

Edinburgh's Jazz Bar this September



London-based drummer Ollie Howell, who brings his acclaimed quintet to Edinburgh's Jazz Bar on September 21, has some high profile admirers.

Howell "floored" Quincy Jones, the legendary film soundtrack composer and record producer who worked with Frank Sinatra and oversaw Michael Jackson's multi-million-selling album *Thriller*, during a performance staged to feature some of the best students at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff in 2009. This led to Jones, who is affectionately known in the music business as Q, mentoring the Wallingford-born Howell and monitoring his progress as he has moved into a full-time professional career.

"Quincy's one-quarter Welsh and was being presented with an honorary doctorate at the RWCMD when I was a student there," says Howell. "I was a big fan of his work on the Sinatra at the Sands album and when he invited me to New York to play with some of his friends after hearing me on that concert in Cardiff, I had to pinch myself. He later invited me to Montreux Jazz Festival and I'll be visiting him in Los Angeles later this year to go through plans for my next album."

Howell has also been taken under the wing of legendary trumpeter Miles Davis's former drummer Jimmy Cobb, who featured on Davis's classic *Kind of Blue* album, and is the first musical recipient of a Sky award, having won a Sky Academy Arts Scholarship earlier this year. A television documentary will be screened on the Sky Arts channel during 2015 as a result.

In between these and other career highs, which include winning

the prestigious Peter Whittingham Development Award in 2012, Howell has had to deal with being diagnosed with a debilitating brain malfunction, which required urgent surgery. He has now fully recovered and named his first album, Sutures and Stitches, which was released on Whirlwind Recordings, after the experience.

His quintet, which features tenor saxophonist Duncan Eagles, trumpeter Mark Perry, pianist Matt Robinson, and bassist Max Luthert, appears at the Jazz Bar in Chambers Street on Sunday, September 21 at 9pm.

Submitted by [Rob Adams](#)

