

The artists

Zoe Rahman *piano* **Rowland Sutherland** *flute, alto flute*
Mark Armstrong *trumpet* **Gene Calderazzo** *drums*
Andrea Di Biase *double bass*

“Her sound is drenched with originality and jazz legitimacy... a world class artist, composer and performer... Zoe shines as one of Britain’s most powerful compositional voices and important contemporary artists.” *Ivors Academy*

We’re delighted to welcome **Zoe Rahman** back to the Festival. Zoe has previously appeared in a duo with her brother Idris, with Clark Tracey’s Quintet, and most recently, in 2021, in trio format.

Described by *The Observer* as “a remarkable pianist by any standard”, Zoe has firmly established herself as one of the brightest stars on the contemporary jazz scene. A vibrant and highly individual pianist and composer, her style is deeply rooted in jazz yet reflects her classical background, her British/Bengali heritage and her very broad musical taste.

Born in Chichester to a Bengali father and English mother, Zoe studied classical piano at the Royal Academy of Music, took a music degree at Oxford University and then won a scholarship to study jazz performance at Berklee College of Music in Boston where she came under the inspirational pianist Joanne Brackeen.

A MOBO Award winner, Mercury Prize nominee and Ivor Novello Award winner, Zoe has established herself as a unique presence in the British music industry, releasing seven albums under her own name. Her latest release, ‘Colour of Sound’, won Album of the Year at the 2024 Parliamentary Jazz Awards and her programme tonight will consist of music from this album alongside some brand new quintet arrangements.

As *ECN Music* put it on the album’s release: “All artists react to the tenor and tone of the times in which they create. Zoe Rahman has responded to the losses and constraints of the last two years by going bolder, bigger and brighter... Her choice of collaborators reflects her deep engagement with the diversity of contemporary Britain, and her own explorations of her multi-modal heritage. *‘I’ve chosen all the players for the strong connection I have with them. My music isn’t straightforward and needs people with depth to their playing, who can understand the complexities, but who can also express the emotional side of the music to really connect with the audience.’*

‘Colour of Sound’ combines Rahman’s unique and powerful writing with thrilling arrangements and dynamic performances from the whole band to create an album of jazz at its highest level that still communicates its message directly to the listener. It’s a splash of colour and a bold statement beautifully realised that is Rahman’s most compelling work to date. *‘This music was written to connect with people – it’s very emotive but people are really receptive to that right now after all they’ve been through, and they’re so up for hearing live music! Every show feels like a celebration and this music reflects that.’*

facebook.com/zoerahman

Rowland Sutherland is a flautist with a vibrant international career, performing across a wide array of musical genres including contemporary classical, jazz, and non-Western styles. His solo flute performances have been featured on *BBC Radio 3* and he’s also collaborated with symphony orchestras, pop groups, and non-Western ensembles. As a composer and arranger, Rowland has written for various groups and the BBC, with notable commissions for ensembles such as *Ensemble Bash* and *New Music Players*. As a performer, Rowland leads the Brazilian jazz fusion band *Mistura*, which has played at such major jazz festivals as Glastonbury, City of London and Bath International.

rowlandsutherland.com

Mark Armstrong is Jazz Professor at the Royal College of Music, delivering academic jazz modules and directing large ensemble projects. He’s also Artistic Director of the *National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO)* with which he directs concerts around the UK and Europe and runs educational projects and workshops. As a freelance jazz trumpet player, Mark played with Stan Tracey in his big band, recording a live album from Appleby Jazz Festival, and was a member of the quintet for his final album ‘The Flying Pig’. He’s a member of *Ronnie Scott’s Jazz Orchestra (RSJO)* and Robin Jones’s *Latin Underground*, performing widely in the UK and abroad in a variety of jazz styles and genres during his career. Mark’s output as a composer and arranger encompasses choral and chamber music, jazz and symphony orchestra, compositions for *NYJO* and *RSJO*, and commercial arrangements for *Audio Network*.

markarmstrongmusic.com

Gene Calderazzo is one of New York’s finest jazz exports, and is currently based in Britain. An authoritative drummer in the bebop tradition, he has worked with a huge number of British and international musicians including Steve Lacy, Pharoah Sanders, Steve Grossman, Eddie Henderson, *The Norddeutscher Rundfunk Big Band*, Mike Gibbs, Bheki Mseleku, *UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra*, Sting, *Radiohead*, James Moody, Phil Woods, Benny Golson, Ulf Wakenius, Gary Husband, Wayne Krantz, Bobby Watson, Eddie Gomez, Evan Parker, Randy Brecker and brother Joey Calderazzo, Hans Koller, Crass Collective and Phil Robson’s *Six Strings*. Gene is a visiting tutor at several of the leading conservatoires including The Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban College of Music and Dance and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has been the drummer for the band *Partisans* for over 20 years and he’s also a member of the *Julian Siegal Quartet*.

facebook.com/gene.calderazzo

Double bass player and composer **Andrea Di Biase** studied classical double bass at the Conservatory of Milan. He then graduated with distinction at Guildhall School of Music in London. Together with pianist Liam Noble, Andrea was part of the last trio of the legendary trumpet player and composer Kenny Wheeler. He’s also leader of the *Oltremare Quartet* with the renowned Italian pianist Antonio Zambrini, the saxophonist Mike Chillingworth and the drummer Jon Scott. With them he recorded his first album ‘Uncommon Nonsense’ as a composer. Andrea has a longstanding collaboration with pianist Bruno Heinen with whom he recorded many albums, the latest of which is ‘Portrait’ alongside Heidi Vogel and Gene Calderazzo. And last but not least, he’s a co-leader of *Dugong* with whom in 2022 he released their third album ‘Let the Good be Good’.

andreadibiase.com

Visit www.little-missenden.org

Festival Patron: David Matthews

Grateful acknowledgements

We thank all those who have helped with the Festival or supported us financially and in other ways. Special thanks to the funding bodies, sponsors and supporters listed below, without whose generous help there would be no Festival.

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Piano: **Fazioli 228** from **Jaques Samuel**

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Next Year's Festival

The 2026 Little Missenden Festival will run from Friday 2nd to Sunday 12th October.

Festival Website little-missenden.org

- See the full **2025 Festival Programme**
- **Book Tickets** (or phone 0333 666 3366)
- Be added to our **Mailing List** for next year's brochure
- Find out about the **Friends** or **Sponsorship**

Booking Information

- Email: tickets@little-missenden.org
- Phone: 01494 958148 between 11am and 8pm

General Information

- Email: contact@little-missenden.org

Little Missenden Festival Executive Committee

Chair: Dick Ware

Committee: Angela Bishop, Polly Buston, Martin Cunningham, John Glasson, Beth Neill, Liz Wager, Dick Wells, Rachel Wilcox

Programme Notes

ZOE RAHMAN QUINTET



8pm, Saturday October 4th, 2025
Little Missenden Church

65th Little Missenden Festival