Jazz Fest musicians warming up for Friday

Beautiful photos from Rob McDougall of some of the jazz musicians who will be entertaining at the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival 2013 from this Friday.

Famed for her five-year stint as Beyonce's saxophonist and currently touring with Grammy-winner Esperanza Spalding, **Tia Fuller** is back in town and ready for her Festival opening performance on Friday. Edinburgh-born singer, **Lorna Reid**, will be bringing her cool, classy and seductive vocals to brand new Festival venue, the Tron Kirk. And **Leah Gough Cooper**, one half of hot new Scottish 'next big talent' band, Locus, with trumpeter Kim Macari, is back at the Festival for a highly anticipated performance.

Now in its 35th year, the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival starts this Friday (19th) and presents 10 full days of unique artistic collaborations, cutting edge performers, funk and dance-fused sounds, timeless jazz favourites, intense art, total relaxation and a good time for all. Headline acts include Jools Holland, Eric Burdon, Champian Fulton, Snarky Puppy, Mud Morganfield, The Three Bs (Chris Barber, Acker Bilk and Keith Ball) and many more. Participating venues across the capital include Festival Theatre, Queen's Hall, Teatro Spiegeltent and a new cool, modern jazz club at 3 Bristo Place.

Brand new Festival elements this year include Cross the Tracks, a fresh strand that throws the spotlight on contemporary, underground music influenced by jazz. Plus the Tron Kirk is being transformed into a new 'Festival club' that will open at 10am and run through to late evening.