

TORI FREESTONE/ALCYONA MICK QUARTET

MEDIUM BIOG

The award winning pairing of Tori Freestone and jazz pianist Alcyona Mick are currently creating a stir on the UK jazz scene after the premiere of Tori's new composition 'Birds of Paradise' at the Royal Albert Hall Elgar Room (EFG London Jazz Festival) resulted in the Ivor's Award for Jazz Composition 2022, and Alcyona has recently been shortlisted for a Parliamentary Jazz Instrumentalist of the Year Award.

Tori and Alcyona formed their duo in 2015 after being invited to perform together at the Manchester Jazz Festival. Both much in demand players on the London jazz scene, the two have been working together for years in many different ensembles including Ingrid and Christine Jensen big band, Yazz Ahmed, Natacha Atlas, Nikki Iles Jazz Orchestra, Cleo Laine/Alec Dankworth band, and are both permanent members of the London Jazz Orchestra. They recorded their debut album 'Criss Cross' at the famous Artesuono Studio in Italy in 2017, released in 2018 to wide critical acclaim followed by a tour of the UK, Germany and Spain with live radio performances.

The duo has a very spontaneous, interactive approach and shares a large range of musical influences that fall not only within the jazz genre, including English folk, Brazilian music, classical music, free improvisation, Monk and more. Performances have included Birmingham Symphony Hall, Museo del Grifo (Spain), Emotion Festival (Bremen), Halle 242 (Hamburg), Salle Krieps auditorium (Luxembourg) and the Manchester and London Jazz Festivals. In 2020 they won the Help Musicians 'Do it Differently' and 'Record and Release' awards to write and collaborate on a second album. The new music was premiered at live and online streamed concerts including the Up and Down Festival (Spain), and the Royal Albert Hall Elgar Room in collaboration with Steinway. The latter premiere resulted in the Ivor Novello Award and feature on BBC Radio 3.

The much-anticipated follow up album 'Make One little room an Everywhere' has already been gaining attention and rave reviews and for the coinciding tour the pair are joined by longstanding musical acquaintances Tim Giles on drums and Dave Whitford on double bass.

QUOTES:

'an album of the year' Jazzwise magazine 2023 feature

"speaking is one thing, making music is another... speaking through the music this is Tori Freestone and Alcyona Mick... the variety and expressive possibilities of this duo are certainly endless". Concerto magazine, Austria

'Freestone has clearly listened widely, but her musicality and broad experiences have stirred all that input into an imposingly original sound' John Fordham, Guardian

'Alcyona Mick is an unusual powerhouse of a talent' MOJO

'elegant, engaging and original music, played with magnificent panache' All About Jazz

SHORT BIOG

Saxophonist/flautist Tori Freestone and pianist Alcyona Mick are currently creating a stir on the UK jazz scene. The premiere of Tori's new composition 'Birds of Paradise' at the Royal Albert Hall Elgar Room (EFG London Jazz Festival) resulted in the Ivor's Award for Jazz Composition 2022 while Alcyona was recently shortlisted for a Parliamentary Jazz Instrumentalist of the Year Award.

Formed in 2015 with an invite to perform at the Manchester Jazz Festival, this characterful duo has a very spontaneous, interactive approach drawing from a vast range of musical influences inhabiting but also going boldly beyond the jazz genre, including English folk, Brazilian music, classical music, free improvisation, Monk and more. For this tour, which coincides with the release of their new album 'Make One Little Room an Everywhere', the pair are joined by longstanding musical acquaintances Tim Giles on drums and Dave Whitford on Double bass.

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