



CONTEMPORARY BIG BAND JAZZ COURSE

Friday 7 – Sunday 9 November 2008



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Introduction

The contemporary Big Band weekend is a residential course, led by Steve Waterman, renowned as one of Britain's finest Jazz trumpet players, composer, arranger and band leader. Friday and Saturday musicians have the opportunity of public small band performances and the course culminates in a Big Band concert on Sunday afternoon.

Tutors

Steve Waterman – Brass

Renowned as one of the top British Jazz trumpet players both at home and on the International scene. Began his career while studying at Trinity College Of Music, and since then has worked regularly on the British and European Jazz scene. Recorded four critically acclaimed CDs under own name. Co-wrote a highly acclaimed Jazz Trumpet tutor book with John O'Neil 'The Jazz Method For Trumpet', published by Schott & Co. Professor for Jazz trumpet at Trinity College of Music in London and visiting Jazz trumpet specialist at The Royal Northern College of Music and The Welsh College of Music And Drama. Teaches MEhr Clef summer Jazz courses and has conducted numerous Trumpet master classes and workshops of varying sizes in the UK, Spain, America, Finland, Latvia and Cuba. Formed 18-piece Jazz Orchestra in 2003, noted for playing own original compositions.

Rick Simpson - Assistant

Studied classical piano from the age of eight. At 15 joined the Durham County Big Band where he first came into contact with swing and jazz. Was offered the job of assistant piano and vocal tutor on the Burnley and Musicians Union Jazz Summer Schools at 16. Trained with Nikki Iles and Simon Purcell. Studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Pete Churchill and Barry Green. Performed with Tim Garland, Mark Nightingale, Steve Waterman and Lee Gibson amongst others. Performed at the Appleby Jazz Festival with Tim Garlands Big Band, and many UK venues including the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 606 Club. A debut in Germany is scheduled for October 2008. Accompanist and assistant tutor for MEhr Clef.

The Venue

This residential weekend is held at the 4 Star Hythe Imperial Hotel, Prince's Parade, Hythe, Kent CT21 6AE. The hotel is set in 50 acres on the seafront of the historic Cinque Ports of Hythe. A unique feature, and rare in most hotels, is that the majority of rooms enjoy wonderful views of the sea, golf course or garden. Leisure facilities include a heated indoor swimming pool, spa, sauna, steam room, gym, squash, table tennis, snooker, tennis and golf.

Teaching/Performance

Sessions will be held in hotel conference rooms, exclusively for the use of the Big Band course. Small band performances on Friday and Saturday night take place in the hotel bar, with a public Big Band concert on Sunday afternoon in the Imperial Suite.

The Course

Aim of the course

To offer an exceptional weekend of top-level tuition and playing. To develop musical skills that will enable musicians to improve Big Band ensemble playing and improvisation.

Who should attend

The course is suitable for Big Band beginners to experienced professionals. Musicians are carefully graded on the first day to determine the level of their ability so they can be placed in positions that will work best for them.

Course Content and Benefits

Contemporary and original Big Band music covering ensemble, improvisation and sectional playing. Equal attention is given to each musician throughout the weekend. The course is equally beneficial for relative beginners with a good grasp of their instrument wishing to improve their Big Band playing and experienced players aiming to refresh their knowledge and advance to a higher level.

Timetable

The course starts on Friday 7th November with registration from 12.30 to 1.30pm (hotel check-in at 3.15pm during break after first session). First session starts at 2.00pm. There will be 2 sessions on Friday, 4 sessions on Saturday and 2 sessions on Sunday followed by a public concert by all students at 2.30pm. Opportunity to perform on Friday and Saturday night in small bands.

What to bring

MEhr Clef will provide keyboards with amplification. Musicians will need to bring their instruments and music stands. Drummers will need to bring their kit, bassists and guitarists will need to bring their own amps and leads. Students may bring small mini-disc/tape recorders to record sessions. Neither MEhr Clef nor the Hythe Imperial can be held responsible for the loss or damage of equipment and it is therefore advisable to insure personal belongings independently.

Terms and Conditions

Course Fees

The cost for the course is £295 (shared twin room) or £330 (single room), which includes tuition, accommodation, breakfast, 3 course a la carte dinner and the full use of hotel facilities. Course fee does not include insurance. There are only a limited number of single rooms available.

Non-playing partners are welcome. Please telephone MEhr Clef for rates.

Booking

A completed application form together with a deposit of £100 should be sent by post to MEhr Clef, 56 Woodfield Road, London W5 1SH. The Balance of £195/£230 will be due no later than 1st October 2008. **Applications made after 1st October 2008 must be accompanied by full payment.** Provisional bookings cannot be accepted. As there are a limited number of places available, acceptance for the course will be in date order of applications received.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing. For cancellations made more than one month before the start of the course a refund of fees less £30 administration fee will be made. No refunds will be given for cancellations less than one month before the start of the course.

Cancellation by MEhr Clef

MEhr Clef reserves the right to cancel if conditions outside of their control demand. In these circumstances a full refund will be made. Please note that MEhr Clef cannot be held responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the applicant as a result of the cancellation.

Indemnity

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of this publication, MEhr Clef cannot accept liability whatsoever for any errors, inaccuracies, or omissions, or for any matter in any way connected with or arising out of the publication of this information. MEhr Clef reserves the right to make changes if unforeseen circumstances outside their control so demand. If in doubt, please check before making a booking.