

Review of the John Maddocks Jazz Men gig of 21st November

The opening number from the John Maddocks Jazz Men perfectly sums up their performance at the Bude Jazz Club, *C'est Magnifique!* It really was a superb evening's entertainment and so many positive comments were forthcoming as people journeyed home with enjoyment written all over their faces.



As mentioned, the opening number was one of Cole Porter's memorable pieces, *C'est Magnifique*. This was followed by the well known and oft played W.C. Handy composition *Beale Street Blues*, named after the St Louis thoroughfare. Next up was a number, although familiar, I'd never heard of before, *Elephant Stomp*. This was followed by Jack Palmer's piece from 1928 *Sweet Emmalina* with John supplying the first vocal of the evening, before the band hit out with another W.C. Handy Classic, *Yellow Dog Blues*, the nickname of the Yazoo Delta Railroad in Mississippi. John announced it was time for a spiritual which came with *My Life Will Be*

Sweeter One Day, the vocal on this one came from the excellent trumpeter Peter Wilkinson. (Apparently I have been calling him Paul for a couple of years - Apologies dear boy!). The first set closed out with a Jelly Roll Morton classic *Milneburg Joys* (which was published with the incorrect spelling. Milneburg was named after a Scot Alexander Milne who bought most of the marshland between New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain and built the town on the lake shore. He died a millionaire in 1838 at the ripe old age of 96 leaving all his money to charity).

Set two began with a number titled *Rip 'em up Joe*, followed by a Lil Armstrong composition dedicated to one of Louis many nicknames in his early years called *Gate Mouth*. Next up was the Joe Jordan penned *Any Time* from 1927 before John then turned to King Oliver for his classic 1923 composition *Snake Rag*. With Peter and Tony vacating the stage, John then tackled the moving Sidney Bechet classic *Petite Fleur*. I do like that number! The next one, Duke Ellington's famous *C Jam Blues*, began with a piano solo from the wonderful Simon Banks followed by solos from John, firstly on clarinet and then tenor sax. One of the best numbers of the evening and it certainly showed what a superb musician John Maddocks really is! A Fats Waller composition followed with the whole band returning to the stage for *Blue Turning Grey Over You*, John supplying the vocal, as he did on the final number for the set, Andy Anderson's *Chant of the Tuxedo*, a famous number well known in New Orleans that Andy played with his Pelican State Jazz Band.

So onto the final set which began with the oft played Sam Morgan classic *Bogalousa Strut* before the band took on another King Oliver composition *Snag It* (slang for a piece of successful improvisation from a musician. If it was played well, he was known to "Snag It"). John then gave us another clarinet solo on the extremely fast paced *Creole Jazz* after which he received rapturous applause from the huge audience. With the whole band returning to the stage once more, John then supplied the vocal on George Mitchell's *Ace in the Hole* before the evening sadly came to an end with a belated Parade number, Paul Barbarin's *Bourbon Street Parade*.

A breathtaking performance from one of the best bands to ever play in front of members of the Bude Jazz Club and they swung like crazy!

Paul