



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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YOUNG GUNS NIGHT

A chance to hear the best young jazz talent in the area!

Outline

Since starting the Villa jazz events over five years ago Saxophonist and promoter Dan Forshaw has always been keen to afford younger musicians the chance to perform, an opportunity that has become all too infrequent over recent years. Local musicians such as Jason Walsh, Chris Hargreaves, Glenn Reidy and Scarlett Rutherford have all blossomed into professional performers on the world stage having started their careers at the Villa. Dan who at the tender age of eleven years old was given his first chance to play in public by local bandleader Bill Barrow (of the Norbreck Castle *Jazz knights*) has always wanted to open up the stage to those who were good enough, not just old enough.

Body

On Friday, 3rd October the Villa will play host to its last jazz event of the year and the Dan Forshaw Quartet will be joined by teenage saxophone star Beth Atkinson. Beth, who is now studying for her A-levels at Lancaster Girls Grammar School, is a former student of Dan's who previously attended Poulton C of E primary school before her family moved to the Lancaster area. Beth is no stranger to the Villa having performed there back in 2005 (aged 14) and has since blossomed into a wonderful young musician. Commenting on the young guns event Dan said, "I'm really glad that we are able to help promote young musicians and showcase their phenomenal talent. As I have said on many occasions the opportunities for serious young musicians to perform are getting less and less and I am so grateful to the Villa and the local jazz fans for their support. I want to make it clear that you don't have to be in London or Manchester in order to gain attention to your talent, you can do it right here on the Fylde coast!"

The event starts at 8pm and continues till late. Appearing alongside Dan and Beth will be Blackpool based pianist J Hoy, Phil Woods on Bass and J Hoy on Drums. Dan would like to extend the invitation to any other young jazz musician who would like to come down and perform to make themselves known by either emailing him (dan@danforshaw.com) or coming down on the night itself!

ENDS

Further information for editors

1. All the musicians listed in paragraph 1 are now professional musicians in their own rights. Jason, Glen and Scarlett are now all working in London as session musicians. They appeared at the Villa in the "first stint" between April 2003 and November 2006.
2. Dan Forshaw is the former Director of Jazz studies at Rossall School, Fleetwood and has been asked to lecturer as far away as the Contemporary Institute of music, Beijing!
3. Beth Atkinson is one of only a handful of students in the country to achieve top marks in the Associated board jazz exams; she is hoping to further her studies either at the Royal Academy of Music or the RNCM in Manchester.