

REVIEW: Marialy Pacheco Trio plus Tin Men and the Telephone at Ronnie Scott's



The second band of the evening were of a definite stylish aesthetic that jazz often lacks. With Amsterdam-born pianist **Tony Roe** in a bright yellow shirt, France via UK bass player **Pat Cleaver** in blue, and Bulgarian drummer **Bobby Petrov** in red, the primary colour visual aspect was complete with a projected screen behind the band. Before the set, listeners were instructed to download the free app *Tinmendo* on their smart phones, using a temporary Wifi set up by the club.

The set was a mixture of humour and current affairs, with the first few tunes being musical adaptations to speeches from populist heads of state such as Kim Jong Un and Trump. The *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*-esque edge to the presentation drew laughter from the crowd. The audience were invited to choose on their phones which leader deserved to be 'eliminated by the aliens'.

There was a definite meme-like, viral video sense to the proceedings, as the band played along to a remixed video of Trump's 'build a wall' speech. In a democratic turn of events, audience members were also encouraged to take part in the compositional process by making beats and melodies on their phones, which were then shared to and liberally interpreted by the band.



Tin Men and the Telephone

Photo credit: Carl Hyde

Whilst the band's main appeal was their ingenious interplay with technology, they were also extremely tight rhythmically. The trio had evidently practised syncing their playing to the screen, and made it seem almost natural. At times, it was hard to tell whether they were responding to the electronics, or if they were triggering them: Roe's piano solo to a remixed tennis match was a case in point! It was fascinating to witness Petrov improvise a swing feel to a voicemail message, accompanied by a walking bassline from Cleaver, before easily slipping into hip hop grooves and the occasional disco beat. Roe and Cleaver were impressive in being able to jointly harmonize any crowd-sourced melody on the spot, even seemingly impossibly dissonant ones. Despite the focus on humour, Roe improvised a beautiful melodic accompaniment to an Erdogan speech, which was as sweet as it was exciting.

Overall, this was a refreshing, forward-looking take on jazz improvisation. Tin Men use humour, politics, technology, and strong visuals to engage an audience. I found it a very convincing and compelling mixture.

Ronnie Scott's are live streaming Tin Men tonight:
On [Facebook](#) - in [YouTube](#) and on the [club's website](#)

On Wednesday, August 23, 2017