

Stan Tracey Octet

Guy Barker - Bands: Stan Tracey Sxt/Oct/Big Band; Guy Barker Qrt/QntBands: Born London 1957. Came to the fore as a sideman in Stan & Clark Tracey Bands & now has his own band with an international line-up. Began playing in school brass bands & NYJO & studied at the Royal College of Music. At 17 he had lessons from Clark Terry. In the 80s he worked with John Dankworth, & toured & recorded with the Gil Evans Orchestra, Lena Horne & Bobby Watson's Young Lions. He has worked as a sideman with Ornette Coleman, Carla Bley, Georgie Fame, Frank Sinatra & Cleo Laine & performs with both Stan & Clark Tracey. He won a recording contract with Verve in the mid '90s, and has since established himself as a fine leader/composer. His 3rd album, 'What Love Is' features a guest appearance by Sting, singing the classic, 'You Don't Know What Love Is'. He arranged 6 jazz standards for the film 'The Talented Mr Ripley' and appeared in the film with his quartet.

Mark Nightingale - Bands: Andy Panayi Quartet; Clark Tracey Quintet/Sextet; Mark Nightingale Quartet Bands: Multi award-winning trombonist who first came to prominence in the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. Currently regularly playing with Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, Andy Panayi Quartet, Laurence Cottle Big Band, Stan and Clark Tracey's Ellingtonia, Kenny Wheeler Big Band and the Charlie Watts Ten-tet. Has recorded with Ray Brown, Clark Terry, James Morrison, Jeff Hamilton, Claire Martin, Lee Gibson, Dave O'Higgins. He is a composer and arranger in jazz, commercial and educational fields and fronts his own big band, as well as various small groups and trombone ensembles.

Nigel Hitchcock - Born in Rustington, England on 4th January 1971, Nigel first began to play the recorder at age 6, so as to complete the recorder quartet comprising of his elder brother and two sisters. It was therefore a natural progression to the alto sax at age 8. Following in the footsteps of his brother Clive, he took lessons from a local saxophone tutor, Victor Yates, and played in all the area's big bands, being schooled in everything from Glen Miller to Rob McDonald. At the age of 11, both Nigel and Clive joined the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, a splendid training ground for musicians, who rehearsed every Saturday and performed constantly across the country. After only a year, he took the lead alto chair, where he remained for 5 years, during which time the band toured with stars such as Vic Damone, Buddy Greco and Al Martino. Through his new found NYJO buddies, Nigel began to play with various other big bands, function bands and jazz combos, as well as studying for his exams at his local comprehensive school! After leaving school at sixteen, and already a seasoned professional, Nigel walked straight into the London session scene, recording TV jingles, movie soundtracks, pop solos and various other library albums, as he still does today. In 1989 Nigel joined the contemporary saxophone quartet 'Itchy Fingers'. This outfit, with their incredibly taxing compositions, gave him the perfect opportunity to use his photographic memory and display an awesome technical facility, which can be heard on the album 'Itchy Fingers Live'. He toured Europe and South-East Asia with the foursome over an 18 month period, leaving to continue his pop/session career just after receiving 3 jazz awards, the Schlitz Award for rising star, the Cleo Laine Personal Award for best young musician, and the Pat Smythe Trust Award (voted by musicians). In between recording dates, during the last 10 years Nigel has performed to thousands of people around the world with artists such as Tom Jones, Wet Wet Wet, Beverley Craven, Ray Charles and Robbie Williams and has released an album under his own name - 'Snake Ranch Sessions'.

Simon Allen - Simon studied at the Royal Academy after beginning his career with the National

Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Pendulum Jazz Orchestra, performing alongside the likes of jazz stars Art Themen, Gerard Presencer and Peter King. Now Simon is a member of Clark Tracey's acclaimed quintet, and the Laurence Cottle All Star Big Band. He has worked with Colin Towns Mask Orchestra for the Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Matthew Herbert Big Band and the BBC Big Band, touring around Germany, China, Belgium and Poland.

He has appeared at major UK venues and festivals, and worked with an astonishing array of top musicians, including Kenny Wheeler, Iain Ballamy, Django Bates, John Paracelli, Steve Waterman, Alan Barnes, Don Weller and Ben Castle.

Recordings include work with Pendulum (1999), The Blake Wilner Group (The Reprieve 2003), Colin Towns Mask Orchestra (Orpheus 2004), and Clark Tracey's New Quintet (The Calling 2003, The Mighty Sas 2006) .

Outside of jazz, Simon leads a horn section which, among others, has accompanied Sir Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton and Phil Collins.

In 1995, with the Berkshire Youth Jazz Orchestra, he was overall winner of the Daily Telegraph Young Jazz Awards and in 1998 regional finalist in the Royal Sun Alliance Young Jazz Musician of the Year.

Mornington Lockett - Studied at Dartington College Of Arts before moving to London to attend the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

As a member of the Ronnie Scott Sextet, Mornington worked extensively in Britain and abroad. He has recorded albums with Ronnie Scott, guitarist Jim Mullen, drummer Martin Drew, pianist Stan Tracey and jazz singers Sarah Jane Morris, Claire Martin, Ian Shaw and Lea Delaria.

In 1995 Mornington performed at the Barbican with Cuban trumpet supremo Arturo Sandoval and was subsequently asked to appear with the group at the Cork Jazz Festival. Mornington has also toured internationally with Oscar Peterson's long time sidemen drummer Martin Drew and bassist Niels Henning Ørsted Pedersen and toured Europe in the summer of 2004 with the legendary Hammond organist, Jimmy Smith. Mornington has worked in a number of different combinations with Stan Tracey, including the memorable 'Continental Drift' Band, formed to celebrate Stan's 75th birthday, and the 'Ellingtonia' sextet. Other Tracey collaborations include the 'Under Milk Wood Suite' and Big Band concerts celebrating the centenary of the birth of Duke Ellington and Ellington's 'Sacred Music', recently performed at Saint Paul's Cathedral in honour of Stan's own 80th Birthday.

In 2001 Mornington and Martin Drew formed the group, 'Celebrating The Jazz Couriers', which recreated Tubby Hayes and Ronnie Scott's late 1950's group. The other featured saxophonist in the band was the great Nigel Hitchcock with Steve Melling (piano) and Andrew Cleyndert (bass) completing the line-up. Two CDs of this music are available now, Volume 1 and 2, both recorded at live gigs in the UK.

In 2004 the group disbanded and reformed as 'The New Jazz Couriers' with the phenomenal young vibes player Jim Hart replacing the second sax and Paul Morgan joining the band on bass. The focus of the music has shifted slightly, taking in the Tubby Hayes Quartet repertoire and also the compositions of great British pianist and vibraphone player Victor Feldman. There is a new album 'Azule Serapé' currently available on Trio Records.

Rhythm Section

Clark Tracey – Drums. Born in London, England in 1961. He grew up in a jazz environment as the son of Stan Tracey and from an early age took to the piano and vibraphones. At 13 he started playing the drums and gigged until he turned professional in 1978 by joining his father's various ensembles. In that context he has toured and recorded extensively.

In 1981 he formed the first of his own groups with Django Bates, Iain Ballamy and Andrew Cleyndert. Later groups included Guy Barker, Jamie Talbot, Nigel Hitchcock, Dave O'Higgins, Mark Nightingale, Mornington Lockett, Julian Arguelles, Gerard Presencer, Alec Dankworth and Steve Melling. He currently runs a quintet with luminaries from the new generation (Mark

Armstrong, Simon Allen, Zoe Rahman & Peter Billington) and a trio with Gareth Williams and Arnie Somogyi.

As a composer he has received commissions for his quintet, an octet shared with pianist Dave Newton, "Continental Drift" (an 11 piece band co-composed with Stan Tracey commissioned by The Arts Council), and arrangements for the Berkshire Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Appleby Festival big band. He has also written string quartet arrangements for his own group, Claire Martin, Joan Viskant and the folk group Filska.

As a freelance drummer, Clark has had 25 years' experience playing alongside some of the most important artists in jazz at home and abroad, appearing on over 80 albums and touring in around 50 countries. He has been awarded "Best Drums" title three times in the British jazz awards and received endorsements from Zildjian Cymbals in 1998 and Vic Firth Sticks and Remo Drumheads in 1999. Clark also teaches privately and at school and has given master classes at Leeds College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Musicians' Institute, Bracknell jazz weekends and festivals as well as overseas workshops.

Andrew Cleyndert – Double bass. Bands: Stan Tracey - Trio to Big Band; Don Weller Quartet; Jazz Couriers bands. His first professional experience was as resident bassist at the George Chisholm Club in Manchester, where he backed visiting Jazz soloists including Americans such as Art Farmer and Joe Newman. On moving to London in 1982, Andrew quickly established himself as a highly versatile player, working with the cream of UK and visiting musicians - Bobby Wellins, Don Weller, Red Rodney, Bud Shank, Lee Konitz to name but a few. He toured in the Caribbean, the Middle East and Europe with Ronnie Scott, and Canada and China with Stan Tracey. Other tours include working with American piano players Benny Green and, most recently, James Williams with drumming legend Ed Thigpen, New York saxophonist Jon Gordon, trumpeter Conte Candoli and guitarists Herb Ellis and Mundell Lowe. He has released two albums as co-leader. Andrew has taught on various summer schools including the Glamorgan Summer School, The Jazz Academy at the Royal Academy and the Berkshire Jazz Weekend as well as taking further study himself under double bass soloist Tony Haugham.