Major Boost for Jazz in the South
Turner Sims Southampton secures £315,755 in Arts Council England funding

Turner Sims Southampton, part of the University of Southampton, will receive over £315,000 for an ambitious scheme to significantly raise the aspirations of emerging and professional jazz artists, standards of performance, composition and promotion across the UK’s Southern regions.

Turner Sims will now launch the 3-year talent development programme Jazz South, the only music project in the country selected within the final round of the Arts Council England’s Ambition for Excellence programme fund.

Through Jazz South, established and emerging artists, and gifted and talented children and young people, will work with promoters and leading UK and international figures. New work will be commissioned, and talent and excellence developed through masterclasses and residencies.

Jazz South will benefit from Turner Sims’ strong track record in jazz promotion, development and commitment to broadening the reach and raising the profile of the sector. Talent development opportunities will be offered throughout the Arts Council’s South West region plus the central and southern parts of Arts Council’s current South East region, from Buckinghamshire to Kent.

Kevin Appleby, Turner Sims Concert Hall Manager, said of the award:

“This is a hugely exciting moment for Turner Sims and I’m most grateful to Arts Council England for their support. This investment enables us to realise our aspirations for creating new opportunities for the jazz sector in the South of England. I know from the conversations we have had with a range of organisations and individuals across the region already that there is a great appetite for this, and I look forward to working with partners regionally, nationally and internationally to bring these opportunities to life.”

Sir Christopher Snowden, President and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Southampton, commented:

“The University welcomes this funding for its renowned concert hall and is proud to be supporting this significant sector development - playing a leading role in talent development for jazz artists of all ages. As custodians of culture in Southampton, this extraordinary project is testimony to our University’s determination and commitment to the fundamental role that arts and culture play and further underpins our essential role in nurturing new talent.”

Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West. Arts Council England, said: “We’re delighted to be supporting Turner Sims with a significant grant of £315,755 through our National Lottery-funded Ambition for Excellence programme. The fund supports and stimulates ambition, talent and excellence in arts and culture across England and our investment in Jazz South looks set to support a step change in jazz music across the south west and south east of England.

Turner Sims already has a distinctive jazz programme with fantastic links across Europe and this investment will enable this identity to grow by developing young, emerging and established talent,
creating new commissions and building different and diverse audiences. We are excited to see what the next three years have in store for jazz in the region, nationally and beyond.”

Turner Sims will be announcing the details of the first tranche of programme activity in summer 2018.

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For information about the Arts Council’s Ambition for Excellence Programme visit: http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/ambition-excellence.

Further information about Jazz South will soon be available on the Turner Sims web site: www.turnersims.co.uk.

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EDITOR’S NOTES:

Turner Sims is a nationally renowned concert hall and live music producing organisation. The concert hall is acknowledged as one of the finest music venues in the country, with a year-round programme of outstanding classical, jazz, world and folk music, as well as talks from personalities. It was named as one of the UK’s top 10 chamber music venues by Classical Music Magazine (July 2012) and shortlisted for the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award in Audiences and Engagement (April 2013).

With over 70 concerts a year, the organisation regularly welcomes internationally renowned musicians such as Paul Lewis, Nicola Benedetti, Bill Frisell, Alison Balsom, Yundi and Courtney Pine to Southampton.

The Turner Sims mission and vision includes jazz development and mirrors the aims of Jazz South. Turner Sims’s intensive, extensive jazz work – particularly in partnerships and associateships (e.g. Tomorrow’s Warriors, BBC R3, Edition Records, SYJO) puts it in the vanguard of jazz activity. Turner Sims is a long-standing member of the Europe Jazz Network, and a founder member of the UK-wide Jazz Promotion Network

Turner Sims 2017-18 jazz programme includes performances by artists from the UK, Europe and America, including Binker & Moses, Yazz Ahmed, Portico Quartet, Trish Clowes, Christian Scott, Bill Frisell, and the ICP Orchestra.

On Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 June Turner Sims hosts Look Out!, the 2018 national gathering of the Jazz Promotion Network, bringing the industry to Southampton to discuss the key issues facing the jazz sector.

Turner Sims is part of Arts at University of Southampton - inspiring arts and culture for everyone www.southampton.ac.uk/arts