



**Robert Mitchell to tour the UK  
with ground-breaking new album  
*The Glimpse***

**Album release: Monday 18 February 2013**

Whirlwind Recordings – WR4630

**Album launch: Thursday 21 March 2013**

Leftitude Festival – The Forge, Camden

MC, Interviewer & Co-Artistic Director – Nicholas McCarthy

*"I knew that I would love to see what the left hand alone could do – given the chance to lead and shape an improvisation. The limits throw up different pathways, previously unseen possibilities, and a sensibility that uses the explicit and the implied in a fascinatingly different way. So one piece that integrated this for the first time for me – The Glimpse – led to many more."* Robert Mitchell

Robert Mitchell is one of the most exciting pianists performing in the UK today. He has long searched for a way to present music that celebrates left hand only piano playing and has spent much time researching its history. In classical music (Zichy, Wittgenstein, Godowsky) through to jazz (Phineas Newborn Jr, Borah Bergman, Kenny Drew Jr) there have been a number of great pianists who have defined left hand only composition, teaching and performance. Bud Powell's style of playing was famously economic with use of his left hand; he performed left hand only in response to criticism from Art Tatum. Fats Waller studied with Leopold Godowsky who famously created left hand only arrangements of Chopin's classic piano etudes. Bill Evans performed with his trio with only his left hand during a week at the Village Vanguard in 1963 because his right was incapacitated. There are many more moments of left hand only piano playing in the history of jazz but they are not widely acknowledged as being important in the development of the genre. The aim of Mitchell's Leftitude festival is to open up the discussion and bring light to this art form in general.

*The Glimpse* explores Mitchell's wider fascination with history's treatment of left-handers deeming them to be second-class citizens purely because they are a minority. *"Did the evolution of writing drive the domination of right-handedness? How have so many languages all come to regard the left hand in such low esteem? Why would this result in so many being forced to change their writing hand, to endure witch-hunts and worse? What would be the result of more balance, more cooperation, and more equal reverence for left and right? What if these concepts were to become unified? The piano allows this single hand music to be possible – but I am sure it is not alone in this respect. Given the circumstances – and hugely determined individuals or groups – other instruments have been, or will go through the same process. The concepts surrounding the normal or correct way to play take ages to arrive at. But I don't think they will ever stop evolving. And certainly - creativity doesn't listen. It can illuminate the most impossible of situations – and bestow the most graceful solution. In its own time! I look forward to doing more in this area. And to many more fascinating conversations that have resulted from this project."* Robert Mitchell

**Notes:**

Mitchell would like to dedicate *The Glimpse* to those who have continued to perform the piano with a single hand after injury or illness.

The Glimpse Tour is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England (dates attached)

Robert Mitchell: [www.robertmitchellmusic.com](http://www.robertmitchellmusic.com)

Album release – 18 February 2013 on Whirlwind Recordings: [www.whirlwindrecordings.com](http://www.whirlwindrecordings.com)

Album launch – 21 March 2013 at the Leftitude Festival: The Forge, 3-7 Delancey Street, NW1 7NL

Tickets: £12 / Doors: 6pm / Start: 7.30pm / [www.forgevenue.org](http://www.forgevenue.org)

*The Glimpse* (WR4630) distribution Cadiz Music: [www.cadizmusic.co.uk](http://www.cadizmusic.co.uk)

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