

# EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CONCERTS

1973-74

A Jazz Concert

SPLINTERS

Reid Concert Hall, Thursday 9 May 1974

## Splinters

PETER KING *alto-saxophone*

KENNY WHEELER *trumpet*

TREVOR WATTS *alto/soprano-saxophone*

STAN TRACEY *piano*

DANNY THOMPSON *bass*

JOHN STEVENS *drums*

*Splinters* is a co-operative band which originated from the wish to play together of two groups of musicians with widely differing influences and experiences—some of Britain's 'Elder Statesmen' of jazz and some of the most advanced of the younger musicians. The original 1972 group was Phil Seamen (drums), Tubby Hayes (tenor sax and flute), Stan Tracey (piano), Kenny Wheeler (trumpet), Trevor Watts (alto and soprano saxes), Jeff Clyne (bass), and John Stevens (drums). Unfortunately after only two performances by the group Phil Seamen died and he was followed not long after by Tubby Hayes. The line-up is now Kenny Wheeler, Trevor Watts, Peter King, Stan Tracey, Danny Thompson and John Stevens. Obviously the music has changed as all improvised music must if you change the group, but it is still some of the most interesting free music to be heard in Britain.

KENNY WHEELER originated in Canada, coming to Britain in the fifties. Since then he has been constantly in demand for many different groups ranging from the John Dankworth Band to the Spontaneous Music Ensemble and the Globe Unity orchestra of Alex von Schlippenbach.

TREVOR WATTS began playing music professionally in the RAF music school which was, in 1958, the place where many of the most original musicians working in Britain today got to know each other. Since then he has played with the Spontaneous Music Ensemble, with the London Jazz Composers Orchestra and various European groups. He is widely regarded as one of the most inventive musicians in any area of jazz.

STAN TRACEY has just celebrated thirty years of playing jazz. From his first concert for ENSA at the age of sixteen he has developed into the finest pianist in Britain and one of the very few long established musicians who has kept up with the newer developments. He has a long list of achievements behind him,

from many years as house pianist at Ronnie Scott's club, where he opened the eyes of many of the American musicians he accompanied to the potentialities of British musicians, to his latest quartet *Open Circle*.

PETER KING was born in August 1940 at Kingston, Surrey. At the age of fifteen he started playing clarinet with a traditional band in Kingston—he moved to alto a couple of years later. In 1958, at the age of 18, he worked at the opening night of Ronnie Scott's Club in Soho. He stayed there for a year with a quartet, then moved to the John Dankworth Band in 1960. After one year he changed to tenor sax and worked with Tony Kinsey, accompanying singers—including Joe Williams, Anita O'Day, Dakota Staton, John Hendricks, Annie Ross. He did concerts and T.V. with the Ray Charles Band and worked with Maynard Ferguson for about three years. From 1969–1971 he worked and recorded with the Stan Tracey Quartet and Big Band, the Tubby Hayes Big Band and the Harry South Big Band. He is also a member of Bill LeSage's Be-Bop Preservation Society. He now works as a freelance alto/tenor/clarinet/flute player. This is his first appearance with *Splinters* taking over the role left vacant by the late Tubby Hayes.

DANNY THOMPSON was born in April 1939 at Teignmouth, Devon. At the age of seventeen he started playing bass with a group of local musicians. His first professional work was with the Nat Allen Band a year later. At nineteen he was in the Army, for three years, where he played bass in the Officers Dance Band but played trombone in the Army Band. After the Army he took temporary work as a driver until he joined Alexis Korner's Blues Incorporated in 1964, for two years. He joined the Tubby Hayes Youth Orchestra in 1966 and later became a member of Tubby's Quartet. In 1967 he became a founder member of the very successful folk group *Pentangle* until they disbanded in 1972. He now works freelance with top name folk singers on concerts and recordings and also as a record producer. He has, for the past year, been a member of Stan Tracey's Quartet *Open Circle*. This will be his first appearance with *Splinters*, taking the bass chair for this tour from the regular bassist Jeff Clyne.

JOHN STEVENS is one of the most important people in British new music. He was responsible for the introduction

of the concept of free group improvisation which is embodied in the Spontaneous Music Ensemble and which has been responsible for putting British free music ahead of the world. He is also at home with more established forms of music and is widely acclaimed as one of the best British drummers, second only to the late Phil Seamen.

*Splinters* moves widely across differing planes of free music from close textures to crystalline sparseness, from marked rhythm to implied rhythm.

Madelaine Davidson.

*Edinburgh University acknowledges the financial assistance of the Scottish Arts Council.*