



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Renowned UK Jazz band Empirical come to Bridgwater with free popup gig

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The phenomenal must-see jazz quartet Empirical will be popping up at [The Engine Room](#) Bridgwater this September 1st & 2nd for a two day residency of free performances.

The band Known for both their trailblazing style and respect for jazz traditions will be taking over **Studio One of The Engine Room**, playing 13 heavily improvised sets over two days. **The performances will be completely free** and open for the public to drop in at any point.

FRIDAY

11am

12.30 pm & 1.15pm

3.30pm & 4.15pm

8.00 pm & 8.45 pm

SATURDAY

12.30 pm & 1.15pm

3.30pm & 4.15pm

8.00 pm & 8.45 pm

'Its not often that we get to see genuinely cutting edge music performances of this quality here in the South West - let alone Sedgemoor. We are very excited to be hosting one of the very best contemporary Jazz bands working today, and to present them in a more friendly and accessible environment than a traditional jazz club, totally free of charge! I hope everyone with the curiosity to experience something new will take

advantage of this opportunity and come on down to the Engine Room to hear this amazing band.'

Seed Director Scott O'Hara

About the band

Formed in 2007, the multi award-winning quartet **Empirical** Features **Nathaniel Facey** (alto sax), **Tom Farmer** (double bass), **Lewis Wright** (vibraphone) and **Shaney Forbes** (drums), Empirical's instrumentation has proved the perfect vehicle for the band's invariably complex compositions and distinctive signature sound. 'Flirting with nostalgia while living on the edge of experimentation' (Jazzwise), Empirical's music is defined by a deep commitment to improvisation and a uniquely collective creative process.

In keeping with their risk-taking approach to music-making, in 2016 the quartet embarked on a daring exercise in audience creation with their 'Pop-up Jazz Lounge' residency project, which has seen the band turn disused shops in train stations and shopping malls in London, Berlin, Birmingham, Cheltenham and Bath into fully-fledged jazz clubs, for a week at a time. Since then, the band has played to more than 10,000 appreciative commuters and shoppers, racking up over 150 live sets in the process. For Empirical, this kind of gigging marathon is a much-relished opportunity to develop new musical ideas during live performance such as their two-part EP set entitled *Indifference Culture* and *Distraction Tactics*.

Their most recent release, the 2022 EP *Like Lambs*, features three unconventional long-form pieces by drummer Shaney Forbes. The EP's title track poses the philosophical question whether, as humans, we are truly capable of independent thought - or are we all like lambs to the slaughter?

With their characteristic interplay between composed and improvised parts, Empirical once again demonstrate their masterful ability to inhabit contrasting emotional states in their playing.

Recent touring has included shows at the Purcell Room at London's Southbank Centre and at Ronnie Scott's jazz club, as well North America shows at Rochester Jazz Festival, Rhizome in DC, Dizzy's Club NYC and at Edmonton International Jazz Festival. In 2020, Empirical were *Nimmo Artists in Residence* at the renowned Wiltshire Music Centre (WMC).

A new full-length album is planned for release in 2023.

'We wanted to take [Jazz music] away from Jazz clubs, which tend to be a certain kind of audience...We want to bring our music to the people of the UK'

Tom Farmer (Double Bass) speaking on the popup Jazz lounge concept



'Empirical are among the most admired and individual-sounding bands in contemporary jazz. [...] As anyone who has heard the band live will know, their approach is so fresh and their sound so appealing that there's never a dull moment.'
(*The Observer*)

Full size Images to accompany this release can be downloaded via:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11kSX2htrTLt9-qEjgqoS_c_CzLjsFy9

A video on Empirical's previous popup shows here:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=IHAgIH03eGk>>

Don't forget to sign up to the [Seed Ebulletin](#) and follow us on Socials to be the first to know when more info is announced!

Seed Sedgemoor

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Seed is a Consortium of local organisations comprising:

Homes in Sedgemoor,
Community Council for Somerset,
Bridgwater Senior Citizens Forum,
Somerset Film; Young Somerset
and
Bridgwater Town Council.

We believe that arts, culture and creativity are not elite activities, but should be an ordinary part of everyday life, created by, with and for the people. This can be achieved in partnerships with artists in all forms of the creative arts, working in response to the collective imagination and reflecting the things that are important to the communities of Sedgemoor. We seek to make creative arts, culture and heritage part of everyday life in Sedgemoor by growing new opportunities for its people to participate, create and celebrate.

www.creativepeopleplaces.org.uk

www.artscouncil.org.uk/creative-people-and-places/creative-people-and-places-projects

If you would like further information about Seed, this announcement or to arrange an interview please contact Elliott Morgan via Elliott@seedsedgemoor.com or on ph. 07983404639

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