

martin hathaway

saxophonist/composer/educator

Martin Hathaway was born in Chelmsford, Essex in 1969. He studied music privately, and at the Chelmsford Junior Music School from 1979 - 1987, and played in the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra from 1984 - 1990. He formed his first quartet from within this group in 1986.

He attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London from 1987 - 1991, graduating with first-class honours and the LGSM diploma in jazz studies, and was lead alto sax in the award-winning Guildhall Jazz Band during that time.

Martin Hathaway has become an important and highly respected member of the British jazz scene, having performed, recorded and broadcasted with many of the country's leading musicians. He has played in many different ensembles covering a wide range of styles, from vintage jazz to total abstraction, although he is probably best known for his long association (since 1988) with the legendary British pianist and composer Michael Garrick, playing in many of his ensembles and projects.

Martin has vast experience playing in large jazz and new music ensembles. He has been a member of the London Jazz Orchestra since 1991, where his playing and compositions are regularly featured, and has played in big bands led by Mike Westbrook, Stan Sulzmann, Pete Hurt and Duncan Lamont as well as appearing with the Dankworth Generation Band, 'Rare Mix' (a contemporary jazz ensemble which also featured Julian Siegel and Jason Yarde amongst others) 'Vile Bodies' (a big band specialising in music from the 20's and 30's which was resident during the 1990's at the Ritz Hotel, London) and Keith Nichols' Cotton Club Orchestra. More recently, he has performed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra's 'Renga' Ensemble - a collaboration of leading jazz and classical musicians, and with the London Philharmonic Orchestra itself at the Royal Festival Hall in June 2008. He has been lead alto in Michael Garrick's Big Band since the early 1990s and has recorded twelve CDs with this ensemble alongside numerous radio broadcasts.

He has also performed in many small group contexts - with the American bassist David Friesen, Kenny Wheeler, Harry Beckett Quintet, Phil Donkin Group, Liam Noble Group, Mick Hutton Group, Martin Speake Group, Stacey Kent, Clark Tracey Group, Alan Barnes, Alec and Jacqui Dankworth Group, the Pizza Express Modern Jazz Sextet, Dave Green's 'Fingers', Digby Fairweather, Campbell Burnap, Brian Dee Quartet, Bobby Worth Quartet, Tina May and Nikki Iles, and many others.

The 'New Quartet' led by Michael Garrick has been active since 2001 and features Martin Hathaway extensively as player and composer, and they have

released two CDs and a DVD recorded live at the Pizza on the Park, London, all to great critical acclaim. The group continues to tour regularly throughout the UK and was a major feature during 2003, celebrating Garrick's 70th birthday. Martin has also toured the UK twice and recorded CDs with 'Time Zone' - a quintet led by trumpeter Loz Speyer. 'Time Zone' played for a week at Ronnie Scott's club in February 2005. Martin also recorded and toured the UK in Autumn 2005 with Nick Smart's group 'Black Eyed Dog' and has also collaborated with fellow saxophonists Martin Speake, Phil Bancroft and Tony Kofi in an improvising sax quartet. He performs regularly with Martin Speake playing music associated with Charlie Parker.

From 1994 - 1997, Hathaway co-led a resident quartet with drummer Clive Fenner at the Heathcote Arms in Leytonstone, making it a popular and important venue for jazz in East London. Musicians who played with the group included Kenny Wheeler, Harry Beckett, Don Weller, Don Rendell, Ian Carr, Jim Mullen and Lol Coxhill. Martin was also resident at the 'Grosvenor' in Stockwell, South London from November 2006 to June 2007, with saxophonist Julian Siegel, the Brazilian bassist Ricardo Dos Santos and the American drummer Gene Calderazzo.

Martin Hathaway led a quartet in the early 1990's, which featured guitarist Phil Robson. The group appeared at several London venues, including Ronnie Scott's club in 1993, playing opposite the late Bob Berg. Martin has recently formed a new quartet, the Martin Hathaway 'Conglomerate' making its debut appearance at the 'Oxford', Kentish Town in July 2009. Further performances and a CD are planned for the autumn of 2009.

Martin also plays and composes for his own Big Band, which he has led since 1992 performing at several venues in London, including the Vortex Jazz Club, the 'Space' and the Barbican Centre. He won the MCPS 'Best Original Composition' award in the 1991 BBC Big Band Contest, resulting in performances and broadcasts of some his arrangements by the BBC Big Band. He was commissioned by Essex Music Services to write a suite for the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra entitled 'New Millennium' which was premiered in the Millennium Dome in March 2000, with subsequent performances featuring guest soloists Don Rendell and Ian Carr.

Martin was also a member of the folk group 'Chalktown' from 1998 - 2001, appearing at many of the country's leading folk music festivals, including Chippenham and Towersey. He has also recorded with leading 'indie' band 'Radiohead', appearing on their best-selling album 'Kid A', and has performed with them in New York and Paris, and on BBC Television in June 2001. He has also worked extensively as a session musician, recording for radio, television and film.

Martin Hathaway has been extremely active in music education for a number of years and has established a reputation as one of the leading jazz educators in the UK, with many of his former students now part of the exciting young jazz scene in London. He became a tutor for Essex Music Services in 1989 and has been a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama since 1991, where he teaches jazz skills and general musicianship. He led the Undergraduate jazz course at the Guildhall School since its inception in 1994 and was appointed Head of Jazz in September 2007. He is formerly a lecturer in Jazz Arranging and History at Goldsmiths' College, London, and was a founding member of the East London Jazz Project, which ran regular workshops and performances during the early 1990's.

Martin gives music workshops and lectures to groups of all ages and experience throughout the country, and is a regular tutor on numerous jazz summer schools and other short courses in the UK and abroad. He has worked as an external examiner for Leeds College of Music, Trinity College of Music, Birmingham Conservatoire and the University of Exeter, and has been an adjudicator at many music festivals and competitions. He has been the musical director of the Essex Youth Jazz Orchestra since 1991, and is a jazz consultant for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He was artistic director of the Danbury Youth Arts Camp, Essex in 1992, writing a new musical, and became at 23, the youngest recipient of the Chelmsford Weekly News 'Man of Arts' award for his services to music and young people in Essex.

Martin Hathaway was a trustee of the National Jazz Archive from 2002 – 2008. He has also been interviewed about his career thus far and his experiences as a professional musician for the National Sound Archive's oral history of jazz in Britain.

'Martin Hathaway is still Britain's most underrated alto saxophonist'
 – Dave Gelly, *The Observer*: February
 2007

'Martin Hathaway, that splendid but radically undervalued saxophonist, plays quite brilliantly throughout.....' – Dave Gelly, *The Observer*.

'Martin Hathaway crafted his own variations.....wheeling alto saxophone and eloquent on a subtle clarinet exploration....' – John Fordham, *The Guardian*

'Many telling, passion filled solos' – Chris Parker, *The Times*.

'...the set belonged to Hathaway's pliant and occasionally startling alto....'
 -- Ben Watson, *The Wire*.

'Martin Hathaway's emotive and sinewy alto saxophone fleetly dances through the many idioms' – Musician.

'Outstanding' – Crescendo and Jazz Music

'Martin Hathaway plays beautifully, having his own sound and style'
– Ian Carr: Musician,
Author, Broadcaster.

'A thoughtful improviser, which makes a pleasant change' – Jazz Express.

'...vibrant contributions from players such as Martin Hathaway, demonstrating the great strength in depth of the current London jazz scene.' – Jazz at Ronnie Scott's.

'Individual and immediately identifiable' – Alyn Shipton: Critic, Author, Broadcaster

'Martin Hathaway has an attractively keening alto sound, agile yet hardening when required into stridency.....considerable soloing skill' – Chris Parker, Vortex Jazz Club Review, March 2008.

'A marvellous young saxophone player' – The late Ronnie Scott introducing the Martin Hathaway Quartet at his club, May 1993.