



Saturday, 26th. November 2016

Tom 'Spats' Langham's Hot Fingers
with the 'Cotswold Nightingale' Miss Emily Campbell

- it's the font of all knowledge - some would say !

Judging by the reaction of our reasonably sized, enthusiastic audience yet again your Ragtime Band managed to deliver the goods ! Not for the first time recently a few Jazz besotted new faces were spotted dotted about the Hall. We trust that their enthusiasm for the music on the night will be long lasting and will lead to many more visits here !

Our esteemed guests tonight have a great deal to commend them to any jazz audience, or for that matter to any goodly folk seeking a live musically orientated night's entertainment. The Hot Fingers Trio, who delight in featuring ingenious arrangements made possible by extremely versatile instrumentation are led by the wizardly **Tom Spats Langham** who has gradually become one of the most talked about names on the jazz circuit in general today. His devotion and determination over many years to produce virtuoso performances on **banjo, acoustic guitar and ukulele** coupled with his 'to die for' vocals alongside a spontaneous humour and grasp of his subject make him an ideal front man for his Hot Fingers Trio. Their eclectic mix of vintage acoustic string music, hot jazz of 1920's New York, sophisticated 1930's swing, the early blues of Lonnie Johnson and these, coupled with the gypsy rhythms so loved by Django Reinhardt, have seen them rise to become one of the most sought after combinations on today's jazz scene.

Whilst Mr Langham makes a sizable contribution to the bands versatile instrumentation it is his former pupil from Stockwell's Musical Academy in Moreton-in-Marsh, **Mr Danny Blyth** who wins this award getting ten out of ten with his use of **guitar, mandolin, clarinet, bass clarinet, and harmonica**. I believe that it was in 2004 that Danny, along with his country music tuned persona, first struggled to open the warped wooden gate set astride the cracked concrete path - a path that led to the wooden door with the peeling paint at the base of the becobwebbed staircase which gave admission to the 'Famed Halls' of the Academy with their sizeable, free standing wooden wardrobes crammed with much sought after rare jazz 78's and LP's. Tom was

appreciative of Danny's wide ranging natural musical abilities and quickly plugged these into his own, along with the talents of his close and long standing bass musical friend Malcolm Sked, to form Hot Fingers. The rest is history as the Sage tells us on Page 66 of his soon to be published factual historical novel - 'Druids in the Dove Bullring.'

Alas Malcolm is unable to be with us for tonight's show, his talents having been borrowed for a few weeks by the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band for their autumn tour. We are greatly fortunate, however, that another of Tom's long standing musical associates **Richard Vernon (alias Mr Pastry)** will be deputising tonight with his **string bass**. Of course this vastly experienced musician needs no introduction to any Dove Jazz audience, many of whom still remember those halcyon days of yesteryear on our stage with he, Tom and the late great Tommy Burton, not forgetting the 'Monty Don' of the jazz world in those days, Dave Holmes on the drums ! In recent years no performance by tonight's most welcome musicians would be complete without a sighting of **Emily** the eloquent **Mid-Shires song bird** who has readily adapted her classical background and post graduate training at Trinity School of Music to the darker styles of jazz to great effect.

Needless to say you will be entitled to take part in the select raffle for the usual array of unforgettable prizes and we will have our fanatically famed Butcher Burnham Chapel-en-le-Friith Pork Pies on sale for your delectation once more, along with the usual flavour enhancing choice condiments, not to mention our carefully selected "winter warmer" November tipple, 'Jennings Cumberland Ale,' at 4.0% a full flavoured beer with a delicate hop character.

Believe it or believe it not we are rapidly approaching the festivities associated with Christmas and Hogmanay so don't forget that Tuesday the 27th December is Christmas Party Night in the company once more of the Harlem Hot Stompers under the leadership of Mr Ian McCann.

RTM

Our next attraction - December 27th. 2016

The Harlem Hot Stompers

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