

Leftitude

2013

Pat Thomas
Ivo De Greef
Clare Hammond
Robert Mitchell



The 1st International
Festival Of Left Hand Only
Solo Piano Music

Wed 20 + Thu 21 March 2013

7.30pm £12/£10 online | £13/£11 on the door | 2 day pass £23/£19

The Forge, 3-7 Delancey Street, London, NW1 7NL

www.leftitudefestival.com | www.forgevenue.org

Leftitude 2013

The Leftitude Festival – is the very first festival of its type (we believe - anywhere). It not only features fantastic music from some brilliant pianists, but also their all too rare dedication to a one-handed approach. Music from both the Classical and Jazz/Improvised areas are represented, along with several new commissions and premieres. There will be two exclusive interviews given on stage before each night of the festival.

As a pianist and composer, I continue to hugely enjoy writing, performing and researching into this area. I had organised a small solo Jazz piano festival before (Lifting The Lid, in 2007). I was therefore very excited to see if a festival for left hand only piano could work. I applaud the beautiful Forge venue for being so supportive. We hope this is the first of many.

For the one-hand only approach - a composer obviously loses, but is forced to look elsewhere, and invokes creative solutions that i do believe would not happen otherwise. The pianist is looking at what initially is a narrow field of possibility - but also begins a different relationship with the instrument, which ultimately deeply affects hand, mind and spirit. The improviser – has access to a fascinating conversation between tendencies and high stakes risk. The audience experience and cultivate a different set of expectations, and (or) perceive losing nothing, in arrangements designed to convince one hand can fulfill a complete music. In exchange for this special intensity. I think it is still a relatively young area, and full of huge potential.

The festival pianists: Pat Thomas, Clare Hammond and Ivo de Greef - will all be performing a variety of music, embracing Jazz and Classical traditions. I hope this will bring light to some wonderful music – both old and new – created to address this challenge. The festival is also a tribute to all who have no choice, or have themselves been abruptly faced with this approach as their only option. This could be through illness, injury, war or birth circumstance. I am eternally in awe at the courageousness of those musicians of any genre who have continued careers (one handed) after hand injury. Music has benefited from this. I hope that this perceived disability can be rightly understood as simply a different approach – equally valid, and equally possible of bringing forth great music. I hope you will enjoy and be inspired by the music. I look forward to seeing you there!

Robert Mitchell – Leftitude Festival Creator and Co-Artistic Director



Pat Thomas

Pat Thomas started playing at the age of 8 and studied classical music and played reggae. In addition to programming his keyboards, Pat Thomas also utilises prerecorded material. Playing his first serious improvised gigs in 1979, from 1986 he played with Ghosts which was Pete McPhail and Matt Lewis. In 1988 he was awarded an Arts Council Jazz Bursary to write three new electroacoustic compositions for his ten-piece ensemble, Monads; Roger Turner and Matt Lewis, percussion; Pete McPhail, WX7 wind synthesizer; Neil Palmer, turntables; Phil Minton, voice; Phil Durrant, violin; Marcio Mattos, bass; Jon Corbett, trumpet; Geoff Searle, drum machines. The pieces were performed at the Crawley Outside- In Festival of new music in 1989. Pat Thomas was invited by the legendary Derek Bailey to play in Company Week in 1990 and 1991 and he also took part in the 1st International Symposium for Free Improvisation in Bremen with the guitarist. Pat has been extremely prodigious on the European improvising scene for a good while, and recently has been working with new group Black Top, featuring UK greats Orphy Robinson and Steve Williamson.

www.efi.group.shef.ac.uk/mthomas.html

WEDNESDAY
20 MARCH
7.30PM

"Pat Thomas
sits in the front
rank of British
improvisers"
Opprobrium

"The music stands
on its own as some
of the best of its
genre"
All Music Guide



WEDNESDAY

20 MARCH

8.30PM

"A refreshingly
unassuming
virtuoso"
The Vortex

Ivo De Greef

Ivo started playing the piano at the age of six. After obtaining a Master of Music degree at the Brussels Conservatoire (where he studied with Jan Michiels), he moved to the UK to further his studies with Philip Martin at the Birmingham Conservatoire and spend two years specialising in tango music at the Rotterdam Conservatoire with Gustavo Beytelmann and the Conservatoire Edgar Varèse in Paris with Juan José Mosalini. His wide and eclectic taste has led him to be involved in different projects across various genres of music. Ivo has collaborated with artists such as Frederic Rzewski, Misia, Henri Demarquette, Joe Broughton and Keith Lewis and has featured regularly on European radio stations (BBC, Classic FM, Klara, Antena 2...). He performs both as a soloist (currently with his own "Tribute to Keith Jarrett" project) and as part of different ensembles (Noszferatu, El Despuès) at major venues and festivals throughout Europe, the USA, Japan and South America. Ivo also appeared in the musical line-up to the 2002 award-winning West-End play "Humble Boy" by Catherine Jones and is Musical Director of the London Tango Orchestra.

www.myspace.com/ivodegreef



Clare Hammond

Clare Hammond has performed across Europe, Russia and Canada as well as widely in the UK including at the Wigmore Hall, Barbican, and Bridgewater Hall. Since her debut with orchestra at the age of eleven, she has acquired a wide concerto repertoire. Solo engagements have included recitals in France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Russia. Clare's recent Wigmore Hall recital was broadcast live by BBC Radio 3, and her performance of Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* was chosen as one of their classical highlights. She has just released her debut CD for Prima Facie Records, and recently appeared on BBC Radio 3's 'In Tune'. Highlights in 2013 include a BBC broadcast of etudes by Unsuk Chin and premieres of works written for Clare by Kenneth Hesketh and Robert Saxton. She is a committed chamber musician, and has worked with Andrew Kennedy, Jennifer Pike, Philippe Graffin, Lawrence Power, Ruth Palmer, Ana de la Vega and the Endellion, Dante and Benaim String Quartets. Clare has a BA (Cambridge University, a double 1st in music). She has just completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts with Ronan O'Hora at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and with Professor Rhian Samuel at City Uni, London. Clare is represented by Liz Webb Management.

www.clarehammond.com

THURSDAY
21 MARCH
7.30PM

"Amazing power
and panache"
Daily Telegraph.

"Crisp precision
and unflashy
intelligence"
The Guardian



THURSDAY
21 MARCH
8.30PM

“One of the most
original pianists on
the UK scene”
Jazz FM

“A highly focused
original who’s
heading where
he’s heading no
matter what”
The Guardian



Robert Mitchell

Robert has forged a formidable reputation in the UK and Europe as a hugely resourceful pianist, composer, and improviser. He has released 8 albums, including a new album of solo left hand only piano music, titled 'The Glimpse' (WR 4630) - which will be launched tonight. Other releases include his critically acclaimed band Panacea, solo, duo, and trio projects. He studied with Milada Robertson, and later Norman Beedie (Guildhall), and at City Uni. He has proudly been a Steinway Artist since 2009, and has toured in over 30 countries with his and a variety of other projects. He is the founder and co artistic director of this festival, and is also currently on his first solo piano tour of the UK (having toured multiple times with Panacea, trio, and in duo with Cuban violinist Omar Puente). The tour is supported by Jazz Services / Arts Council of England, and PRS For Music Foundation. Robert has performed with many international, and world leading names in the fields of Jazz, Improvised, Hip Hop, Dance, and Latin music. These include: Norma Winstone, Steve Coleman, Greg Osby, Steve Williamson, Courtney Pine, Django Bates, Ty, Soweto Kinch, Jose James, Kaidi Tatham, Marlena Shaw, Empirical, Eska, Quite Sane, J-Life, Jazz Warriors and many more. Robert currently leads Panacea, performs solo, and also in a new duo with vocal phenom Jhelisa, seminal Cuban drummer/ percussionist Ernesto Simpson, heavyweight fusion/world outfit Usonic, AACM member Matana Roberts, Cuban violin giant Omar Puente, and the brilliant vibraphonist Corey Mwamba. Robert works with the amazing US organisation - Outward Visions (Marty Khan).

www.robertmitchellmusic.com

Nicholas McCarthy

Co-Artistic Director



"It certainly has been a busy few years for me as a left hand pianist and it's such an honour to have been appointed co artistic director and presenter of Leftitude Festival. Left hand repertoire is naturally something I'm extremely passionate about, not only am I passionate about performing this rare repertoire but i'm also constantly striving to increasing the awareness of it. I'm excited to be able to present four wonderful artists, each performing something different in their individual genre to highlight and showcase the wealth of repertoire that is available for left hand.

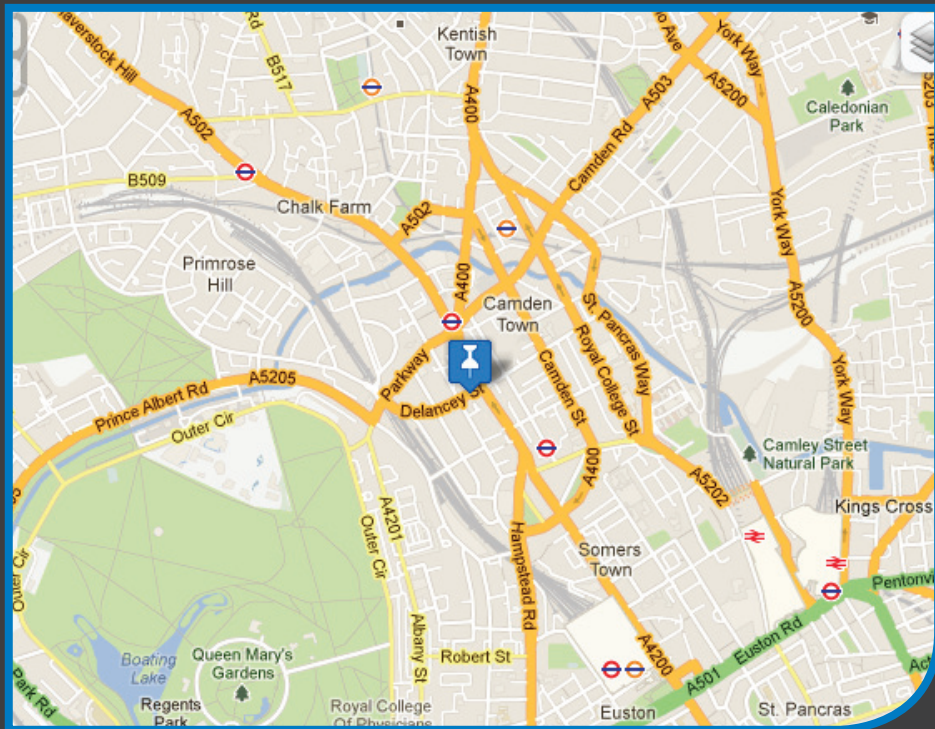
It's this unique mixture of classical and jazz that makes Leftitude Festival one of a kind. I look forward to witnessing Leftitude as it grows from year to year, offering artists from all musical backgrounds to perform and spread the word about this unsung repertoire".

Nicholas will interview
Robert Mitchell on
20 March, 7pm

+

Clare Hammond on
21 March, 7pm

Directions



The Forge, 3-7 Delancey Street, London, NW1 7NL
0207 383 7808 | www.forgevenue.org

Robert Mitchell: www.robertmitchellmusic.com

Pat Thomas: www.efi.group.shef.as.uk/mthomas.html

Ivo De Greef: www.myspace.com/ivodegreef

Clare Hammond: www.clarehammond.com

Nicholas McCarthy: www.nicholasmccarthy.co.uk

Programme Design by Liz Stanley at www.unpluggeddesign.co.uk

Printed by www.solopress.com

Leftitude Website Design: Kyle Wilson at www.artistsync.org

Outward Visions : www.outwardvisions.com

www.leftitdefestival.com
www.forgevenue.org