

BRIAN MOLLEY - BIOGRAPHY

Saxophonist and composer Brian Molley is based in Scotland, leading several of his own projects as well as freelancing as an in demand session player. The focal point of Brian's musical output since 2012 has been his group, Brian Molley Quartet.

In 2022, Brian Molley Quartet released their 4th record, *Intercontinental* [BGMM©]. A collaboration with renowned Indian percussionist Krishna Kishor, the album has gathered much praise and promotional touring has included performing at Edinburgh Fringe 23 as part of a Scottish Tour and a performance at Auckland Arts Festival, New Zealand. 2023 also saw Brian travel to perform at the world renowned Jarasum Jazz Festival in South Korea as part of an extensive tour and additional touring for BMQ has recently taken the group to Sunset/Sunside/Paris and The Jazz Station/Brussels.

Previous record releases for BMQ have included *Modern Traditions* (2021), *Colour and Movement* (2017) and *CLOCK* (2013). The group have consistently demonstrated a deep-rooted respect for the jazz tradition whilst incorporating musical influences from around the world, reflecting the quartet's wide and varied travels.

BMQ have undertaken several UK and international tours and have appeared at many of the UK's leading jazz festivals including Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester. They have also delivered numerous live radio sessions including BBC Radio 3's *Jazz Line-Up* and have been selected for the prestigious Made in Scotland programme at Edinburgh Fringe an unprecedented 3 times. In 2015 they travelled to perform at Rochester International Jazz Festival, New York, representing the cutting edge in UK jazz as part of the 'Made in the UK' series. Whilst in the US the band also performed at Silvana, Harlem and WhyNot Jazz Room in Greenwich Village, New York City.

In October 2015 Brian Molley Quartet made their first trip to India to perform at Jodhpur's Rajasthan International Folk Festival, also giving performances in Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore. Their tour included a collaboration with renowned Rajasthani musicians from the Langa Community led by Asin Khan, creating a new programme of music which fused Brian's compositions with Indian folk songs. The quartet returned to Rajasthan to perform once again at RIFF in 2016 working once more in collaboration with their Indian counterparts, the Asin Khan Langa Ensemble. Their performance heralded much acclaim – "an incredible experience, Brian Molley Quartet provided a mesmerising fusion" *Huffington Post*, "ATreat!" *Rolling Stone Magazine*. The combined groups also recorded the album *Journeys in Hand* (RIFF), in a custom built desert studio and the title track from the record was included in the June 2018 *Songlines* magazine compilation CD.

In 2018 Asin Khan's group travelled to perform alongside BMQ on a UK Tour as part of the Made in Scotland Programme.

BMQ travelled to India once again as part of the British Council's UK/India 2017 season to collaborate on a new programme of Brian's compositions fused with elements of Indian folk music, this time featuring renowned percussionist Krishna Kishor.

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Working as a sideman Brian has performed with The BBC Big Band, The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, The Raymond Scott Project, Fabio Torr s/Edu Rib ero, Valery Ponomarev, Stan Sulzmann, The Everything Treatment, The Stu Brown Sextet, Mirium Aida/Mario Caribe, Red Young Organ Trio, David Patrick Sextet and The Sorensen Soul Workout among many others.

Classical and contemporary classical work has included appearances with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, Paragon Ensemble and The Scottish Concert Orchestra as well as performing the world premiere of Michael Spencer's saxophone concerto '...los redes des piedra...' with Garry Walker/ The Kelvin Ensemble. Pop and session work has included Hue and Cry, Ricky Ross, The Bootleg Beatles, Silicone Soul, Colours at SSE Hydro, Ministry of Sound Annual Tour, The All You Need is Love Beatles Orchestra, Bad Manners, The DT6, The Peatbog Faeries, David McAlmont, Isobel Campbell and Camille O'Sullivan. As a theatre musician, career highlights have included working in London's West End and on Broadway, New York on the National Theatre of Scotland/Improbable production 'The Wolves in the Walls'.

Collaborative projects for Brian have included *And'Art/Terre Sans Frontiere*, a 10-day residency in 2009 in Tangiers, Morocco with a collective of Moroccan and International musicians, artists and film-makers, and a Scottish-Brazilian cross cultural project with Mario Carib  and Sao Paulo based musicians Fabio Torr s and Edu Rib ero in 2012.

In 2011 Brian was commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to produce an arrangement of electronic music pioneer Raymond Scott's music for the Stu Brown Sextet. *Portofino* was premiered at Gateshead International Jazz Festival, April 2011. Additional commissions for Brian and the Raymond Scott Project have included an arrangement of the Scott Bradley cartoon score for *Mouse For Sale*, the Warner Brother's Tom and Jerry cartoon.