

Thursday 19 March 2026
7.30pm
Milton Court Concert Hall



Guildhall Jazz Orchestra: Modern Masters

directed by Scott Stroman

Milton Court Concert Hall

Please make sure that digital devices & mobile phones are silenced during the performance.

Eating is not permitted in the auditorium. Drinks are allowed inside the auditorium in polycarbonates.

Filming or recording of the performance is not permitted.

Latecomers will be able to enter the auditorium at a suitable break in the performance.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Founded in 1880 by the City of London Corporation.

Chair of the Board of Governors

The Hon. Emily Benn

Principal

Professor Jonathan Vaughan FGS

Vice-Principal & Director of Music

Armin Zanner FGS

Digital Programme

To access our digital programme, scan the QR code or visit: guildhall-programmes.co.uk/modern-masters



Programme

Bob Brookmeyer *Seesaw*

Lucy Joy *I Thought I Saw You*

Benny Seebaran *Coloured Contortions* (arr. Louis Lameck)

Bob Brookmeyer *Sweetie*

Will Everitt *Concrete Smiles*

Interval (20 minutes)

Jack Murray *Check It*

Bob Brookmeyer *Fireflies*

Finn Genockey *The Carried Song*

Bob Brookmeyer *King Porter '94*

Guildhall Jazz Orchestra

Alto Saxophone

Harris Dakin

Damian Bresnan

Tenor Saxophone

Emma Foulds

Roman Kirczenow

Baritone Saxophone

Max Lo (bass clarinet)

Trumpet/Flugel Horn

Luke Lane

Matt Smith

Benny Tayler

Lucca Fairhurst

Will Everitt

Trombone

Angus Grierson

Helena Kieser

Andy Leeming

James Talboys

Robbie Palmer (bass)

Guitar

Valentine Cheesbrough

Piano

Ben Charles

Sebastian Lee

Bass

Louis Gascoyne

Ed Boyd

Drums

Frank Hawkes

Taro Bariquelo

About

Bob Brookmeyer

Bob Brookmeyer (1929 – 2011) enjoyed a long career as a trombonist, composer, arranger and educator. He began playing clarinet at age eight and discovered jazz after hearing the Count Basie Orchestra. At age 13 he switched to trombone and soon began composing, teaching himself piano along the way. He later studied piano and composition at the Kansas City Conservatory, where he received the Carl Busch Award for Choral Composition in 1949. After three years at the Conservatory, Brookmeyer left Kansas City to perform at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago, where he met and played with such musicians as Tiny Kahn, Al Cohn and Frank Rosolino.

Following brief service in the US Army, Brookmeyer moved to New York in 1952 and worked as a freelance pianist and trombonist with bands led by Tex Beneke, Ray McKinley and Claude Thornhill, as well as with Coleman Hawkins, Ben Webster and Charles Mingus. While working with Thornhill he adopted the valve trombone, becoming one of the few professionals to favour the instrument. In 1953, while performing with the Stan Getz Quintet, he received the *DownBeat Magazine* New Star Award for trombone.

From 1954–57 Brookmeyer performed with Gerry Mulligan's ensembles and later rejoined Mulligan in 1960 as arranger and soloist for his Concert Jazz Band. He also collaborated with Bill Evans, performed with Thelonious Monk and co-led a quintet with Clark Terry.

In 1965 Brookmeyer became a founding member of the famed Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra, dividing his time between arranging and playing lead trombone. In April of the same year, he joined the Merv Griffin Show as staff musician but found the work especially dissatisfying. In 1968 he moved to the west coast and took a decade-long break from jazz recording. He returned to jazz in 1978 and later became an influential educator at institutions including the Manhattan School of Music and the New England Conservatory. Brookmeyer was named an NEA Jazz Master in 2006.

Scott Stroman director

Scott has been a Professor in the Jazz Department at Guildhall School of Music & Drama since 1983 and was made a Fellow of Guildhall School in 1988. US-born but long based in London, he is a composer, conductor, singer, trombonist and educator, and Director of the London Jazz Orchestra, Eclectic Voices and Artistic Director of Highbury Opera Theatre (HOT). As a trombonist, singer and conductor he has performed with numerous jazz and world music artists including Youssou N'Dour, Goran Bregovich, Ramamani, Phil Collins, Billy Cobham, Dizzy Gillespie, Kenny Wheeler, Dave Liebman, Norma Winstone, Bobby Wellins and Rufus Reid. He conducts baroque to contemporary music with orchestras, choirs and opera in the UK and Europe and directed the London Philharmonic Orchestra's innovative cross-genre Renga and Hit Squad ensembles.

With the Guildhall Jazz Orchestra he directed the first European performances of all of the Gil Evans – Miles Davis collaborations, created and directed new versions of Coltrane's *Africa/Brass*, Ellington's *Second Sacred Concert* and Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers' *Moanin'*, George Russell's *New York*, and the first live performance, since Miles Davis recorded it with the Danish Radio Orchestra in 1989, of Palle Mikkelborg's *Aura*.

A prolific composer, he has written numerous works for jazz ensemble, choir, orchestra and the stage and recently premiered his second opera, *The Weekend*, based on the book by Michael Palin. He received a BASCA gold badge award for services to music from the Ivors Academy in 2018.