



## PARTISANS LONG BAND BIOGRAPHY

Since their formation in 1996 **Partisans** have been thrilling audiences the world over with their ferociously energetic performances of tightly knit themes and with great freedom coming from their years of playing together. Hailed as breaking the ground for the new wave of British jazz in the late 1990s and described by **BBC Radio Jazz on 3** as 'One of the most exciting all star experimental groups in Jazz today' Partisans is co-led by two of the preeminent musicians of their generation, **Phil Robson** (guitars) and **Julian Siegel** (tenor sax & bass clarinet), the quartet's line-up is completed by **Thaddeus Kelly** (bass) and **Gene Calderazzo** (drums). Partisans are real band – known for bridging the gap between New York Swing, European Improv and UK Rock, the band has developed a distinctive sound of its own where the combination of each member's influences feeds a genuine creative spark generating huge excitement and energy.

"Partisans present some of the most refreshing music I've heard in a long while, uncompromising, very well written and very well played. It demands serious attention. I hear in these players a sense of common purpose and resolve, and a strong command of a dialect uniquely suited to this music. It's heartening to hear music that looks to find its own particular place." **Steve Swallow**.

The richly lyrical and strongly melodic compositions written by Robson and Siegel provide the framework and starting point, underpinned by the rock solid, freewheeling and supercharged rhythm section of Kelly and Calderazzo. Their critically acclaimed new album '**Swamp**', released in September 2014 on **Whirlwind Records** pumps their groove-based sound with viscous voodoo, Hi-Life romps, burning post bop, no messin rock outs and heavy hooks, leaving plenty of room for the melodic and lyrical to sweeten the ear.

With years of touring around the globe and a cult following in their native UK, Partisans have released five albums to date: 'Partisans' (1997 EFZ), 'Sourpuss' (2000 Babel), 'Max' (2005 Babel), 'By Proxy' (2009 Babel) and '**Swamp**' (Whirlwind 2014). In June 2014 Partisans were selected by the UK organisation **Jazz Services** to play in the '**Made in the UK**' series of showcases at the **Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival**. The band followed this prestigious gig with a major tour of USA and Canada playing at International Jazz Festivals in **Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal**, plus gigs in **Toronto**, Wayne Horvitz's 'Royal Rooms' in **Seattle** and two shows at **Dizzy's Coca Cola Jazz Club** in **NYC**. Autumn/Winter '14 has seen the band on a major UK tour including sold out gigs in the **EFG London Jazz festival** and the **Marsden Jazz festival**, plus an invite to play the opening gig of the **Tampere Jazz Happening** in **Finland**

"Everything from African and Caribbean influences to modernistic expansions of the jazz tradition and, when the group rocks out, doing so with complete and utter authority and credibility...an inimitable style that seems to get better every time"  
**John Kelman, allaboutjazz (Ottawa Jazz Festival 2014)**

"An eclectic treat. This is an album to get swept up and along in—filmic, rhythmic and inventive throughout it rarely settles for the obvious, expected path and it repays concentrated listening with countless new discoveries."

**4 Stars, All About Jazz**

Anne Rigg – Right Tempo

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"Eighteen years on from their debut, this *mélange* of mischievous stylish mash-up and virtuosic energy doesn't get old. If anything Robson, Siegel, Kelly and Calderazzo are reaching new heights." **4 stars, MOJO Magazine No#4 Jazz Albums of the Year**

"A fantastically coherent and broad-ranging album... Swamp swings, grooves, rocks and broods... A standout album from a band who continue to make a huge impression on the jazz scene both at home and abroad."

### **Jazz UK**

"Reaffirms their standing as one of the most rewarding bands anywhere."

### **London Jazz**

"Partisans have long been regarded amongst those first founders who paved the way for the Capital's fervent Post Jazz scene and on their latest long player 'Swamp' they sound as dynamic as ever."

**Mercury Prize** Recommended new release

16-10-14

"Phil Robson's inventiveness on the guitar is unstoppable, and the band's melodies have a gripping shape and direction. Partisans have been together for nearly two decades, and on the evidence of this album could easily run for two more."

**4 Stars, The Telegraph**

"A very accomplished album with some world class ensemble playing throughout." **4 Stars, Marlbank**

"When it comes down to it, this is just a band that loves playing; and this is an album you'll love listening to." **4 Stars, Jazzwise Magazine Top Ten Albums of the Year**

"Partisans are one of the most consistently inventive and original bands..their edgy, energised sound and creative and imaginative improvisations have been a major influence on the UK's burgeoning "prog-jazz" scene, and their palpable sense of collective engagement in the music never wavers."

**4 Stars, The Scotsman**

"Restless, almost reckless energy... delirious listening... consistently thrilling." **BBC Music Magazine**

"Intelligent, varied and often dazzling." **The Evening Standard**

'One of the most exciting all star experimental groups in Jazz today' **BBC Radio Jazz on 3**

Partisans were the highlight of the festival, jazz that makes you blink in its glare'- **John Fordham, The Guardian, Cheltenham Jazz Festival**

"These Guys Are Super Badass!" **Vancouver International Jazz Festival – June 2014**

Anne Rigg – Right Tempo

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'This is a very exciting time for British jazz and Partisans are one of the prime reasons for this.' **Birmingham Post**

“Partisans are that very good thing, an unclassifiable band.” **Jazzwise**

"Indie Jazz British Super Group"

**Bebop Spoken Here**