



AMBITION: Courtney Pine

Pining for the new chords of distant jazz

CD of the Week

Courtney Pine – Europa (Destin-E – out now)

IS COURTNEY Pine getting too big for his boots? After 25 years as the poster boy for UK jazz – during which he has thrown the genre into bed with everything from drum n' bass to reggae with varying results – his latest project is by far his most ambitions.

Inspired by four-decades of research as a “musical traveller”, Europa sees the south London reedsman drinking in the exotic scales and styles of his home continent, while (apparently) trying to answer the question on everyone's lips – why is Europe named after a Phoenician woman?

Surrounding himself in a familiar all-star cast of co-conspirators – and restricting himself to the bass clarinet – it's an epic trip, taking in elements of Celtic folksong and Gregorian chant, tango and tribal drumming.

Seemingly intent on moving further away from the American idiom with every passing release, Pine's compositions are dense and knotty affairs, soloists restricted to tight rhythmic and harmonic confines to shine.

Despite this, wacky sax-whiz Shabaka Hutchings steals some great moments, guitarist Cameron Pierre's rare appearances are never wasted, while Zoe Rahman's precise, pinnectety piano style has found its perfect home.

It's a pick n' mix, hit and miss collection, with moments of inspiration weighed down by the lofty baggage of the project.

With changes in time signature representing different books of the Bible, it's hard at times to silence a scoff at Pine's misplaced over-ambition, but there's still plenty here to interest and entertain.

A worthy chapter in the continuing evolution of one of modern jazz's greatest innovators.



Name: Kaleidofly

Line-Up: Rachel Gardner (vocals), Logan Dennis (drums), Chris Furness (bass), Bobby Chincharo (lead guitar), Sam Chincharo (rhythm guitar)

MySpace: www.myspace.com/kaleidofly

How would you describe your sound in four words?

Probably melodic, atmospheric, hard-rock.

How did you get together?

I knew Logan and Bobby before we formed the band.

They met while on an apprentice course. Sam and Chris were friends of ours and they joined later on. Bobby and Sam are brothers so there can be some artistic differences sometimes – especially as they're the guitarists!

How did you come up with the name Kaleidofly?

We were called Triad as a three-piece but when Sam and Chris joined we obviously couldn't call ourselves that.

One of our guitarists decided to combine the word kaleidoscope and butterfly.

The word butterfly adds a feminine

Kaleidofly may be about to make it big as they've just got through to the semi-finals of national talent search Live & Unsigned. We sent **Nicola Chappell** to find out from singer Rachel Gardner what inspires the band, and whether she thinks Croydon has what it takes as a music hub



OFF DUTY: Kaleidofly

element and is a reference to me.

What has been your greatest achievement so far?

We have just got through to the semi-finals of Live & Unsigned. This will take place on Sunday in Basildon.

Each band has to perform a song that merges one of our original tracks with an existing song. We do a version of George Michael's Careless Whisper so we may use that.

What do you think of the music scene in Croydon?

There are a lot of bands trying to make it at the moment. There are only

two venues that are okay to perform in; The Ship pub and Scream Lounge.

There needs to be more better venues for bands.

Who are your main musical influences?

I like the melodic vocals and sound of the lead singer of Incubus. He puts a lot of emotion into his music and I like that approach. The band Tool is another influence of ours as they use complex rhythms and time signatures.

What advice would you give to other bands?

You have to get as many gigs as possible. Advertising is so important. Hand out loads of flyers, put up posters, do anything. We gave out T-shirts at one of our gigs. You really have to promote yourself and get your name out there.

If the world was going to end in five minutes, what song would you play?

We've written a song called Insight which was inspired by a book called Celestine Property. That book has kind of changed my life so I would definitely play that.

Live music listings

Tuesday 10: Rockaholic presents random but hand-picked rock from Surviving Silence and Lost Gravity (7pm, Free) at Scream Lounge – or its DJ Magoo playing the most ripe electro, Dn'B, dubstep, indie and ska at Black Sheep Bar (free

before 9pm)

Wednesday 11: Monthly Comedy night at Scream. Free (as usual) with a line-up of top touring UK comics. Hosted by Pete K Mally (8pm)
Thursday 12: Bleed To This promotions presents

stoner metal at Scream Lounge from Pig Iron, Sons Of Merrick, Metasoma and Profane & the Sacred (8pm, £4)

Friday 13: Eureka Machines, Shush and Kitty Hudson play downstairs at Scream with a mixture of rock, punk and alt (8pm, £5) – or head upstairs for the regular free Friday showcase featuring The Janitors, Splinter Group and more (8pm)

Saturday 14: Frantic Promotions presents the soulful pop of Jessi Markee for her album launch upstairs at Scream (7.30pm, free) whilst downstairs Wildfire Promotions present indie rock from The Fuegos, Junk Time Party and Outer Audio (indie/rock). Alternatively check out some rock and blues with Bad Influence at the Oval Tavern.

Sunday 15: Acoustic Sunday Jam Night and open mic at Scream (7pm, free)

Monday 16: The Soap Co DJ's at Black Sheep Bar - exotic sounds, altered grooves, alien beats (7pm, free entry before 10pm)



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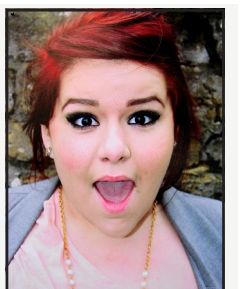
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t: 01273 890454 e: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
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