

Peterborough Jazz Club

NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26 2026

NAT STEELE & JIM MULLEN QUINTET

Playing the music of Milt Jackson and Wes Montgomery



May 15 2026

MARK NIGHTINGALE SEXTET



A MESSAGE FROM LAURIE

Thank you to everyone who made the recent Duke Ellington/Ella Fitzgerald concert at the New Theatre such a success. The band and Sara Oschlag sounded great. Hopefully, we will be seeing Sara again in the not too distant future. It looks like we have broken even with the Big Band Concert, which was a concern considering all the additional costs involved in putting on this one event. The New Theatre is a fabulous venue and we do have to thank the late Peter Boizot, who spent a very large sum of his own money refurbishing the old cinema many years ago.

We have three great concerts to finish the current season, all a bit special if you look at the personnel and the music that they play. The tickets are selling fast for Five Way Split so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

Our Next Concert



Five Way Split

We are delighted to present 'Five-Way Split' a jointly-led band formed in 2020 featuring some of the finest contemporary bebop musicians in the UK. Five-Way Split is fronted by internationally renowned trumpet star Quentin Collins, Greek saxophone phenomenon Vasilis Xenopoulos and the golden touch of pianist Rob Barron. Added to this is virtuosic bassist Matyas Hofecker and rock-solid drummer Matt Home. The band's vision is to carry on the lineage of groups like Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers as well as mirroring the New York contemporary-bop scene.

Their debut album "All The Way" was recorded in 2021 and contains mostly original compositions as well as a couple of choice arrangements of classic jazz standards. Released in 2023 on Ubuntu Music, the album featured in the top 20 Jazz Albums of 2023 in Jazzwise and the band was also nominated in the best band category of the 2024 Parliamentary Jazz Awards; the Quintet have just released their latest recording 'Modus Operandi'. Five-Way Split delivers a night of the highest quality and soulful jazz in town and is a concert not to be missed.

Saturday 28th March 2026

Tickets £24

Music Starts at 7.45pm in the Key Studio Theatre

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A Spotlight on Some of the Musicians Who Have Played at the Club

One of the great pleasures of running a jazz club is the extraordinary musicians we meet along the way. Over the years our stage has hosted players from across the UK and beyond. In this occasional series we'll shine a spotlight on some of those artists—looking at their backgrounds, influences, and the paths that led them to our Club. Some will be well-known names, others rising talents, but all have helped create the memorable evenings of jazz that we enjoy together. We hope you'll enjoy learning a little more about the artists behind the music.

Ronnie Scott 1927 - 1996



Ronnie Scott and his Sextet performed at our first concert on **February 21st 1992** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with him were Dick Pierce (trumpet), Mornington Locket (sax), John Chritchinson (piano), Ron Mathewson (bass), Martin Drew (drums).

Ronnie Scott was a British jazz tenor saxophonist best known for helping to shape the modern jazz scene in the UK. Born Ronald Schatt on January 28th 1927 in London, he began playing professionally in his teens and quickly became known for his warm tone and bebop-influenced style. In 1959 he co-founded the legendary Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho with fellow musician Pete King. The club became one of the world's most respected jazz venues, hosting leading international artists alongside top British players. Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club remains active today under new ownership, still celebrated as a centre for world-class jazz. As both performer and host, Scott played a central role in bringing world-class jazz to London for nearly four decades.

Spike Robinson 1930 - 2001



Spike Robinson and his Quartet performed on **June 26th 1992** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with him were Bill Mays (piano), Michael Moore (bass), Jack Parnell (drums).

Spike Robinson was an American tenor saxophonist admired for his warm tone and lyrical interpretation of the Great American Songbook. Born in, Wisconsin, he began playing saxophone at the age of twelve and served as a musician in the U.S. Navy, which brought him to London in 1950 where he played with leading British bebop musicians.

After returning to the USA, Robinson pursued a career in engineering and spent nearly thirty years working in the aerospace industry while continuing to play jazz locally. In 1981 he returned to music full-time, launching an acclaimed second career. From the mid-1980s he toured widely in Britain and Europe, collaborating with musicians such as Dick Morrissey and Bill Le Sage. Known for his relaxed, melodic style influenced by Lester Young and Stan Getz, Robinson settled in England and remained active on the jazz scene until his death in Writtle, Essex, in 2001.

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Martin Drew 1944 - 2010



Martin Drew performed at our first concert on **February 21st 1992** at the Great Northern Hotel playing with the Ronnie Scott Sextet.

Martin Drew (5 February 1944 – 4 July 2010) was one of Britain's most accomplished modern jazz drummers, renowned for his precise timekeeping, crisp cymbal sound, and deep swing. Born in Northampton, he began playing professionally in the early 1960's and quickly became a prominent figure on the British jazz scene.

Drew was closely associated with Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho, where he worked as house drummer for many years, accompanying a wide range of visiting international artists. His reliability, musical sensitivity, and driving rhythm made him a favourite with both British and American musicians.

From the mid-1970s he gained worldwide recognition as a long-standing member of the quartet led by Canadian piano legend Oscar Peterson. With Peterson he toured internationally and appeared on numerous recordings, helping to power one of the most celebrated rhythm sections in jazz.

Drew also worked extensively with musicians such as Spike Robinson and many leading European players. Throughout his career he remained a central and highly respected figure in British jazz.

Alan Barnes



Alan Barnes and his Quartet performed on **October 9th 1992** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with him were Mike Eaves (guitar), Tim Wells (bass), Dave Barry (drums). Alan has played at the Club many times since that date.

Alan Barnes (born 23 July 1959) is one of the United Kingdom's most respected and versatile jazz reed players, known for his fluent improvisation, warm tone, and deep knowledge of the jazz tradition. Born in Altrincham, Cheshire, he studied at the Leeds College of Music before emerging in the late 1970's as a major talent on both alto saxophone and clarinet.

Barnes first gained national attention through his work with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and soon became a leading figure on the British jazz scene. In the 1980s he joined the bands of trumpeter Humphrey Lyttelton and later worked extensively with pianist John Burch and drummer Martin Drew.

A prolific recording artist and bandleader, Barnes has appeared on more than thirty albums under his own name and many more as a sideman. His playing ranges effortlessly from mainstream swing to bebop and modern jazz, often drawing inspiration from masters such as Benny Carter and Johnny Hodges. Highly regarded for both his musicianship and wit on stage, Alan Barnes remains a central and much-loved figure in British jazz.