

# Monk Misterioso

A journey into the silence of Thelonious Monk

**Filomena Campus marks the centenary of the jazz legend  
at EFG London Jazz Festival and on tour**



**"Spellbinding Monk Homage"** – Jazzwise

***"The story of the eccentric pianist who shrugged off prejudice to become a jazz icon is ripe for dramatization... A crime to miss it"***

The Times

**11 October – Thelonious Monk Centenary Launch at the British Library**  
**5-18 November 2017 – UK TOUR: Colchester, Milton Keynes, Portsmouth**  
**18 November 8pm - Kings Place, EFG London Jazz Festival 2017**

To mark **Thelonious Monk's Centenary**, **EFG London Jazz Festival** hosts a new edition of **Filomena Campus'** critically acclaimed ***Monk Misterioso*** at Kings Place on Saturday 18 November, sponsored by **Arts Council England** and **marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black History Month**. With a revised script by renowned Italian writer **Stefano Benni**, a new selection of arrangements by **Rowland Sutherland** and new video design by **SDNA**, this dramatised jazz production explores the revolutionary jazz legend who lived his last seven years in silence. Prior to the UK tour of ***Monk Misterioso*** -Colchester, Milton Keynes and Portsmouth - there will be a launch at the British Library on 11 October to mark Monk's Centenary exploring his legacy not just as a jazz musician or composer but as a modernist pioneer.

**Serious** has also collaborated with Campus to organise a range of events at Kings Place on 18 November ahead of the evening concert. Campus joins **Cleveland Watkiss** to run a vocal workshop ***Serious Sing: Thelonious Monk*** at 12pm focusing on the music of Monk before joining a panel discussion about jazz musicians and mental health at 6:30pm. Joining Campus on the panel will be **Emma Mamo (Mind)**, **Margaret Busby** and **Kevin le Gendre** in collaboration with the mental

health charity MIND. **JazzFM** are hosting a Misterioso DJ night (9.30-11pm) with **DJs Chris Philips** and **Ruth Fisher**.

Filomena Campus, **award-winning jazz vocalist, lyricist and director, created the show with prominent Italian writer, poet and journalist**, Stefano Benni for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2008 and a 3-week run at Riverside Studios in 2009.

**Filomena Campus** has brought together an all-star line-up including **Cleveland Watkiss** (winner of Best Vocalist at the Guardian Jazz Awards) in the role of Monk, alongside Black Top's **Pat Thomas, Orphy Robinson, MD Rowland Sutherland** and **Dudley Phillips** with video design by **SDNA** and with special guests **Jean Toussaint** and **Mark Mondesir** at Kings Place.



For this revival, Campus has reworked the show with **Marcello Magni, co-founder of Complicite**, and Benni has revised the text. A highlight of the show is a performance of **Billie Holiday's *Strange Fruit***, paired with a poem by Benni as a tribute to her music, and to reiterate the issue of racial discrimination. Jazzwise wrote **"Watkiss then gave one of the most stunning a cappella account of 'Strange Fruits' you'll ever hear"**.

Stefano Benni is an Italian satirical writer, poet and journalist. His books have been translated into around 20 foreign languages with millions of copies sold in Italy. *"At his Italian readings he is treated more like a rock star than a writer. Huge audiences hang devotedly upon his every pronouncement."* Jonathan Coe on Stefano Benni – The Guardian). Benni's text movingly explores Monk's powerful contribution to jazz composition and performance, with the backdrop of his personal struggles.

**"What's the point of talking when you can play like that".**

**"Between words there is always a short silence  
Where you can feel the breath, the thought  
And in this concert, one single note and then silence  
And the silence after a note becomes a silence before something else"**

**"Black, white, black, lying on a bed of music that's full of edges and splinters that won't let me sleep, notes pecking my eyes, sweet caresses, unbearable, you will miss them."**

**"Everything was foreseen in the sound of the piano in San Juan Hill,  
In the voices of the boys outside my window.  
In my country that invented jazz and the electric chair.  
In the strange fruits that hung in southern trees,  
In gangs, in graffiti, in new music I have seen it all before and now no more  
words No more keys.  
with nothing else but my forehead burning because of this Misterioso  
splendour. Because of this black and white - white and black loneliness."**

**"A powerful and moving performance, with Monk's matchless music and  
superb musicians to lead you through"**

LONDONJAZZ

## **TALKS & MORE**

**11 October – CENTENARY LAUNCH**

### **Thelonious Monk: Modernist Pioneer**

7.30pm to 9.30pm, Theatre Room, Knowledge Centre, British Library

To launch the Monk Misterioso Tour, **Culture&** has partnered with Filomena Campus to host a talk at the **British Library** with **Errol Frances** and American writer, cultural critic and political activist **Candace Allen**. The talk will explore Monk's music not just in terms of a legendary jazz musician but also as a composer and modernist pioneer, who lived through the civil rights movement in the US. Filomena Campus will perform alongside the award-winning contemporary jazz composer and pianist **Peter Edwards** to illustrate Monk's most famous compositions including *Round Midnight*, *Epistrophy* and *Misterioso*. This will be an opportunity to revisit material on Monk from the British Library's extensive sound and video archives.

**18 November**

**For the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EFG London Jazz Festival, Serious and Filomena Campus** have devised a range of events at Kings Place on 18 November ahead of the evening concert. **Campus** joins **Cleveland Watkiss** to run a vocal workshop ***Serious Sing: Thelonious Monk*** at 12pm focusing on the music of Monk before joining a panel discussion about jazz musicians and mental health at 6:30pm. Joining Campus on the panel will be **Emma Mamo, Margaret Busby** and **Kevin le Gendre** in collaboration with the mental health charity MIND. **JazzFM** are hosting a Misterioso DJ night with **DJs Chris Philips** and **Ruth Fisher**.

**Thelonious Monk (1917-1982)**

***"The piano ain't got no wrong notes!"***

**Thelonious Sphere Monk** (October 10, 1917 – February 17, 1982) was an American jazz pianist and composer. Monk had a unique improvisational style and made numerous contributions to the standard jazz repertoire, including "Round Midnight", "Blue Monk", "Straight, No Chaser", "Ruby, My Dear", "In Walked Bud", and "Well, You Needn't". Monk is the second most-recorded jazz composer after Duke Ellington, which is particularly remarkable as Ellington composed more than a thousand pieces, whereas Monk wrote about 70.

His compositions and improvisations feature dissonances and angular melodic twists, and are consistent with Monk's unorthodox approach to the piano, which combined a highly percussive attack with abrupt, dramatic use of switched key releases, silences and hesitations.

He was renowned for his distinctive style in suits, hats, and sunglasses. He was also noted for an idiosyncratic habit observed at times during performances: while the other musicians in the band continued playing, he would stop, stand up from the keyboard, and dance for a few moments before returning to the piano.

Monk is one of five jazz musicians to have been featured on the cover of *Time*, after Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, and Duke Ellington and before Wynton Marsalis.

As his health declined, Monk's last six years were spent as a guest in the Weehawken, New Jersey, home of his long-standing patron and friend, de Koenigswarter, who had also nursed Parker during his final illness. She proved to be a steadfast presence, as did his own wife Nellie, especially as his life descended into further isolation. Monk did not play the piano during this time, even though one was present in his room, and he spoke to few visitors. He died of a stroke on February 17, 1982, and was buried in Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale, New York. In 1993, he was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2006 he was awarded a special Pulitzer Prize for "a body of distinguished and innovative musical composition that has had a significant and enduring impact on the evolution of jazz."

## **Filomena Campus**

***"Campus is a highly musical singer"***  
**The Telegraph**

**Filomena Campus** is a jazz vocalist and lyricist, as well as a theatre director and university lecturer. 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, Kenny Wheeler, the London Improvisers Orchestra** and fellow Sardinian musicians **Paolo Fresu, Gavino Murgia** and **Antonello Salis**. She has toured in England, Scotland, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar and more.

In 2013 Filomena Campus launched her **Theatralia Jazz Festival** ([www.theatraliajazzfestival.com](http://www.theatraliajazzfestival.com)) 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 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 long time collaborators Steve Lodder on piano, Dudley Philips on double bass and Rod Youngs on drums. Their **Jester of Jazz** project culminated in a recording in 2011 featuring the American saxophonist Jean Toussaint and British flautist Rowland Sutherland. Her acclaimed recording **Scaramouche** with guitarist Giorgio Serci featured the late **Kenny Wheeler** as special guest. The Filomena Campus Quartet will record their new project '**Queen Mab**' in 2018.

[www.filomenacampus.me](http://www.filomenacampus.me)

## Full Listings

### **11 Oct - British Library Auditorium 6:30pm-9:30pm**

**Thelonious Monk: Modernist Pioneer**

Talk and live music with Peter Edwards, Errol Frances, Candace Allen and Filomena Campus.

### **14 Nov - Regent Street Cinema and CinemaItalia UK**

Screening of Misterioso documentary and live music from Cleveland Watkiss and other guests.

### **UK Tour: 5-18 November 2017**

**5 Nov - Colchester Arts Centre, Colchester**

**12 Nov - The Stables, Milton Keynes**

**16 Nov - Portsmouth Guildhall, Portsmouth**

### **EFG London Jazz Festival**

**18 November - Kings Place**

**12pm - Serious Sing vocal workshop with Filomena Campus and Cleveland Watkiss**

**6.30pm - Panel (Kevin Legendre, Emma Mamo, Margaret Busby and Filomena Campus) *Monk's Moods***

**8pm - Monk Misterioso**

**9:30-11pm - Post Show DJ night in conjunction with **Jazz FM****

### **Monk Misterioso: Line-up**

**Pat Thomas** on piano/keyboards

**Cleveland Watkiss** on vocals, loops and spoken word

**Rowland Sutherland** as Musical Director and flute

**Orphy Robinson** on vibes/electronics

**Dudley Phillips** on double bass

Video design by SDNA

Special guests at Kings Place only:

**Jean Toussaint on sax**

**Mark Mondesir on drums**

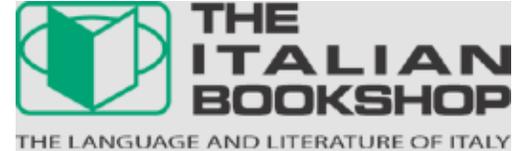
**Filomena Campus** as Director, spoken word and vocalist  
**Natalie Richardson** as Producer  
**Janet Waugh** as tour manager



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**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

[www.nickythomasmedia.com](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)