



Ugly Bug Ragtime 3

8th April 2017

Fine vintage ragtime jazz at its best

The Ugly Bug Ragtime 3 performed last Saturday night in the Lochgilphead Parish Church, the brand new band played a wonderful mix of hot rags, blues and stomps from the golden age jazz. The connection between the three artists was evident as they improvised solos and finished each piece in union.

John Burgess on clarinet and saxophone has played all over the world from the USA to the Middle East and Europe as well as playing on over one hundred recordings with names such as Digby Fairweather, Forrie Cairns and Max Bygraves. Ross Milligan on guitar and banjo has graced live and studio session including the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sir George Martin. Andy Sharkey has played alongside singers such as Todd Gordon and Niki King, pianists Brian Kellock and Euan Stevenson among other musicians. Sharkey has also toured in the UK and US with the west end musical hit "The Rat Pack".

The night took off with the vibrant "Clarinet Marmalade" by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band which matched the mood of the warm day outside the church and threw the audience into the 1920s immediately. This was followed by Roy Turk's melancholy "I'm alone because I love you" transporting us to a smoky bar in New Orleans. The rest of the first half was sprinkled with animated and smooth, sultry pieces from composers such as Jelly Roll Morton and Spencer Williams.

The second half was opened with William H Tyers "Panama". The mood darkened when the band played "Black and Blue" with its relative message of racial oppression yet spirits were lifted again by the stylish "Bei mir bistu shein". The trio finished with the immensely toe-tapping "That's a plenty" which had the whole crowd moving, even one of the overhead lights flickered in time. They were met by rapturous applause and were begged for one more piece, which was named appropriately "Home".

Eve Maxwell