
EJN press release

EJN CELEBRATES ITS 25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR WITH EUROPE'S FIRST AWARD FOR ADVENTUROUS JAZZ PROGRAMMING

Having grown from a small informal group of jazz promoters in 1987, Europe Jazz Network (EJN) - www.europejazz.net - celebrates its 25th birthday in 2012.

To mark the anniversary EJN is inaugurating the EJN Award for Adventurous Programming - to be awarded annually to a European jazz promoter who exemplifies the values of EJN and has succeeded in turning vision and skill into forward-looking and fascinating musical programmes for their audience.

The first ever Award was presented at the jazzahead! expo
in Bremen, Germany on Friday 20th April.



The EJN Award For Adventurous Programming

The jury of independent jazz experts and EJN representatives unanimously agreed to give the first-ever EJN Award for Adventurous Programming 2012 to 12Points! - the annual project conceived and organised by Improvised Music Company of Dublin, Ireland, under the direction of Gerry Godley.

www.12points.ie & www.improvisedmusic.ie

This unique forward-looking concept is devoted to presenting 12 young or newly-emerging groups (or solo artists) from 12 European countries who are not yet well-known outside their home territory. The artists chosen for the four day event are selected from over 300 applicants and are notable for their innovation and creativity. The series is curated with great attention to detail by Gerry Godley who asks jazz professionals across Europe to encourage musicians to apply – and then searches for fresh, often experimental and boundary-pushing new music, always looking for musical approaches that make a real difference and which reach out beyond the core jazz audience.

In keeping with the diverse nature of the music, 12 Points! changes location every second year and has found partners to host the event in other countries (in 2012 it takes place in the Casa da Musica, Porto, Portugal) with Dublin as the regular host on alternate years.

12Points! is particularly adventurous in attracting audiences to listen to artists that they do not know and have not yet heard. It acts as vital showcase of extraordinary new jazz talent – and,

in parallel, it has become a unique meeting point and opportunity to exchange ideas amongst the artists who participate.

12 Points! is now in its sixth year and the possibilities it has created for networking, information exchange and communication embody the spirit of European jazz, both through the selection process and the exposure of new artists to new audiences.

Europe Jazz Network is proud to have played a fundamental role in providing 12 Points! with a platform from which to explore a wide range of music and to meet partners who are essential to achieve its aims.

Europe Jazz Network

Europe Jazz Network (EJN) is the only Europe-wide association of producers, presenters and supporting organisations who specialise in creative music, contemporary jazz and improvised music created from a distinctly European perspective. The network exists to support the identity and diversity of jazz in Europe and broaden awareness of this vital area of music as a cultural and educational force.

EJN's mission is to encourage, promote and support the development of the creative improvised musics of the European scene and to create opportunities for artists, organisers and audiences from the different countries to meet and communicate. Supported in recent years by the European Commission in recognition of its unique role in representing the jazz sector in Europe, EJN's membership includes 80 organisations (festivals, clubs and concert venues, independent promoters, national organisations) in 26 countries.

CONTACT:

Europe Jazz Network:

EJN Award jury chair, previous President and Honorary member Mr Nod Knowles

mobile: +447880703518, nod@nodknowles.com

12Points! and Improvised Music Company:

Mr Gerry Godley, +353872381546, gerry@improvisedmusic.ie

<https://www.facebook.com/imcmusic>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/12-Points>



From the left: Gerry Godley, Nod Knowles, Annamaija Saarela, Jon Newey, Filippo Bianchi and Francesco Martinelli.
Photographer from jazzahead!: Frank Pusch frankpusch@t-online.de