**mjf MEDIA RELEASE**

**MANCHESTER JAZZ FESTIVAL 2014**

**18 - 27 July 2014**  Immediate

***BIGGEST EVER FESTIVAL LINE-UP FOR MJF 2014***

**Manchester Jazz Festival** is delighted to announce a record-breaking line-up for 2014. 88 bands featuring over 500 artists, from across the UK and abroad, will perform in 8 landmark venues for 10 music-filled days from 18-27 July.

Celebrating its 19th year, **mjf** is one of the highlights of Manchester’s entertainment calendar attracting over 60,000 visitors in 2013. Booking is now open for this year’s biggest and most varied programme ever.

This year’s festival highlights include: **The Bad Plus**,previewing new material from their forthcoming album; the multimedia experience of **Silence Blossoms** and **Space F!ght**;the groundbreaking solo pianist **Alexander Hawkins**; Bristol trumpet virtuoso **Nick Malcolm;** Leeds Indo-jazz band **Sandrani;** Memphis soul legend **Booker T; Adam Fairhall’s ‘The Imaginary Delta’ with Jackie Kay**, poetry and music coming together in this collaboration with Manchester Literature Festival; and the return of **Hackney Colliery Band** following their storming closing show at **mjf** 2012.

Also this year **mjf** hosts the Jazz North **northern line** showcase celebrating the diverse jazz scene in the North region, the first Jazz Promotion Network conference and a special **Jazz on 3**:**BBC Introducing** show. Following the weekend performances in the Thwaites Festival Pavilion crowds will be entertained by late night DJ sets, our regular jam night at Matt and Phreds’s Jazz Club continues led by house band **The Nightcreatures**, and building on the resurgence of contemporary New Orleans-style brass bands, we have a number of roaming bands entertaining the crowds and parading through Thwaites Festival Square.

**mjf** also boasts four bespoke strands:

*mjf international,* bringing the best talent from across Europe and the world to Manchester, this year we have hand-picked 10 captivating international bands, many on their UK debuts.

*The Irwin Mitchell* ***mjf*** *originals,* **mjf**’s flagshipcommissioning scheme, unveils a new work at each festival and this year sees the première of guitarist/composer **Anton Hunter’s Article XI.** This suite of music for an 11 piece ensemble brings north west and national players together with musicians from Finland and Norway with a truly innovative improvisatory process.

In *mjf introduces,* the very best of young talent from the North West takes the spotlight, including **Greater Manchester Jazz Orchestra** – a big band of 20 elite players, featuring BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year, saxophonist Alexander Bone; there’s also **Dead Hedge Trio** merging jazz, psychedelic rock and afro-beat**;** and RNCM alumni **Aaron Wood Quartet, Top Cat Jazz Band** and **Twisted Tubes.**

*mjf afternoon tea –* always a sell-out *–* offers jazz and exquisite afternoon tea in the elegant surroundings of The Midland Hotel. This year the music includes The Magic Beans, UZ2 and a collaboration between local favourites John Ellis and Helen Pillinger.

For 2014 the popular festival venues - **Band on the Wall**, **The Midland**, **Matt and Phred’s**, **RNCM** and **St Ann’s Church** – are joined by two new locations – the **Central** **Library** and **Soup Kitchen**, voted MEN City Life’s best club in 2013.

The hub of festival activity is the **Thwaites Festival Square & Pavilion** in Albert Square, with gigs every day from lunchtime until late, live performances in the square, the Thwaites Festival Bar and food outlets – this will be the place to meet up and relax with friends and family.

The festival’s artistic director, Steve Mead, explains, “**mjf** is about great music, great company and the best of Manchester. It is also about championing new music and taking people on a journey of discovery through the world of jazz today. Thanks to our regular funders and some new sponsorships we have been able to create our biggest-ever programme, still offering over 30 free gigs and the trademark mjf blend of premieres, emerging talent and unique strands. We are also laying the groundwork for 2015 and looking ahead to some major events and collaborations as part of our 20th anniversary next year.”

Tickets and booking information at [www.manchesterjazz.com](http://www.manchesterjazz.com). Latest festival news and updates at [facebook.com/manchesterjazzfestival](http://facebook.com/manchesterjazzfestival) or on Twitter @ManJazzFest

**ENDS**

For further information contact Diane Herrod at marketing@manchesterjazz.com or on 07871 093010.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Manchester Jazz Festival** celebrates 19 years in 2014 and is unlike any other event on the jazz festival circuit. Accessible to all and with many free events, **mjf** features 10 days of contemporary jazz from the North West, the UK and abroad with national premières of original work and international debuts. **mjf** champions regional artists and focuses on musical innovation with concerts round the clock, indoors and out, this year featuring 80 events and over 500 musicians.

**mjf** takes place from 18-27 July 2014 in the following venues: Band on the Wall; Central Library; Matt & Phred's Jazz Club; Midland Hotel; Royal Northern College of Music; Soup Kitchen; St Ann's Church; Thwaites Festival Pavilion in Albert Square.

Supported by: Arts Council England; Manchester City Council; PRS for Music Foundation; Thwaites Brewery; Irwin Mitchell; Manchester Arndale; Midland Hotel; Robins and Day, Peugeot.

**Manchester City Council**
Manchester Jazz Festival is part of Manchester City Council's annual calendar of unmissable events which includes live music, multicultural festivals and world class sport.

**Arts Council England
Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. The Arts Council supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, Arts Council England will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £0.85 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/) Manchester Jazz Festival is one of ACE’s National portfolio organisations – a portfolio that consists of a rich variety of organisations across the country, reflecting the real quality and excellence of the arts in England. The new National portfolio is shaped by an ambitious 10-year vision for the arts, achieving great art for everyone, with a focus on excellent organisations and exceptional individual talent.