

## **Sara Dowling Quartet** | Band biographies

### **Ross Stanley – piano**

Ross began piano lessons aged 4. At 13, he was awarded an organ scholarship to Marlborough College. Upon leaving Marlborough, he accepted a place on the BMUS course in classical and jazz piano at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2000. Since then, Ross's musical skills have kept him in high demand, seeing him play with jazz names such as Eddie Gomez, Dick Oatts, Gary Smulyan, Seamus Blake, Will Vinson, Nigel Hitchcock, Phil Robson, Gareth Lockrane, Dennis Rollins, Guy Barker, Ian Shaw, Jamie Cullum, Liane Carroll, Norma Winstone, Stan Sulzman, Steve Arguelles, John Paracelli, as well as being a regular member of the Hamish Stuart Band, Nigel Price Organ Trio, Jim Mullen Organ Trio and the Jacqui Dankworth band and performing in many small and large ensembles – The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The BBC Concert Orchestra, Nostalgia 77 Octet, The Heritage Orchestra. Ross is a Yamaha artist, Hammond endorsee and two times winner of a British Jazz Award in the organ category.

### **Dario Di Lecce – double bass**

Dario Di Lecce moved to London in 2012 and quickly became one of London's 'most in demand' bass players. Heavily influenced by his hard bop heroes such as Joe Henderson and Jackie McLean, he started his career playing with renowned musicians in Italy. He has performed in France, Holland, Slovenia, Germany, Czech Republic and the United States, sharing the stage with many world-famous international artists. He is in constant demand as a sideman and has played for artists such as Grant Stewart, George Garzone, Michael Kanan, Luigi and Pasquale Grasso, Steve Fishwick and Stacey Kent.

### **Steve Brown - drums**

Born in Manchester, England, Steve developed an early interest in music and began playing drums at age 14. By age 19, he was performing with local jazz groups. By the time he was 23, Steve had become the "first call" jazz drummer in Manchester, working with Scott Hamilton, Art Farmer and UK artists during their engagements in the city.

In 1996, Brown moved to London and began working as a sideman with many of the capitol's finest musicians including engagements with jazz greats Harry 'Sweets' Edison and Conte Candoli. During the next 4 years his playing career went from strength to strength and Steve was the winner of the 'Drums' and 'Rising Star' categories in the 1999 British Jazz Awards. He has gone on to win the British Jazz award ten times during the last 20 years. In 2000 Steve joined the Quartet of the great jazz saxophonist Scott Hamilton. For the last eighteen years, he toured internationally with Mr Hamilton. He is featured on his last five recordings for Concord records. In between his engagements with the Scott Hamilton Quartet Steve continues to perform and record with a wide variety of artists including Benny Golson, Benny Green, Carl Fontana, Barry Harris, Junior Mance and Charles McPherson.