



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

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AN INTEREST IN ORNITHOLOGY

A celebration of the music of Charlie Parker 'Bird'

Outline

Saxophonist Dan Forshaw returns to the Villa Hotel in Wrea Green for a special Saturday jazz gathering at the award-winning venue. Dan, who has taken a two-month break following the birth of his daughter, is staging another of his special 'tribute' nights, this time in honour of bebop saxophonist, Charlie Parker. Parker, in conjunction with Dizzy Gillespie, revolutionised jazz following the hey-day of swing during in the war years. He became the leader to a whole generation of musicians including; Miles Davis, Charles Mingus and John Coltrane, and was immortalised in the 1988 Oscar winning film 'Bird' starring Forest Whitaker, and directed by jazz fan, Clint Eastwood.

Body

Parker's nickname has many sources, the most reliable being that he had an gluttonous appetite for Southern fried Chicken! The nickname stuck and many of his compositions were inspired by this sobriquet, including 'Yardbird Suite', 'Ornithology' and 'Birdfeathers'. He was also an icon to a generation of musicians, growing up after the war. He was one of, if not the first jazz musician to really be considered as an artist, rather than an entertainer, something that did not often mix well with the audiences of the day. He was known to carry scores of 20th Century classical music around with him, and can often be found quoting Stravinsky in his solos! Sadly, he was also one of jazz's leading drug addicts and alcoholics a destructive consumption that lead to his untimely death, aged just 34.

Dan Forshaw commented, "Charlie Parker is one of the true giants of 20th century music. His innovations both musically and artistically have inspired myself, and almost every serious jazz musician who came after him. It has taken me a long time to build up the guts and technique to be able to tackle his music effectively and I hope as many people as possible will be able to make it down to this event".

Guitarist Willy Fluss, bassist Phil Wood and J Hoy on Drums will join Dan for this special evening. The event starts at 8pm; free entry and you are advised to arrive early to get a good seat!

ENDS

Further information for editors

1. The Villa runs a monthly jazz event, normally on the first Friday of each month (except December) and it is promoted by Dan Forshaw who was brought back into the Villa in July 2008 by new manager Stewart Macintosh. Dan had previously promoted a highly successful series of jazz nights at the venue over four seasons from 2003.
2. Dan Forshaw is a professional musician and educator originally from the Blackpool area. He now performs and teaches across the world and has released seven albums under his own name. His music has been called "*cool, clever and creative*" and he is regarded by critics as "*one of the leading young lights on the British jazz scene.*"

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