



# GWILYM SIMCOCK TRIO

Gwilym Simcock (piano), Phil Donkin (bass), Martin France (drums)  
UK TOUR WINTER 2007

*" He looks like being a piano star of the future". **The Independent**, Oct 8, 2005*

**"Jazz Musician of the Year" at the 2007 Parliamentary Jazz Awards**  
nominated for the **2007 BBC Jazz Awards as Best Instrumentalist**  
**BBC Radio 3 New Generations Artist 2006-08**  
**BBC Jazz Award Winner – Rising Star Award 2005**  
**British Jazz Award Winner – Rising Star Award 2005**  
**Perrier Award Winner 2001**



Launching the long awaited release of his first album under his own name, the **Gwilym Simcock Trio** will be touring the UK from the 28<sup>th</sup> November, following the official album launch at the **London Jazz Festival**. **The album will be released on Basho Records with BBC Radio 3 as major sponsors. The BBC will be offering full support to the promotion of the album which will be featured throughout the network around the time of the release.**

Still just 26 years of age, Gwilym Simcock is one of the most gifted pianists and imaginative composers working on the 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'.

**TO BOOK GWILYM SIMCOCK AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Christine Allen, Basho Music, 18/19 Linhope Street, London, NW1 6HT, UK

Tel + 44 (0)20 7724 2389, Fax +44 (0)20 7724 6817 [info@bashomusic.co.uk](mailto:info@bashomusic.co.uk), [www.bashomusic.co.uk](http://www.bashomusic.co.uk)

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 is 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.

### **Recent and forthcoming Projects include:**

- Performances throughout the UK with his Trio including a date at the Wigmore Hall during the London Jazz Festival, 2006 to be broadcast 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 on BBC Radio 3.
- Pan European Broadcast for BBC Radio 3 on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006
- Solo recording for BBC Radio 3 as part of the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist Scheme, 2006
- An orchestral collaboration as part of the BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist Scheme, 2007
- A tour and commission for a piano concerto with big band with the NDR Big Band in Germany
- A tour and commission with The Scottish Ensemble (Chamber Orchestra), 2007 broadcast on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 on BBC Radio Scotland
- A Big Band project in Cheltenham Jazz Festival, 2007 broadcast on BBC Radio on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007
- Recording debut album for release in October 2007
- Guest soloist on Mark Antony Turnage's new commission with London Sinfonietta for the re-opening of the South Bank Complex at Queen Elizabeth Hall, June 2007
- Klavier Festival Ruhr – solo concert performance and live recording - Gwilym chosen by Chick Corea, June 2007. This concert will be broadcast on WDR radio and 20,000 copies will be given away as a covermount CD in Germany's leading music magazine FONOFORUM.
- Appearance at the 2007 North Sea Jazz Festival
- A major commission for new work with the BBC Concert Orchestra in 2008
- Gwilym will be appearing on the front cover of the August 2007 issue of the UK's leading Jazz journal JAZZWISE

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## Press Quotes:

*"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".* The Guardian

*"Gwilym Simcock frequently dazzling, especially on a tumultuous unaccompanied feature",* The Guardian

*"a jaw-droppingly exciting pianist"* James Griffiths, The Guardian

*"...I'll be watching our finest young piano-player Gwilym Simcock - don't miss him while you can still see him in venues without ushers".* Jamie Cullum, The Guardian

*"Though still in his early twenties, Gwilym Simcock has already played with the cream of the jazz world, including Kenny Wheeler and Tim Garland, with whom he appears in both Bill Bruford's Earthworks and Acoustic Triangle. He looks like being a piano star of the future".* The Independent

*"This ... pianist is exceptional, as both player and composer."* The Observer

*"The Waterman band was preceded by recently risen star Gwilym Simcock's piano trio. Simcock has rocketed through jazz education and out into a creative world of his own almost overnight. In a varied set, he included a typically flowing tribute to his teacher John Taylor's harmonically demanding Ambleside Days. But it was a fast exploration of a standard (How Deep Is the Ocean) that cried out for a recording machine to be running, in its headlong momentum, occasional classical flourishes, and melodic queries resolved or left quizzically suspended in space".* The Guardian

## For more information:

[www.bashomusic.co.uk](http://www.bashomusic.co.uk) | [www.gwilymsimcock.com](http://www.gwilymsimcock.com)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/classical/newgenerations/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3/classical/newgenerations/)



**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.

He 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

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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](http://www.martinfrance.com)

**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 at the beginning of this course in '99, 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.



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