



The 'Stars of British Jazz' are ready for Denmark:

Colin Wood – Piano (from Acker Bilk's Paramount Jazz Band), **John Benson** – Double Bass/ Voc. (ex Kenny Ball & His Jazzmen), **Richie Burns** – Drums (ex Pete Allen Jazz Band), **Graham Woodhouse** – Trombone/Voc. (ex Pete Allen Jazz Band), **Simon Nelson** – Cornet/Voc. (DixieMix) and **John Crocker** – Clarinet/Sax (ex Chris Barber Jazz Band).

The '**Stars of British Jazz**' recreate traditional jazz as made popular in Britain in the 1950s and 60s, which became known as 'British Trad'. From this period emanated bands that dominated the British jazz scene for many years, such as the bands of Kenny Ball, Chris Barber, Acker Bilk, Terry Lightfoot and Humphrey Lyttelton, all of whom became highly respected on the international jazz scene.

With this spirit in mind, we present to you 'Stars of British Jazz' - a band comprising of a mixture of past and present members of these famous bands together with younger, top class ability musicians of today, all of whom have previously worked together in various bands over the years. It is the bands intention to keep this wonderful music alive by presenting a programme performed with all of the original creativity and energy to reflect this era.

The eminently swinging, three piece rhythm section is complemented with a formidable front line to the highest standard of musicianship, in order to present a slick, entertaining programme, combining a cross section of traditional and mainstream jazz, not forgetting of course, a nod in the direction of the aforementioned 'famous names'. The result is a professionally presented show of non-stop entertainment suitable for any music / jazz festival or special event.

The '**Stars of British Jazz**' was born from a 'joining of forces' of some of the best of the old and new musicians on the British jazz scene today. All are highly respected musicians in their own right and play together with great affinity and verve.

For booking enquiries, please contact

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THE OLD!



John Crocker – Reeds (Chris Barber Band 1970 to 2004)

Originally from Nottingham, John moved to London in the 1960s to join 'Les Baldwin's Dauphin St. Six' and then the 'Mike Cotton Jazzmen'. When the 'Trad' bubble burst, Mike gradually transformed his band and moved into the field of R&B and soul, which allowed John to develop his alto and tenor playing.

A desire to return to jazz saw John accept an offer to join the world famous 'Chris Barber Band'. During his 34 years with Chris, he has travelled the world and played with a list of guest artistes that reads like a 'Who's Who' of jazz and blues.



Colin Wood – Piano (Acker Bilk & His Paramount Jazz Band 1977 to the present)

Colin was born in London during WW2 and was moved to Wells, Somerset in 1950. Despite opposition, he learned to play a bit of boogie & jazz. Colin moved to London to seek "fame & fortune" - (ha!) and eventually found work scrubbing floors, operating office machines and playing with Bill Nile's Delta Jazz Band, Monty Sunshine, John Benson and playing on many rock sessions with the likes of David Bowie, Cat Stevens, Uriah Heep, The Swinging Blue Jeans, The Yardbirds and many others.

Colin joined Acker Bilk's band in 1977 and has been accompanying the jazz legend ever since.



John Benson – Double Bass / Voc. (Kenny Ball & His Jazzmen 1977 to 2002)

Originally from North London, John now lives in Suffolk. John's interest in music was initiated by his elder brother during the early fifties jazz revival period. Soon he formed his own jazz trio and played in various venues predominantly in the London area whilst working during the day for the Daily Telegraph in Fleet Street.

Turning his attention to music professionally in the mid seventies, John had brief spells with the 'Brian Knight Blues by Six Band' and the 'Monty Sunshine Jazz Band', before being asked to become a member of the world renowned 'Kenny Ball and his Jazzmen' in 1977. During 25 years touring the world with Kenny's band, he made regular TV appearances, radio broadcasts, royal command performances and a wealth of recordings.

THE NEW!



Graham Woodhouse – Trombone / Voc. (Pete Allen Jazz Band 2004 to 2010)

From a young age, Graham developed a keen interest in music, particularly jazz of all styles. He started learning the Trombone at school and has been dedicated to it ever since. He gained much experience as a guest with local bands in his home city of Derby and then a four year spell working on cruise ships.

Since returning to Britain, Graham has been busy leading his own band and working with various jazz, soul and big bands. In 2004, Graham was asked to join the renowned 'Pete Allen Jazz Band' with whom he stayed until 2010.



Richie Burns – Drums (Pete Allen Jazz Band 2003 to 2010)

Richie's interest in drums began from about the time he could walk and was given his first drum kit at the age of six.

As both his parents were Jazz enthusiasts, Richie was greatly influenced by the 'three B's' (Ball, Barber and Bilk). This is where his love of Jazz started. In 1996, Richie had a spell deputising for Ron Bowden in the Kenny Ball band and was later asked to join the Pete Allen band, with whom he stayed for seven years.



Simon Nelson – Cornet / Voc. (DixieMix 2009 to the present)

Simon began cornet playing with his village brass band, but quickly became a fan of the jazz music which was played all the time at home. Simon joined a youth band, "Jazza" lead by artist and bassist Gill Alexander, which went on to win a first prize for junior ensembles in the Daily Telegraph Young Jazz Awards. The prize included tuition at the Royal Northern College of Music (brass teacher Digby Fairweather) and an appearance in the Junior Proms at the Royal Albert Hall.

After finishing college, Simon has done a lot of work with blues bands as well as running his own band (DixieMix), a traditional 6 piece Dixieland outfit, where he met John Benson. Since then, John has taken a big interest in Simon's jazz development and invited him to be part of the 'Stars of British Jazz'.