

# THE TREVOR RICHARDS BRITISH NEW ORLEANS ALL STARS

featuring John Crocker, clarinet & sax

From the early Fifties British jazz musicians were among the first to learn and play jazz in its birthplace New Orleans. Musicians such as Ken Colyer and Chris Barber brought an almost forgotten music to Europe and triggered the “New Orleans Revival” in England, which soon conquered the entire Continent. These Revival bands played jazz as they imagined it had originally been played in New Orleans, bringing their own ideas and typically European interpretations. In this way an up-to-date version of the New Orleans style was created, known as “trad” (from Traditional).

Drummer Trevor Richards, however, was one of the few musicians who settled in New Orleans to learn the music first-hand from its pioneers. He emigrated to New Orleans at the age of 21 and since then commutes between there and Europe. He studied with two of Louis Armstrong’s drummers: Zutty Singleton and Cozy Cole. Trevor can look back on a career spanning 40 years and is one of the most popular musicians in classic jazz worldwide.

In 2004 he founded **THE TREVOR RICHARDS BRITISH NEW ORLEANS ALL STARS** to bring together the best British musicians of three generations that cultivate this wonderful New Orleans Revival jazz, presented in their own inimitable British style.

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**TREVOR RICHARDS** (drums) was born in 1945 and moved to New Orleans at 21. He is one of the few drummers – and certainly the last – to be able to learn the art of classic jazz drumming first-hand from pioneers of this music, amongst many others **Zutty Singleton**, **Cozy Cole** (both drummers with **Louis Armstrong**), and **Ray Bauduc**. He now successfully preserves this endangered species of drumming as maybe its last authentic representative. He has toured and recorded worldwide with many of the jazz greats, for example **Albert Nicholas**, **Punch Miller**, **George Lewis**, **Benny Waters** and **Chris Barber**. These days he is active in his home town New Orleans and throughout Europe. He is the recipient of the highest commendation of the U.S. *National Endowment of the Arts*, and of a European media award as Drummer of the Year and was presented with the “*Grand Prix du Disque de Jazz*” by the Hot Club de France for his CD with **Evan Christopher**. Trevor Richards, with his New Orleans Trio, has been one of the most popular classic jazz groups in Europe since the early Seventies.

**JOHN CROCKER** (clarinet & tenor sax), born 1938, became a jazz musician during his military service in Cyprus and then turned professional. From 1963 he was on tour across Europe with **Mike Cotton’s Jazzmen**, one of the most popular bands of that time. He developed a reputation as an excellent soloist and so the invitation to join **Chris Barber’s Jazz Band** in 1968 did not come as a great surprise. John remained with Chris Barber for all of 34 years – much longer than most musicians. He toured through every continent in the world and played alongside the greatest stars in jazz like **Trummy Young**, **Russell Procope**, **John Lewis** and **Dr. John**. In spite of the extended touring with Chris Barber, John still found time to maintain his own quartet, with which he recorded 3 CDs. In 2003 he decided to concentrate on performing with his own band or appearing as a guest soloist with top European traditional jazz bands.

**COLIN DAWSON** (trumpet) was born in 1960 and began his trumpet studies at the early age of 10. He formed his first band in 1974. He visited New Orleans in 1977 and returned there the following year. It was there that he took lessons from the trumpet star of the Twenties, **Jabbo Smith**. Colin has since appeared with numerous bands and stars in Europe and the U.S.A. such as **Alton Purnell**, **Milt Hinton**, **Al Casey**, **Butch Miles**, **Sammy Rimington** and the **Allotria Jazzband**.

**JOHN SERVICE** (trombone & vocal) was born in Scotland in 1972 and also formed his first band at the age of 14. He did not only play in jazz bands but also in orchestras such as the **National Wind Band of Scotland** and played first trombone in the orchestra at the King’s Theatre in Glasgow. Since 1987 he has been a member of the **Picadilly Six** in Zurich, leads his own band and gives guest appearances throughout Europe.

**SIMON HOLLIDAY** (piano & vocal), born in 1964, is active in Europe and the U.S.A. both as a soloist and bandleader. He started playing the piano at the age of three and received classical training until one day he discovered **Fats Waller**. This resulted in Simon becoming a professional jazz musician when he was seventeen. Inspired by the influence of the Harlem stride pianists of the Twenties, he is a master of all jazz styles from ragtime to swing and blues.

**BOB CULVERHOUSE** (bass & vocal) was born in 1949. He studied with the veteran bassist **Chester Zardis** in New Orleans and back in Europe accompanied **Alton Purnell**, **Louis Nelson**, **Sam Lee**, **Freddie Kohlman**, Benny Waters and the vocalist Carrie Smith. He filled in for the jazz pioneer **Ed Garland**, then 90 years old, on tours with the **Legends of Jazz**. He worked for many years with the **White Eagle Jazz Band** and founder member of “**Lillian Boutté’s Music Friends**”