



## Summer Jazz Festival: Fini Bearman

Tuesday 4 May 2021, 7.30pm

**Fini Bearman** vocals, tenor guitar, piano

**Robin Mullarkey** bass

**Zosia Jagodzinska** cello

**Tom Cawley** piano

**James Maddren** drums

*And We Climb*

*My Ideal*

*Empty*

*Endless Clouds*

*Talk*

*Beholden*

*Song 40*

*La Loba*

*Holding On*

Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Fini Bearman's fourth album *La Loba* came out in Autumn 2020 to glowing reviews from the UK press, including 4 \*\*\*\*s and Editor's Choice from Jazzwise – '*La Loba* marks Bearman out as one of contemporary music's most imaginative song stylists' (Peter Quinn) and Album of the Year (The Arts Desk). For this special gig, Fini comes together with Tom Cawley (piano), Robin Mullarkey (bass), Zosia Jagodzinska (cello) and James Maddren (drums) to perform this new material.

Spanning a wide range of musical textures and lyrical themes, *La Loba* is infused with world-wide influences, from American folklore, to stories of young children in East Berlin. These are songs about womanhood and childhood; looking for love and finding it; femininity, courage and the life-long journey towards individuation. As well as drawing luscious and vivid imagery, this new collection of songs is a celebration of all the dimensions of life as well as a call to arms – challenging the listener to stand up and find their own voice.

*'We all begin as a bundle of bones lost somewhere in the desert, a dismantled skeleton that lies under the sand. It is our work to recover the parts.'*

## Fini Bearman



Fini Bearman is a singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and composer who has built an impressive profile on the UK Jazz scene as both an imaginative and expressive soloist and as a side-woman. She tours regularly across Europe and notable performance venues include Ronnie Scott's, Sage Gateshead, the Barbican, A-Trane (Berlin), Café Mercedes Jazz (Valencia), Manzioli (Izola, Slovenia) and Dizzy's Club (Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York). Festival highlights include the London Jazz Festival, Manchester Jazz Festival, Berlin Jazz Festival, Jazz Voices in Lithuania and Voicingers in Poland. Fini has been supported by Arts Council England and Help Musicians and has been nominated for awards including London Jazz Singer of the Year (Global Music Foundation).

She has performed with world-class musicians, notably Bobby McFerrin (VOCABularies album launch, London Jazz Festival), Kenny Wheeler (recording the album *Mirrors Suite*, Edition Records), Guillermo Klein, Jon Hendricks, Kenny Werner, Liane Carroll, Norma Winstone and Liam Noble.

As a collaborator, her music ranges from the re-imagining of much-loved material such as Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess* (with Matt Calvert, Ross Stanley, John Blease and Jon Cox), and the songs of David Bowie (*This is Not America*, together with Tom Cawley and Calum Gourlay), to original music projects such as Tom Cawley's *Catenaccio*, voice-synth duo The Bear and the Fish, Raph Clarkson's avant-garde, highly improvised large ensemble the Dissolute Society, and Midnight Radio with pianist Tom Hewson – songs and musical impressions inspired by Salman Rushdie's novel, *Midnight's Children*.

Fini's music has regular radio play including on BBC Radio 2, 3 and 4, Jazz FM, Hoxton Radio, and she has given live radio performances on 'Inspirit' with Jumoke Fashola on BBC London, 'In Tune' on BBC Radio 3, and on BBC Radio 2 with Aled Jones, BBC Kent, Resonance FM, Jazz Radio Berlin and BR-Klassik (Munich).

Since working in higher education, Fini has delivered masterclasses, workshops and 1:2:1 tuition at Goldsmiths, University of London, Leeds Conservatoire, Jazzlines (Birmingham), City, University of London, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance, Trinity Laban and Berklee College of Music (Valencia).

Fini joined Guildhall in 2017, and teaches jazz voice and song writing. She studied jazz and classical voice at Guildhall, before going on to complete a Masters in performance and composition from the Jazz Institute Berlin (2009).

This performance took place on Wednesday 21 May 2021 in Milton Court Concert Hall and was recorded and produced live by Guildhall School's Recording & Audio Visual department.