

Soho's PizzaExpress Jazz Club hosts the third annual
Theatralia Jazz Festival curated by Filomena Campus

featuring jazz trumpeter Paolo Fresu, saxophonist Jean Toussaint, vocalist Cleveland Watkiss and Italian author Stefano Benni



Filomena Campus

Paolo Fresu

4-11 November

Italian Cultural Institute | Italian Bookshop | Pizza Express Jazz Club in Soho
Full schedule below

Filomena Campus' annual *Theatralia Jazz Festival* (formerly *My Jazz Islands*) returns for the third year running, based at the **PizzaExpress Jazz Club** in Soho from **9 to 11 November** with extra events at the **Italian Cultural Institute** and the **Italian Bookshop** in London from **4 November**. Jazz vocalist and theatre director **Filomena Campus**, who has curated the festival since 2013, aims to bring Italy's best jazz musicians together with the cream of the British jazz crop. The festival will star jazz musician **Paolo Fresu**, saxophonist **Jean Toussaint**, vocalist **Cleveland Watkiss** and a renewed collaboration with Italian author **Stefano Benni**.

"Campus had a warm stage presence, winning the audience over to her refreshingly experimental style: '...the freedom to dampen, tonight, to change, to live, to be happy.'"

London Jazz

The **4Njanas**, a new female-only group led by Filomena Campus herself, open the Festival on **9 November**, followed by trumpeter Paolo Fresu who joins forces with tuba player **Oren Marshall** for the second set. Fresu will perform again on **10 November** in the festival's *England vs. Italy* event in which poetry comes together with jazz improvisation. Award-winning Italian writer Stefano Benni joins Paolo Fresu, Cleveland Watkiss and the Filomena Campus Quartet for a wry evening of literature and music.

"Fresu is one of the most seductive trumpet players in jazz, a heart-on-sleeve romantic, a purveyor of graceful, flowing lyricism, with a golden, sensual trumpet sound"

Jazz Times

The final evening of the festival sees Stefano Benni return to present an adapted jazz version of the theatre production *Misterioso* about jazz legend **Thelonious Monk**, called *A Journey into the Silence of Thelonious Monk*. Lauded by **ATN** (amongst others) during its smash hit 2009 run at the **Lakeside Studios** as "**Poetic, sensual, and brave**", *Misterioso* explores Monk's extraordinary 7-year creative and personal silence in response to McCarthyism at the end of his life. The voice of Monk will be interpreted by Cleveland Watkiss alongside music performed by **Robert Mitchell, Orphy Robinson, Dudley Phillips, Jean Toussaint** and **Filomena Campus**. This jazz adaptation also pays a short tribute to the sound of **Billie Holliday**, celebrating the centenary of her birth. The acclaimed theatre production *Misterioso*, produced by Campus with support from **Arts Council England**, was previously staged at the **London Riverside Studios** and the **Edinburgh Festival**.

"If you enjoy Monk's music, searing jazz, a postmodern, poetic take on musical voice and the sound of silence, this trip could well be the show for you."

Ian Angus Wilkie, Low Down

Stefano Benni, who recently refused to accept the prestigious **Vittorio De Sica Award** for literature in protest against recent culture cuts, is one of Italy's most prominent authors. In an interview with **Jonathan Coe** of **The Guardian**, he was characterised as: "**a celebrity in his own country. At his Italian readings he is treated more like a rock star than a writer. Huge audiences hang devotedly upon his every pronouncement**". He presents a text about *England vs Italy* inspired by **Shakespeare, T.S. Eliot and Franca Rame**, including this verse on the Queen:

**God save the queen
All the poets and their dreams
Byron, Lennon and Ozzy Osborne
All the comedians on the scene
Prince Charles and mister Bean
The colonial empire and the rugby team
Beckett Beckham Molly Bloom
(and the yellow submarine)
God save the gracious queen**

In a series of extra events as part of the *Theatralia Jazz Festival*, **Enrico Francescini** - the correspondent for **La Repubblica** in London - talks to Benni about his latest book - *Cari Mostri*, on the fears of life - when his book is presented at the **Italian Bookshop** on **7 November**. Additionally, Filomena Campus and Cleveland Watkiss are hosting a vocal workshop at the **Italian Cultural Institute** on **4 November**, where they will also give audiences a taste of the festival - *Theatralia Interlude* - on **6 November**, alongside actress **Monica Nappo Kelly** (known for her role alongside **Roberto Benigni** in **Woody Allen's** film *To Rome with Love*, 2012), **Jazz FM** DJ **Chris Phillips**, and **Ruth Fisher** from **Solar Radio**. Commedia dell'arte actress **Paola Cavallin** will give a short performance in tribute to **Franca Rame** and **Dario Fo**.

Campus started this festival, formerly known as *My Jazz Islands*, in 2013, in an attempt to unite her Sardinian roots with British and Italian styles:

"Years ago I left my island for another island, that welcomed me and helped me to make many dreams come true. In a moment where everyone seems to draw up walls, I aim to build a bridge between our two countries. A bridge made of jazz notes, theatre and masks, musical encounters enriched by the magic words of great poetry."

As counterpart to their male colleagues in the jazz scene, Filomena Campus founded the all female band **4Njanas** together with harpist **Tori Handsley**, pianist **Laura Cole** and bassist **Ruth Goller**. The 4Njanas took their inspiration from the art of **Frida Kahlo**, sculptures from **Niki de Saint Phalle's Nanas** and the millenary statue of Mother Earth, related to the Janas legends from Sardinia. The band will play the opening set of this year's *Theatralia Jazz Festival*.

Theatralia Jazz Festival is organised under the high patronage of the President of the Italian Republic and receives the support of the **Pizza Express Jazz Club**, **Italian Cultural Institute**, and the **Italian Bookshop** in London and **Costa Rossa** in Sardegna.



www.theatraliajazzfestival.com

Theatralia Jazz Festival

Pizza Express Jazz Club - 10 Dean Street, London

Monday 9 November – 8:30pm

Paolo Fresu meets Oren Marshall /4Njanas

4Njanas: Filomena Campus *vocals*, **Tori Handsley** *harp*, **Laura Cole** *piano*, **Ruth Goller** *bass*

Paolo Fresu *trumpet & flugelhorn*

Oren Marshall *tuba*

Tuesday 10 November – 8:30pm

England vs Italy

Text by **Stefano Benni**

Music by **Steve Lodder** and **Dudley Philips**

Cleveland Watkiss *vocals*

Filomena Campus Quartet: Filomena Campus *vocals*, **Steve Lodder** *piano*, **Dudley Philips** *bass*, **Rod Youngs** *drums*

Wednesday 11 November – 8:30pm

All Stars Misterioso Monk

A Journey into the Silence of Thelonious Monk (text by **Stefano Benni**)

Cleveland Watkiss *voice of Monk*

Robert Mitchell *piano*

Orphy Robinson *vibes*

Dudley Philips *double bass*

Jean Toussaint *sax*

Filomena Campus *vocals*

Pre-festival extra events

Wednesday 4 November – 6:30pm - Italian Cultural Institute, London

Vocal Workshop

Vocal and performance workshop with **Filomena Campus & Cleveland Watkiss**

Friday 6 November – 6:30pm - Italian Cultural Institute, London

Theatralia Interlude

with actresses **Monica Nappo Kelly** and **Paola Cavallin**, vocalists **Cleveland Watkiss & Filomena Campus**, Radio DJ **Chris Philips** (JazzFM) and **Ruth Fisher** (Solar Radio)

Saturday 7 November - 7pm - Italian Bookshop, London

Book presentation

Enrico Francesconi (La Repubblica) talks to **Stefano Benni** about his latest book *Cari Mostri*

Filomena Campus



"Campus is a highly musical singer"

The Telegraph

Filomena Campus is a Sardinian jazz vocalist and lyricist, as well as a theatre director and producer. As a jazz vocalist Filomena has toured and collaborated with top UK jazz artists including **Evan Parker, Guy Barker, Orphy Robinson, Huw Warren, Byron Wallen, Cleveland Watkiss, Jean Toussaint, Kenny Wheeler, the London Improvisers Orchestra** and fellow Sardinian musicians **Paolo Fresu** and **Antonello Salis**. She has performed at several international jazz festivals in Edinburgh, Berlin, Croatia, Birmingham, Notting Hill, Manchester, Munich and Cagliari.

In 2013 Filomena Campus launched her My Jazz Islands Festival, in which she seeks to unite her Sardinian roots with Italian and UK jazz musicians. The production ***Italy VS England***, written by the Italian author Stefano Benni and with music by Steve Lodder and Dudley Philips, premiered at the festival in Cagliari and London in 2013 and will be revived in a new adaptation at this year's Theatralia Jazz Festival. Over the last three years Campus succeeded in presenting an impressive international line-up of jazz artists.

In 2010 Filomena founded her own Filomena Campus Quartet with pianist Steve Lodder and Dudley Philips on double bass. Their ***Jester of Jazz*** project culminated in a recording in 2012 featuring the American saxophonist Jean Toussaint and British flautist Rowland Sutherland. Drummer Martin France joined the band in 2012. Together with Cleveland Watkiss, the winner of the 2010 London Jazz Award for best vocalist, Campus forms a vocal duo. Her most recent recording from 2014 is with guitarist Giorgio Serci: ***Scaramouche***.

www.filomenacampus.com

For more information, press tickets, and interview requests please contact:

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