



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

GWILYM SIMCOCK

PERCEPTION

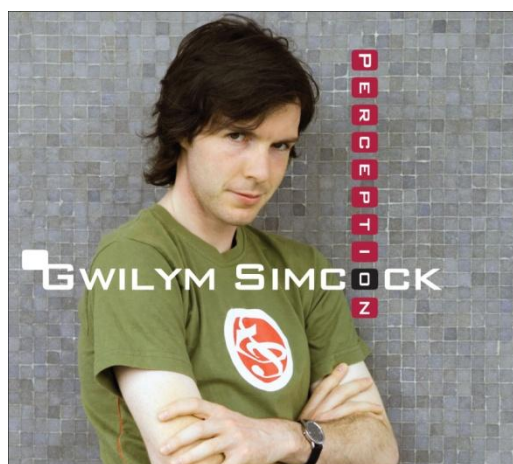
"Gwilym's an original. A creative genius" Chick Corea

Basho Records is delighted to announce the long-awaited debut album from UK piano star Gwilym Simcock! This stunning album demonstrates Gwilym's remarkable strengths as composer, his extraordinary abilities on the piano and showcases the two main ensembles he has developed with some of the UK's finest musicians. Produced by Jason Yarde (twice Mercury nominated), and featuring the great saxophonist Stan Sulzmann, leading guitarist John Parricelli, and the outstanding rhythm section of bassist Phil Donkin, drummer Martin France, percussionist Ben Bryant, **Perception** will be launched at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 16th November with Gwilym's sextet playing support to jazz legend Charlie Haden on the opening night of the 2007 London Jazz Festival. A UK Tour follows.

This young musician has already gathered an impressive array of awards. At just 25 Gwilym was chosen as the first ever Jazz Musician to be part of **BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists Scheme**, a position he holds for two years, and was voted **Jazz Musician of the Year** at the 2007 Parliamentary Jazz Awards. Gwilym's dazzling piano playing has thrilled audiences throughout the world and his talents as a composer are increasingly in demand. In the past fifteen months he has composed for, and toured with, The Scottish Ensemble, written and recorded a piano concerto for the NDR Big Band in Germany, composed a 45 minute suite for his own big band (commissioned by Lichfield Festival), composed and performed a suite of songs for Norma Winstone (commissioned by Deal Festival) and is currently working on a major commission for The Britten Sinfonia featuring Gil Goldstein which will be premiered at the 2007 London Jazz Festival.

As **Mark Anthony Turnage** says in the album notes: *"This album has all the ingredients that signify the start of what has already promised to be a dazzling career"*.

This album has been produced in conjunction with BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artists Scheme, supported by Aviva plc. Basho Records and Basho Music gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Yamaha pianos and the Arts Council of England.



Title: Perception
Release Date: 5th November 2007
Artist: Gwilym Simcock
Cat. Number: SRCD 24-2
Barcode: 832929002427
Label: Basho Records

Gwilym Simcock - grand piano
Phil Donkin - double bass
Martin France - drums
with

Stan Sulzmann - tenor and soprano saxes - tracks 2,3,4,5,7
John Parricelli - acoustic and electric guitars - tracks 2,4,5,7
Ben Bryant - tuned and untuned percussion - tracks 1,2,4,5,7
Produced by Jason Yarde

TRACKS:

- 1 A Typical Affair** 8:16
2 Sneaky 6:13
3 And Then She Was Gone 5:56
4 Time and Tide 9:29
5 Almost Moment 3:55
6 Voices 3:12

- 7 Affinity** 6:53
8 Message 8:00
9 The Way You Look Tonight 8:26
10 My One and Only Love (Live) 8:28
Total Time 69:16

All titles by Gwilym Simcock except track 9 by Jerome Kern and Dorothy Fields (arr. Gwilym Simcock) and track 10 by Robert Mellin and Guy Wood

"Having played in many different groups and been involved in several recordings, it was another step to take the lead role and release an album under my own name. The longer you put it off, the more expectation there is when you finally take the plunge.

I think as an artist you come to accept that any piece of work is a snapshot of what you're doing at that particular time. I feel that this album is an honest representation of the work and direction that I'm currently pursuing. It is a great luxury to have such fine musicians to write for (and I always write with particular musicians in mind), and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for what they have done with this particular set of music.

Developing an individual voice is a lifelong activity. In both writing and playing my hope is that each project will take the music forward into something building on, and advancing from the past. As a person, we become 'ourselves' through assimilation of, and progression from the characteristics we see in friends, family and other people who have made an impact on our lives. I see developing a musician as being a similar process. Like cooking a stew, the taste will be individual, as we all choose a different set of ingredients. With any luck, however, it will also be something that draws in a progressive way on the great variety of musical experiences that have touched us. The music on this album is a result of all the influences and experiences I have been fortunate enough to enjoy so far. I hope you enjoy it."

(From the album notes) Gwilym Simcock.

ENDS

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 Tel. 020 8676 5100 | e-mail: info@proper.uk.com
 ALSO AVAILABLE AT www.jazzcds.co.uk



**GWILYM SIMCOCK - PERCEPTION
2007 UK Dates**

LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL

London Queen Elizabeth Hall

Fri 16 Nov 7.30pm

Album Launch of new album "Perception"

Gwilym Simcock sextet

£20, £10

0871 663 2500

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Poole Lighthouse,

Sun 25 Nov 8.00pm

Gwilym Simcock trio with special guest Gerard Presencer

Tickets: £18

Students & U18s £7, Groups 4+ £1 off, Groups

8+ £2 off, O60s £2 off

08700 668701

www.lighthousepoole.co.uk

Manchester RNCM

Wed 28 Nov 7.30pm

Gwilym Simcock Trio

£13.50, £9.50

0161 907 5555

www.rncm.ac.uk

Ambleside, Cumbria Zeffirelli's

Gwilym Simcock Trio

Thu 29 Nov 7.30pm

£8

015394 33845

www.zeffirellis.com

Birmingham CBSO Centre

Fri 30 Nov 8.00pm

Gwilym Simcock Trio plus Gwilym Simcock quintet £12, £9

0121 780 3333 | 0121 767 4050

www.birminghamjazz.co.uk

Much Wenlock The Edge Arts Centre

Sat 1 Dec 8.00 p.m.

£7.50, £5.00

01952 728509

www.edgeartscentre.co.uk

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

Sun 2 Dec 7.30pm

Solo Piano

£10

0151 709 3789

www.liverpoolphil.com

Norwich Arts Centre

Thu 6 Dec 8.00 p.m.

Gwilym Simcock Trio

£10, £8

01603 660352

www.norwichartscentre.co.uk

Cambridge Modern Jazz Club

Fri 7 Dec 7.30pm

Gwilym Simcock Trio

£15, £12

01223 511511

www.cambridgejazz.org

Boxford Fleece

Fri 14 Dec 8.30pm

Gwilym Simcock Trio

£14

01787 211865

www.jazzatthefleece.org.uk

GWILYM SIMCOCK

Still only 26 years of age, Gwilym Simcock is one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers working on British scene. Able to move effortlessly between jazz and classical music, he can, at times, inhabit both worlds and has been described as being 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.

Gwilym's influences include jazz legends Jarrett, Chick Corea and John Taylor and much inspiration is taken from the classical world, especially the work of Maurice Ravel and Igor Stravinsky as well as contemporary composers such as Mark-Anthony Turnage who fuse together written and improvised music. Although principally a jazz artist, Gwilym is breaking new ground between genres and often uses classical reference points in his composed work - he recently devised a solo piano project using the piano works of Shostakovich as a starting point and in 2005 premiered a piano concerto especially written for him by Tim Garland. Aside from his renowned solo piano work, Gwilym has worked extensively throughout Europe playing with the cream of British and international jazz artists including Dave Holland, Kenny Wheeler, Lee Konitz, Bill Bruford's Earthworks and Bob Mintzer among others. His own groups as a leader range from trio to big band to a 40-piece ensemble featuring a gospel choir and strings. His composing and playing strengths in are evidence in every dimension of the music for his quintet which features Stan Sulzmann (saxophones), John Parricelli (guitar), Phil Donkin (bass) and Martin France (drums). This band has been critically and widely acclaimed as 'engaging, exciting, often unexpected, melodically enthralling, complex and wonderfully optimistic'.

A previous winner of **the Perrier Award, BBC Jazz Awards** and **British Jazz Rising Star Awards 2005** and participant in Take Five – the UK's unique artist development initiative, Gwilym is currently a **BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist** – the first jazz artist to be selected. He was voted **Jazz Musician of the Year at the 2007 Parliamentary Jazz Awards** and was again nominated for the **2007 BBC Jazz Awards as Best Instrumentalist**. He has an impressive formal education which includes stints at the 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.

"The wunderkind of the piano in Britain" **Irish Times, 2nd May 2006**

"As a pianist alone, Gwilym Simcock would have deserved all the hype, but this performance confirms that he doesn't see his composer's identity as his second string"

John Fordham, The Guardian 4 stars****



PHIL DONKIN was born in Sunderland in November 1980. He took up the electric bass at 12, playing in loud Rock bands until moving to London in 1998, having previously developed an interest in jazz. He studied at the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama from '99 - '03, taking up the double bass and studying under classical bassist, LSO principal Colin Paris. At the same time, Phil was playing a lot of jazz and developing a great interest in bassists such as Charles Mingus, Dave Holland and Larry Gales to name but a few. He became very interested in the rhythmic concepts introduced by the Miles Davis Quintet from '63-'69 and later developed by the bands of Dave Holland, Branford Marsalis, Steve Coleman etc. He has also been influenced by freer concepts such as that of Albert Ayler, Ornette Coleman and Cecil Taylor.

Since 2002, Phil has been very busy on the London and UK scene, working with British jazz legends Stan Sulzmann, Bobby Wellins, Jim Mullen, Martin Drew, Phil Lee, Julian

Arguelles, Martin France, Julian Joseph, Mark Mondesir, Steve Williamson, Tim Garland, Nikki Illes, Tina May, Phil Robson, Julian Siegel, Paul Clarvis, Hans Koller, amongst others. He has also worked with internationally known artists such as Mike Gibbs, Kirk Lightsey, and Jeff Williams. Phil has studied privately, and institutionally with Dave Liebman, Barry Harris, Rufus Ried, Billy Cobham, John Pattitucci, Dave Friesen, Geoff Keezer, Drew Gress, Ari Hoenig, Christian McBride.

MARTIN FRANCE has played with many of the world's finest musicians. He has performed in all five continents including concerts and tours in over forty countries worldwide.

Martin began performing at the age of twelve backing singers in Working Men's clubs with Organ trios in and around Manchester, and in 1983 he began his recording career performing on several records for ECM. A turning point in his early career was his role within the Eighties big band LOOSE TUBES where he began long standing partnerships with many of its members. His association with Django Bates has led to many diverse projects away from the "Jazz" environment they normally occupy with HUMAN CHAIN and DELIGHTFUL PRECIPICE. These include film soundtracks, Jazz theatre, cross cultural collaborations and recording projects involving orchestras such as The London Sinfonietta, BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and ASKO Ensemble in Amsterdam.

Martin is also active as a studio musician working on TV and Film soundtracks and is involved in programming and composing for many projects and artists, including his own band, SPIN MARVEL.

Along the way Martin has performed and recorded with some of the world's best musicians including David Gilmour, John Taylor, Kenny Wheeler, Ralph Towner, Lee Konitz, Dave Holland, Arild Anderson, Mark Johnson, Steve Swallow, Bob Mintzer and The Yellowjackets, Nils-Petter Molvaer, Bugge Wesseltoft, Mike Gibbs, Maria Schneider, Sidsel Endresen and Maria Joao. He is also a regular performer with NDR Radio Orchestra in Hamburg. In England he has performed and recorded with the very best of his generation and is currently preparing to tour his band SPIN MARVEL in which he plays mostly electronic and sequenced drums.

www.martinfrance.com



STAN SULZMANN is without question one of the most highly respected musicians in the UK today, admired by musicians and audiences for his instantly recognisable sound, and boundless creative imagination, and is a source of inspiration to many of Britain's emerging young musicians.

Stan's career stretches back to the 60's, when as part of a uniquely talented crop of British musicians, he played with Graham Collier, John Taylor, Kenny Wheeler, Gordon Beck, as well as leading many groups of his own. Since that time Stan has been at the forefront of European contemporary jazz, and his talents have been sought by a host of discerning musicians, including Gil Evans, Mike Gibbs, Kenny Clarke/Francy Boland and Michael Brecker. Constantly in demand as a guest soloist, he has appeared with bands across Europe, including the Hilversum Radio Orchestra, NDR Big Band (alongside Chet Baker), Hanover Radio Symphony Orchestra and the New York Composers Orchestra.

Further intimate and refreshingly innovative musical partnerships have developed with acclaimed British pianist Nikki Iles, American keyboard player Marc Copland and the trio Ordesa - a drumless, bassless combination with Kenny Wheeler and John Parricelli. Stan's 2004 album *The Jigsaw* (Basho Records) features Americans Marc Copland, Larry Grenadier and Bill Stewart.



'Sulzmann - the classy composer'. **John Fordham, The Guardian**

www.stansulzmann.co.uk



JOHN PARRICELLI Began his professional guitar playing career in 1982, and has since worked in various areas of music. He was one of the founder members of Loose Tubes in the 80's, touring and recording three albums. Since then he has pursued a varied career, working with Kenny Wheeler, Andy Sheppard, Iain Ballamy, Norma Winstone, Lee Konitz, Paul Motian, Julian Arguelles, Tim Whitehead, Eddie Parker, WDR Band with Peter Erskine and Vince Mendoza, Mark Lockheart, Martin Speake, Annie Whitehead and Gerard Presencer amongst others.

John is currently working with Andy Sheppard, Mark Lockheart's Scratch Band, Norma Winstone/Iain Ballamy Trio, Stan Sulzmann/Kenny Wheeler Trio, Gerard Presencer, Colin Towns Quintet and Mask Orchestra, Martin Speake Quartet and The Eddie Parker Group.

Alongside this, John also works in other areas of music, having recorded with M People, Judy Tzuke, Shara Nelson, Mike Oldfield and has played on numerous T.V and feature films for Mike Figgis, George Fenton, Stephen Warbeck, Colin Towns, Trevor Jones, Adrian Johnstone, Gabriel Yared, Dbigniev Preisner, Deborah Mollison, Patrick Doyle, Paul Grabowsky and Rachel Portman.

"The resourceful John Parricelli has the right mix of lightness, rhythm and lyricism" **THE TIMES**



BEN BRYANT

"Ben went through exactly the same educational route as myself and is very representative of the recent generations of jazz musicians who have had a background in classical music. As a result, it's a great luxury to have Ben play my music as he can both read complex music perfectly without batting an eyelid and create a beautiful range of sounds when there is nothing on the page at all. His contribution on this album has given my music an energy and depth far beyond that which I could have hoped for." **GS**

