

Orchestra will bring soul-stirring jazz to Queen's Hall

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra opens its latest season with a concert at the Queen's Hall on 29 September.

Featuring the vital, soul-stirring music from its latest album, *Where Rivers Meet*, which was recorded in a single session at St Giles' Cathedral, the concert will celebrate the music of four saxophonists whose work reflected turbulent times in America during the 1960s, including the Civil Rights struggle, and whose legacies continue to grow seven decades on.

"Albert Ayler, Ornette Coleman, Anthony Braxton and Dewey Redman were regarded as mavericks when they emerged on the scene yet many of their own compositions and pieces with which they were associated drew on the blues and gospel music and have passed into the standard jazz repertoire," says saxophonist and SNJO artistic director, Tommy Smith. "Ornette Coleman's *Lonely Woman*, for example, is played by jazz students and jazz musicians the world over."



Tommy Smith PHOTO Derek Clark

Where Rivers Meet consists of four specially arranged suites, each dedicated to one of the four saxophone heroes, and has drawn praise from across Europe, the US, Canada and Australia. In reviewing the album, the UK's leading jazz magazine, Jazzwise was moved to describe the SNJO as "a benchmark of excellence in British jazz" and online magazine Jazzviews asserted that Where Rivers Meet is "an absolutely magnificent recording."

Smith features as soloist in the Albert Ayler suite. Fellow saxophonists Konrad Wiszniewski, Martin Kershaw and Adam Jackson pay homage to Dewey Redman, Anthony Braxton and Ornette Coleman respectively.

"These are new arrangements, written by long-time associates of the orchestra, Geoffrey Keezer, Paul Harrison and Paul Towndrow, and myself," says Smith. "There are intricate elements as we negotiate orchestrations of what were essentially smaller band compositions but it's not a step into the unknown. Familiar themes including the ballad The Very

Thought of You, the spiritual Goin' Home, which informed Dvorak's New World Symphony, and even When the Saints Go Marching In all feature. We have a ball playing "the Saints" and hope the audiences will enjoy it as much as we do."

[TICKETS HERE.](#)



Tommy Smith in Dunblane Cathedral