

The Zoe Rahman Trio

Zoe Rahman piano **Gene Calderazzo** drums

Alec Dankworth bass

We're delighted to welcome **Zoe Rahman** back to the Festival. Zoe has previously appeared in a duo with her brother Idris, and with Clark Tracey's Quintet. This year's jazz event features her piano trio with two renowned collaborators: from New York drummer Gene Calderazzo, and the British bassist Alec Dankworth.

Described in *The Observer* as "a remarkable pianist by any standard", Zoe Rahman 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 studied with the inspirational pianist JoAnne Brackeen. Zoe is one of the most highly sought-after musicians of her generation, working most recently with the likes of George Mraz, Martha Wainwright, Courtney Pine and Jerry Dammers' Spatial AKA Orchestra.

Zoe has recorded a number of albums with various musicians and under her own name, and has won a number of prizes. The solo album *Melting Pot*, was nominated in 2006 for the Nationwide Mercury Prize and it also won Jazz Album of the Year at the UK's first Parliamentary Jazz Awards. In 2012 Zoe won a MOBO Award (best Jazz Act) for *Kindred Spirits*, her fifth album on her own *Manushi* label. Featuring her brother Idris on clarinet alongside her trio as well as a guest appearance by UK jazz legend Courtney Pine, the album has been hailed as a "masterpiece" (*Manchester Evening News*), "in every way a five star rating" (*ukjazzradio.com*), "one of the best albums of the last couple of years" (*Jazzwise*), and "a work of breathtaking musical imagination" (*Metro*). In 2016 Zoe was awarded a British Jazz Award for piano.

On her most recent visit to the Little Missenden Festival she and her brother Idris performed music from her fourth album, *Where Rivers Meet*, exploring music from their Bengali heritage, which creates "a wholly original brand of Anglo-Asian music" (*Sunday Times*).

Zoe has been invited to play at many international jazz festivals and has worked extensively throughout the UK and internationally, including performances in the USA, Australia, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She has been a featured artist on numerous TV and radio programmes and is frequently invited to sit on high-profile panels – most notably the Mercury Music Prize, BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year and Nottingham International Jazz Piano competition. She shares her passion for music through teaching in a variety of contexts, inspiring musicians of all ages and abilities. From 2013-14 she was Artist in Residence with youth big band 'Jazz Vehicle' in Lincoln.

Zoe's playing has been described as 'mesmeric' and 'using improvisation to express the inexpressible'. In the words of one reviewer, 'each song begins with a suggestion', before developing under her fingers into a glittering and dynamic composition performed with imagination and spirit. It is clear that she relishes the musical dialogue with her fellow musicians, both of whom also represent the best on the current scene.

"Always exciting, playful, muscular and a tiny bit unhinged, that's what I love about Zoe Rahman" (*Jamie Cullum, BBC Radio 2*)

Alec Dankworth is an award-winning bass player and composer known for his energetic stage presence and versatility of style.

Alec's musical influences came initially from growing up with his parents, vocalist Cleo Laine and saxophonist and composer John Dankworth. The Dankworths often performed together as a family: in 1980 Alec joined the Cleo Laine/John Dankworth quintet, touring the USA, Australia and Europe, and in the '90s he co-led the 'Alec and John Dankworth Generation Band' combining British jazz musicians from two generations.

As one of Britain's leading straight-ahead players, Alec has worked with an amazing list of both British and international artists in addition to leading several groups of his own. His collaborations with musicians in a number of different styles reflects his love of music from all walks of life, from working with Clark Tracey and Michael Garrick (both previous visitors to the Little Missenden Festival) to Nigel Kennedy, with whom he made a duet recording of Ellington's *Black, Brown and Beige Suite*. Alec also recorded and toured extensively with the Van Morrison group, and in 1997 moved to New York, where he performed with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and The Dave Brubeck Quartet; and at venues including the New Orleans Jazz Festival and Carnegie Hall. He was also voted 'Best Bass Player' in the 1995 and 1997 British Jazz Awards.

Since 2001, in addition to performing with his own groups, Alec has worked with the Tony Coe Trio and Alan Barnes, and more recently, the John Critchinson Trio, Georgie Fame's Blue Flames, Chris Garrick and the Steve Waterman Trio. In 2012 Alec joined Ginger Baker Jazz Confusion, featuring Pee Wee Ellis.

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 NDR, Mike Gibbs, Bheki Mseleku, UMO, 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, as well as playing in the Zoe Rahman trio, he's a member of the Julian Siegal Quartet.

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**
Tuner: **Jim Denton**
Flowers: **Rosemary Ladd**

Next year's Festival

The 2022 Little Missenden Festival will run from Friday 7th to Sunday 16th October.

Festival website little-missenden.org

- See the full **2021 Festival Programme**
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Booking Information

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

General Information

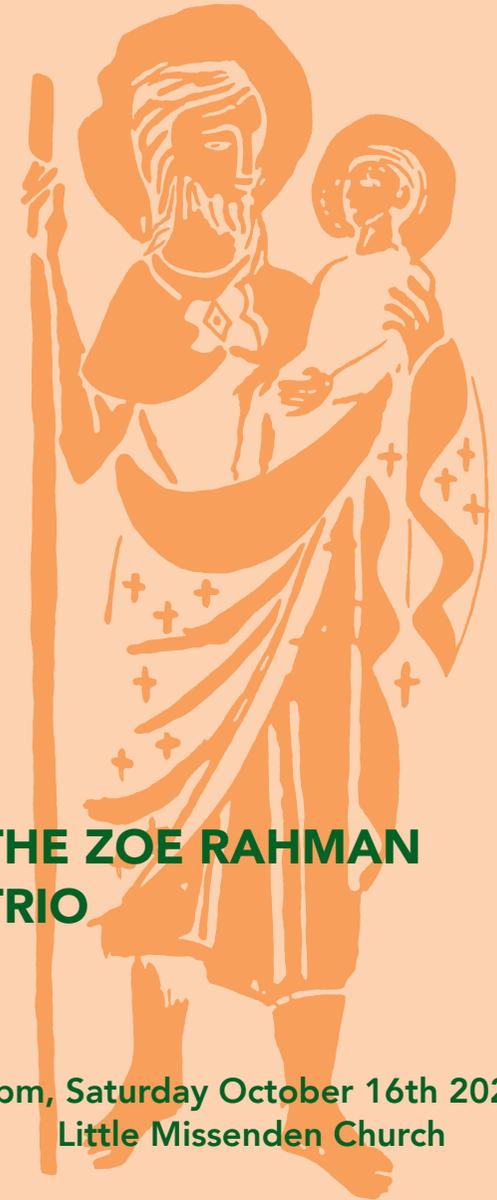
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61st Little Missenden Festival



THE ZOE RAHMAN TRIO

8pm, Saturday October 16th 2021
Little Missenden Church

Programme Notes