

JOHNNY HUNTER QUARTET



[Seth Bennett](#) double bass [Johnny Hunter](#) drums [Graham South](#) trumpet [Mark Hanslip](#) tenor sax

johnnyhuntermusic.com/groups/jhq

soundcloud.com/johnnyhuntermusic/sets/johnny-hunter-quartet-1

Hunter formed his quartet in 2010 to explore the possibilities and challenges afforded by the absence of a harmony instrument with compositions drawing on Johnny's long-standing interest in the piano-less groups of Sonny Rollins and Joe Henderson, through to John Zorn and Chris Speed. The quartet's music currently exists within the freer, more exploratory side of Jazz, leaning more towards the approach of Ornette Coleman, Don Cherry and Joe Harriott, whilst building on their previous explorations into Middle Eastern approaches to improvisation.

They have performed at such esteemed venues as the Band on the Wall, Ronnie Scott's, Kings Place, and at the London and Manchester Jazz Festivals, among many others. They have also appeared several times on BBC Radio 3.

“Admirably reflects the independent creativity of the new Manchester scene.” – [John Fordham, The Guardian](#)

“Connects authentically with jazz tradition, whilst developing its own voice through original composition – a fabulous advertisement for British jazz.” – [London Jazz News](#)

“Hard-grooving Jazz that’s filtered through the investigation of more unfamiliar dance metres.”
– [Selwyn Harris, Jazzwise](#)

JOHNNY HUNTER

drums

BIOGRAPHY

Johnny Hunter is a northern UK-based drummer and composer who comes from a background of both the Avant-Garde and the more mainstream Jazz. He leads several of his own groups, each concerned with new methods of integrating improvisation and composition in his music. He tours regularly with his own quartet along with several other bands, including *Sloth Racket*, *Blind Monk Trio*, *Nat Birchall*, *The Spirit Farm*, *Beck Hunters*. He was also recently part of *Jazz North's* "Northern Line" scheme with the Johnny Hunter Quartet, and is now on *Sound and Music's* 2018 "New Voices" programme.

PROJECTS

He formed his quartet in 2010 and it continues to evolve and perform regularly across the UK. In 2013, he began his piano trio, *Fragments*, as a workshop band to research and develop new approaches to Free Improvisation and composing for improvisers, and they now have performed in Jazz venues across the UK. He also writes for the ten-piece large ensemble, the *Manchester Jazz Collective*, as well as for smaller groups such as *Pale Blue Dot* amongst others.

PRESS

"An engaging presence on the Efpi label" – [John Fordham, The Guardian](#)

"In the time since I last saw him it's clear Johnny Hunter has made one of those leaps forward that happens, and he is probably going to become quite terrifying." – [AJ Dehany, London Jazz News](#)

"He showed that the snare, tom-tom, high-hat, and ride cymbals were all you really need to create a wealth of rhythms and textures with masterful cross beats and skittery accents. His solo proved that the drummer's art is just as much about finesse as power" – [Andy Cronshaw, Manchester Evening News](#)

"I regard Johnny Hunter as serious crème de la crème and it is not just about his playing, though he is a hell of a technician. His whole approach to the role of the drummer is a dynamic one, he arranges any band he is in through his drum kit" – [Steve Day, Sandy Brown Jazz](#)



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GRAHAM SOUTH

trumpet

BIOGRAPHY

Manchester-based trumpeter Graham South is a founder member of *Beats & Pieces Big Band*, with which he has toured internationally and featured as a soloist on all three critically acclaimed albums. He also plays with Anton Hunter's *Article XI*, Cath Roberts's *Favourite Animals*, the *Johnny Hunter Quartet* and *Manchester Jazz Collective*, with which he performed Andrew Stamatakis-Brown's *Cottonopolis* commissioned by the Manchester Jazz Festival in 2017. Also, in 2016 he was a soloist in Ben Cottrell's MJF commission, *New Seeing*.

PROJECTS

2018 has seen the launch of his own quartet with his *New Spirituals* project, a commission for Southwell Music Festival. Graham also performs regularly as an orchestral trumpeter, including with the *BBC Philharmonic*, *Manchester Camerata* and the *Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra*. He is also a member of chamber group *The Vonnegut Collective*, for which he has written several new works.

PRESS

"South is recklessly cool in that desultory loft scene soundworld he thrives on" – Marlbank.net

"South's trumpet is an unfolding airborne sonnet" – [Steve Day, Sandy Brown Jazz](#)

"He expertly navigates the space between the Classical, the Jazz and the Avant-Garde." – SomeJazzBlog.com

"Blistering trumpet improv from Graham South." – [London Jazz News](#)



MARK HANSLIP

tenor saxophone

BIOGRAPHY

Tenor saxophonist Mark Hanslip emerged in the mid-2000s as a key player on the London jazz scene, performing both nationally and internationally with groups such as *Outhouse*, *Nostalgia 77*, *Jonathan Bratoeff Quartet* and *TOM-MIX* (featuring the late drummer Tony Marsh), and has appeared on over 30 recordings on labels including Babel, F-iRE, Tru Thoughts, FMR and Tombed Visions.

PROJECTS

Now based in the North, he co-leads organ trio *The Revival Room* with keyboardist Adam Fairhall, plays in trio with laptop wizard Federico Reuben and drum legend Paul Hession, and is touring with his improvising group *HTrio* plus guest US trumpeter Nate Wooley. He is also engaged in doctoral research into generative systems for improvised music at York University.



PRESS

“An improviser of tremendous feeling and an adventurous risk-taker” - [Daniel Paton, Music OMH website](#)

“Can play anything from straightahead jazz to free improvisation, and his technique, both traditional and extended, is exceptional” – [Ian Mann, The Jazzmann website](#)

“The go-to guy for the tricky art of playing free-fall improv with a melodic shape” – [John Fordham, The Guardian](#)

“Mark Hanslip is one of the finest young saxophonists to emerge on the scene in recent years” – [Paul Bream, Jazz North East](#)

“A beautiful, rounded tone and a fascinating way of worrying a phrase, and so building substantial solos from just a few fragments of melody” – [Peter Bacon, The Jazz Breakfast website](#)

“This one's Konitz leaving town on a Coltrane - skipping the light fantastic by Rollins Toc-H Lamp” – [George M., Bebop Spoken Here](#)

SETH BENNETT

double bass

BIOGRAPHY

Bennett is one of the U.K.'s pre-eminent improvising double bass players, whose work involves free improvisation and composition for improvisers. He maintains a busy performance schedule in Britain and across Europe in Jazz, Free Improvisation, English Folk music, and Contemporary Classical settings. He is a Parliamentary Jazz award winner with IDST in 2010 and has more recently been heard playing with American heavyweights such as Joe Morris and Jeb Bishop, with Swiss Afro-punk Dadaists, Orchestre Tout Puissant Marcel Duchamp, and with the father of Ethio-Jazz, Mulatu Astatke.

PROJECTS

Recent works include *En Bas Quartet*, a low string quartet for improvisers, *All Lovers are the Song*, a suite of six pieces for string trio and voice, and contributions to several recorded works, including CD releases by improvising quintet *Sloth Racket*, the *Julie Tippets/Martin Archer Ensemble*, *Orchestre Tout Puissant Marcel Duchamp*, and the large ensemble *Favourite Animals*.

PRESS

"The most original double bassist working in Britain today" - [Lancaster Jazz Festival](#)

"One of the country's most virtuosic and restlessly innovative musicians." - [The Telegraph](#)

"En Bas Quartet rewrite Jazz rules... intrepidly engaging." - [Spencer Grady, Jazzwise](#)

"Bennett's a phenomenal bassist, and here he absolutely shines" - [Lee Rice Epstein \(on 'Bark' by Sloth Racket\), Free Jazz Blog](#)



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