story-telling quality that draw the listener in. Indeed **Quiet Tiger** is aptly titled capturing as it does the gentle charisma of Downes playing and while **Golden** was a superb document of the trio in its early days it is **Quiet Tiger** that more completely captures Downes' thoughtful brilliance.

A darker, more textured album than its predecessor, **Quiet Tiger** again features the Kit Downes Trio with bassist **Calum Gourlay** and drummer James **Maddren** as well as special guests **Adrien Dennefeld** on cello and **James Allsopp** on tenor saxophone and bass-clarinet. And while the rapport between the trio is clear (they've been playing together for six years now) it is the extra 'voicings' that the addition of cello and horns (often with Allsopp over dubbed on both horns) allow that really bring Downes' music into focus, expanding his musical palate and allowing for a richer, deeper, more expressive sound that perfectly complements his evocative narratives and explosive improvisational journeys.

The album opens with the mysterious, almost chamberish **Boreal**, while the groove of **Tambourine** nods to Keith Jarrett's legendary American quartet of the '70s. The graceful **With A View** is about perception of scale - the higher you are, the clearer your view. The 'fizzy' **Frizzi Pazzi** is named for a sherbet like sweet from South Tirol, while **Attached** is about things that seem unconnected but which in fact are. **In Brixen** is inspired by a town in South Tirol (up in the Alps) and the sinister **Wooden Birds** has a Tim Berne meets David Lynch-like quality. Elsewhere **The Wizards** is named for the remarkable James Allsopp and **Skip James** for the obscure bluesman of the same name but also nods to Bill Frisell. **Fonias** is a beautiful evocation of a gentle waterfall and the evocative title track **Quiet Tiger** is inspired by the Taiga or Boreal Forest, a quiet but magical place, much like Downes own unique music.

www.bashorecords.com | www.bashomusic.co.uk | www.kitdownes.com

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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 – aswell 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 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

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