

Take Five

A Jerwood Charitable Foundation/PRS Foundation Initiative
with additional support from
Arts Council England and the Musicians Benevolent Fund

Take Five Public Launch on Thursday 19 November, Barbican Centre, London

Take Five is a professional development scheme designed to give some of the UK's most talented young jazz musicians the unique opportunity to take 'time out' to develop their craft. Now in its sixth year, **Take Five** provides each artist with the special chance to discuss, explore and strengthen all aspects of their future careers.

To celebrate the launch of the sixth year, audiences will be able to attend a free public event on Thursday 19 November at 6pm in the Barbican's Fountain Room, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS, during this year's London Jazz Festival in association with BBC Radio 3 (no tickets required).

Speaking at the event will be previous participants **Dave Stapleton** (Edition II), **Arun Ghosh** (Edition IV) and **Nathaniel Facey** (Edition V) who will share their experiences on and after **Take Five**.

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation and the PRS Foundation for New Music (PRSF) are delighted to announce that international music producers Serious will continue to produce **Take Five** – and to once again welcome the additional support of Arts Council England and the Musicians Benevolent Fund. The eight creative jazz musicians who have been selected for this year's Take Five are:

- **James Allsopp** (Saxophones and Clarinets, London)
- **Tomas Challenger** (Saxophones, London)
- **Kit Downes** (Piano, London)
- **Adam Fairhall** (Piano, Cheshire)
- **Fraser Fifield** (Pipes, Whistles and Saxophones, Fife)
- **Shabaka Hutchings** (Saxophones and Clarinets, London)
- **Olivia Moore** (Violin, Manchester)
- **Dave Smith** (Drums, London)

"It is both impressive and inspiring to survey the high levels of creativity and commitment demonstrated by this year's nominees. Such quality is a real marker of the continued relevance of this unique initiative for young jazz talent in the UK. Against this backdrop, our final eight are a group of exceptional promise, and we very much look forward to seeing them develop and consolidate their skills and their ambitions over the coming year." (**Shonagh Manson, Director - Jerwood Charitable Foundation**)

“**Take Five** and the talented alumni from this scheme are now really making their mark within and beyond the jazz community. This year we chose from an exceptional list of nominees and I have no doubt that the dedication and ambition of these creative musicians will shine through in the years ahead. We are proud that **Take Five** can offer distinctive support for their creative and business development in these tough times.” (Charlotte Ray, Co-Director, PRS Foundation for New Music)

“Artists are always central to Serious’ work and the significant contribution that **Take Five** has made to the development of jazz musicians and the British contemporary jazz scene is a continuing source of professional pride for our organisation. We are very grateful to the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, the PRS Foundation for New Music, Arts Council England and our newest supporter, the Musicians Benevolent Fund for their continued commitment to support **Take Five**.” (Claire Whitaker, Director, Serious)

The **Jerwood/PRS Foundation Take Five Initiative** will run from October 2009 to June 2010 and it comprises a number of sessions under the collective areas of Talk Time, Learning Time, Focus Time, Time Out and Creative Time. Each artist will benefit from one-to-one sessions to identify their particular areas of interest and need, as well as two residential periods exploring areas such as composition, studio technology, live producing and strategic direction. **Take Five** will also give participants access to mentoring and an opportunity to engage with those working in other art forms.

Previous participants in **Take Five** commented:

‘Taking part in this year’s Take Five scheme really helped me to focus on what I want to achieve as a musician as well as giving me more confidence in reaching those aims. Meeting the other musicians was really inspiring and gave me plenty of artistic ideas. The talks really opened my eyes to the way the industry works and gave me ideas about how I might exploit it for my own good! After the first residency I decided that I needed to do something to promote both myself, and the scene in Birmingham. I am now planning an artist driven festival with the Cobweb Collective for next year in Birmingham. This will be a platform for Birmingham based musicians, including myself, which will be designed to raise our profile both locally and nationally. I wouldn’t have considered planning something like this before the scheme. The things I learned and the people I met on Take Five gave me the confidence to do this and will hopefully make it a success.’ (Chris Mapp, Edition V, 2009)

‘Many thanks for your help during the year. This has been a massive step and an eye opener for my development. I’m very grateful for being selected for this year’s Take Five scheme.’ (Neil Charles, Edition V, 2009)

‘Take Five is the ultimate “demystifier”. Every smoky, unclear or unknown corner of the music industry can be approached and looked at up-close and within the big picture. It is flexible enough to be tailored to individuals whilst showing that everyone is in the same boat. Everyone who took part in the process, peers, guests or organisers showed total availability for the discussions to happen...and they did. It claims to allow musicians to take a step back but really, it makes them step right in.’ (Robin Fincker, Edition V, 2009)

A panel of industry experts contributed to the selection process, taking into account the following considerations for each participant: excellence in creativity and performance, future potential, distinctive contribution to the jazz community, as well as musical style, geography and range of influences. The panel included representatives from Jerwood Charitable Foundation, PRS Foundation and Serious, as well as Steve Mead (Artistic Director, Manchester Jazz Festival), Chris Sharkey (composer and guitarist) and Soweto Kinch (composer, saxophonist and MC).

**For further press information please contact Lucinda Hilbery at Serious
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Notes:

1. The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is committed to imaginative and responsible funding of the arts, supporting emerging and established artists at important stages in their development and across all art-forms. We aim for our funding to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. Current partner organisations include Glyndebourne (Jerwood Chorus Development scheme), Aldeburgh Music (Jerwood Opera Writing Programme), Sadler's Wells (the Jerwood Studio) and the Royal Court (Jerwood New Playwrights). The Jerwood Charitable Foundation also funds and manages Jerwood Visual Arts; a year-round gallery programme of prizes, awards, exhibitions and events at the Jerwood Space, London, which then tours the UK.
2. The PRS Foundation for New Music (PRSF) is the UK's largest independent funder of new music across all genres. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRSF supports an exceptional range of new music activity - from unsigned band showcases to composer residencies, from commissions for new music to experimental live electronica. Since March 2000 PRSF has given more than £12 million to over 3,000 new music initiatives. In addition to stimulating and supporting the creation and performance of new music, it motivates public debate about creative music-making through ground-breaking projects such as the New Music Award.
3. Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, Arts Council England supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2008 and 2011 Arts Council England will invest in excess of £1.6 billion of public money from the government and the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.
4. The Musicians Benevolent Fund was set up by musicians to help other musicians and their dependants in times of need. It provides confidential advice and financial support to British and Irish music professionals of all ages and from all areas of music. It also nurtures the next generation of musicians through awards to individuals and organisations. The Musicians Benevolent Fund is totally independent and relies on donations and legacies to continue its essential work.
5. Serious is a London-based international producer of live jazz, world and new music. Responsible for producing a vast range of concerts, tours and special events (including the annual London Jazz Festival in association with BBC Radio 3), the company works with major concert venues and festivals in the UK and abroad to create a programme of innovative style and quality. Our projects range from large festivals to intimate clubs, from international tours to specially commissioned major events. We are also committed to learning and participation and artist and art form development.

For more information on this initiative or the organisations involved see:

www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org

www.prsfoundation.co.uk

www.artscouncil.org.uk

www.mbf.org.uk

www.serious.org.uk

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