

ANDREA POZZA UK CONNECTION TRIO

ANDREA POZZA (PN) - ANDREW CLEYNDERT (CB) - MARK TAYLOR (DR)



UK Connection Trio "is the new international band sought and created by the jazz pianist **Andrea Pozza** with two of the most nominated and important musicians from the English and American jazz scene, **Andy Cleynert** on bass and **Mark Taylor** on drums.

The three musicians have been collaborating together in England for over 4 years and have performed in some of the most important clubs in London such as Ronnie Scott's, the "606", the Bull's Head and many others. For the first time they decided to cross the Channel to bring their music to the rest of Europe. The trio will have a tour in Italy in November playing in various cities and in some of the most important jazz clubs in the peninsula. The tour will end with the recording of a CD by such an important and prestigious collaboration.

The repertoire includes original compositions by Andrea Pozza written expressly for the *UK Connection Trio* inspired by the musical background of the three musicians. Mixing together the sound of European music with American jazz, they will perform songs taken from the most diverse repertoire, classical, music and pop, from bossa nova to the immense song book of standards jazz.

Andrea Pozza is considered "true jazzman:" eclectic pianist capable of handling with great ease any repertoire, he has been active on the national and international jazz scene for nearly 30 years and is recognized by critics and audiences as one of the most representative figures in jazz. Andrea Pozza is a complete artist as well as a valuable partner for great musicians. Thanks to these qualities he plays both as a sideman and frontman and is one of the most respected jazz pianists in Italy and abroad.

Pozza's career started more than thirty years ago and has led him to perform at an early age (he made his debut only 13) with superstars such as **Harry "Sweet" Edison, Bobby Durham, Chet Baker, Al Grey, Scott Hamilton, George Coleman, Charlie Mariano, Lee Konitz, Massimo Urbani, Luciano Milanese**. Pozza has been part of the **Enrico Rava Quintet** (with Roberto Gatto, Rosario Bonaccorso and Gianluca Petrella) from 2004 to 2008 with whom he recorded "The Words And The Days" (released in 2007). His intense concert activity, in addition to his solo career, sees him present in different formations including **Rosario Bonaccorso Quartet** and "New York Connection" co-directed with Emanuele Cisi. In addition, the Pozza collaborates with Fabrizio Bosso, Tullio DePiscopo, Dado Moroni, Ferenc Nemeth, Bob Sheppard. He also played with Sal Nistico, Steve Grossman and Gianni Basso, with whom he has worked steadily for more than 25 years and recorded several CDs.

In 2011 the piano jazzman released "**Gull's Flight**" (Abeat rec, 2011) with the Andrea Pozza European Quintet, involving Christian Brewer on alto sax, Shane Forbes on drums, Dick DeGraaf on tenor and soprano sax and Jos Machtel on upright bass. In 2013 Andrea Pozza recorded "**A Jellyfish from the Bosphorus**" (Abeat Rec., 2013) the last one in trio with Aldo Zunino on upright bass and Shane Forbes on drums. His most recent album is "**I Could Write a Book**" (Fonè Jazz, 2014) with Scott Hamilton, one of the most important sax in the world.

Born into a music family **Andrew Cleyndert** was immersed in music from a young age taking up a succession of instruments before settling on the double bass. A discovery of jazz in his mid teens saw his early introduction to the UK music scene, joining professionally upon leaving school. His precocious talent for the music caught the imagination of several leading lights in the jazz world and very quickly Andrew was gigging around the UK in top-flight company, also accompanying many of his American musical heroes from the 'golden era' of jazz on a regular basis including the likes of Art Farmer, Teddy Edwards, Red Rodney etc etc.

Following a detour into mainstream education gaining a degree in Mathematics and Psychology Andrew returned full time to music immediately being invited to join the Ronnie Scott Sextet. As well as having the rare opportunity to develop his skills further in long residencies at the world famous jazz club often accompanying international visitors such as George Coleman and James Moody, Andrew began touring worldwide with Ronnie Scott.

In the late nineties Andrew began a long association with the 'Godfather of British Jazz' Stan Tracey, set up his own record label, Trio Records, on which he has released just short of forty albums, and further toured with many internationally renowned musicians such as Gene Harris, Junior Mance, Benny Green etc etc. and performed at festivals worldwide.

Mark Taylor began playing drums at the age of five, and turned professional at 16. The list of artists he has worked alongside in an impressive career reads like a 'who's who' of jazz, and covers a wide range of styles from Mainstream to Be-bop and beyond, and includes *saxophonists* Pepper Adams, Benny Carter, Arnett Cobb, George Coleman, Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis, Allen Eager, Teddy Edwards, Jimmy Forrest, Herb Geller, Johnny Griffin, Joe Henderson, Plas Johnson, Clifford Jordan, Lee Konitz, Frank Morgan, Charles McPherson, David 'Fathead' Newman, Cecil Payne, Marshall Royal, Pharoah Sanders, Bud Shank, Sonny Stitt, Lew Tabackin, Buddy Tate, Frank Wess; *clarinetists* Eddie Daniels, Buddy DeFranco; *trumpeters* Franco Ambrosetti, Chet Baker, Ruby Braff, Randy Brecker, Doc Cheatham, Harry 'Sweets' Edison, Art Farmer, Roy Hargrove, Joe Newman, Nicholas Peyton, Dizzy Reece, Shorty Rogers, Woody Shaw, Clark Terry; *trombonists* Al Grey, Jimmy Knepper, Kai Winding; *pianists* Toshiko Akiyoshi, Monty Alexander, Kenny Barron, George Cables, Kenny Drew, Victor Feldman, Don Friedman, Benny Green, George Gruntz, Al Haig, Eddie Higgins, Andrew Hill, Hank Jones, Duke Jordan, Geoff Keezer, Dado Moroni, Gerald Wiggins, Richard Wyands; *guitarists* Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis, Tal Farlow, Barney Kessel, Mundell Lowe, Joe Puma; *bassists* Ray Brown, Red Mitchell, Michael Moore, George Mraz, Niels Henning Orsted Pedersen and *vocalists* Mose Allison, Freddie Cole, Billy Eckstine, Johnny Hartman, Anita O'day, Jackie Paris, Irene Reid, Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vinson and Jimmy Witherspoon.

To date, Mark has performed on more than sixty albums, including the 2001 Grammy nominated Blue Note album by legendary pianist and singer songwriter Mose Allison 'The Mose Chronicles' volume 1. Mark has toured extensively in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia with many of the previously mentioned artists. Recent credits include work with the Monty Alexander trio & quartet from 1999~2004. Mark has been an integral part of tenor saxophonist and flautist Lew Tabackin's trio since 1982, and is currently a member of the Toshiko Akiyoshi trio of which he joined in 2003. In addition to being one of the most in demand sidemen in the music industry, Mark also functions as a leader of his own groups. He counts drummers Ed Blackwell, Art Blakey, Kenny Clarke, Jack DeJohnette, Billy Hart, Roy Haynes, Billy Higgins, Elvin Jones, 'Papa' Jo Jones, 'Philly' Joe Jones, Max Roach, Pete (LaRoca) Sims, Arthur Taylor and Tony Williams as important influences.

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