



Saturday, June 18th. 2016

The Hippocampus Jass Gang

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

We had a reasonable attendance of some 73 jazz fans for the quality New Orleans music provided by our old friends in the Ragtime Band for our mid-May Concert. Although a few extra bums on seats would have been appreciated and could have given us a profit instead of a slight loss everyone present appeared to agree that the Band delivered music in the manner that we all enjoy and we will just have to hope for the audience being boosted by a few more in the future.

This month on June 18th. DJC are extremely pleased and privileged to host the only appearance up North of the Hippocampus Jass Gang, from Montpellier, France. The Jass Gang's musical repertoire is intense, generous and undeniably original while also remaining faithful to traditional jazz. Its members, who consider themselves to be 'revellers', are all aged under 40 and previously used another unusual handle, 'Your Mother Swing', to sell their wares !

The sextet draws inspiration especially from the hot jazz of the 1920's which the band revives with its original arrangements, mixing the spontaneous energy of improvisation with the subtlety of carefully scripted music. The unique orchestration, typical of the old-time string bands, combined with the male vocal quartet's singing, convey an incomparable charm to the band's musical identity. It has built and strengthened its artistic and relational cohesion since 2008 through hundreds of concerts, both on stage and in acoustic sessions. But it is definitely in the streets of downtown Montpellier, where "the Gang" was originally born where they still like to perform and where they enthusiastically share their love of this music which continues to appeal to a very broad audience of all ages and backgrounds.

They are all professionals and play in different bands in Montpellier. Jazz in all its forms is extremely popular in the town with many young performers playing this kind of music, from New Orleans to Swing, attracting lots of Lindy-hop and Charleston

dancers. Most of the Gang have visited New Orleans in the past to get inspiration by playing in the streets there with the local musicians.

Their eight day June tour will be their first visit to the United Kingdom and they cross the Chanel with a formidable reputation that is loudly trumpeted by the growing numbers of British visitors to the 'Fest Jazz' which is held in Brittany at the end of July and is organised by that ex Pat Trevor Stent of Blue Magnolia fame.

Joseph Vu Van is the leading light in the Orchestra being the 'putter together' as well as playing his **banjo** and assuming responsibility for the bands arrangements. **Pierre Bayse** will be playing his tuneful **clarinets**, which will include a bass one whilst **Heykel Bouden** will demonstrate that he possesses ample skills to play his **violin** in the most melodic of ways. Hippocampus is fortunate to have an exceptionally talented **guitarist** by the name of **Alexis Chauvelier** and the rock steady **string bass** of **Gildas Le Garrec** is an essential part of the band that is always driven along by the powerful **percussion** (or battery as the French put it) of **Simon Laurent**. They all possess vocal skills as individuals or indeed as prolific harmonizers with the exception of Simon who is more than happy to let the other four get on with it whilst he devotes the whole of his attention to his percussion set !

Please support the all-important raffle that makes such a financial contribution to keeping the Club in the black, partake of one of our sumptuous Butcher 'Burnham's Pork Pies' and a pint of tasty real ale in the peak of condition. We trust that we will have the pleasure of your company during our July Festival Weekend when many of your favourite bands will be playing again and don't forget that your Club will be back in action on the 17th. September for the first appearance in Dove of the High Society Jazz Band.

RTM

Our next attraction - July 1st. To 3rd. 2016

The 25th. Festival !

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Dove Jazz Club

