

PRESS RELEASE

Alex Hutton

Songs From The Seven Hills

33 Jazz

released July 23rd

Pianist **Alex Hutton** has been something of a well kept secret on the UK jazz scene until now. A musician's musician who has worked with the likes of Jim Mullen, Dave O'Higgins and Gilad Atzmon, Hutton also caught the ear of the late great Ronnie Scott, who described him as a '*Great British talent ... a wonderfully natural pianist*'. But the release of this his second album is set to bring Hutton a much wider audience.

Songs from the Seven Hills is an evocative, powerful, trio recording inspired by the landscapes and people of Hutton's native Sheffield, and finds Hutton distilling a myriad of influences from the melodic punk of the Stranglers and the music of Vaughan Williams to the more obvious influence of Keith Jarrett and McCoy Tyner whilst finding his own distinct voice.

The album finds Hutton deliberately exploring 'simple' but effecting melodies in the form of a loosely formed suite with each segment or tune reflecting a different mood or experience. Written as a journey or round trip, the pieces ease into each other with two recurring harmonic devices adding further cement to the suite, as does Hutton's use of recurring fragments of melody. Much of the music is inspired by Hutton's memories of growing up and early musical influences abound perhaps lending a certain 'English-ness' to his melodic lines

Like his contemporary Neil Cowley, Hutton might be a late arrival, but has a rich history. A pianist since the age of 5 (switching from Mandolin), Hutton has played folk, rock and soul as well as completing a BA Hons in History and Philosophy. But it was a stint living in New York that inspired him to play jazz and after relocating to London in the late 90s, Hutton won a scholarship to the Guildhall. **Songs From the Seven Hills** was recorded with his latest trio featuring American bassist Mike Janisch and fine Italian drummer Enzo Zirilli.

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