

# Editorial

*Nicolas Pillai and Katherine Williams*

Welcome to the first issue of *Jazz Research Journal* under its new editorship. We wish to begin by paying tribute to the departing editors Catherine Tackley and Tony Whyton. Under their supervision the journal has been a driving force in UK jazz studies, transforming the landscape and inspiring a whole generation of researchers. By welcoming various disciplinary approaches, consecutive volumes of the journal have broadened our sense of what jazz studies can be. In addition, Tony and Catherine have been active in their encouragement of young researchers, helping to create a community of scholarship in the UK which is envied internationally. We have been beneficiaries of this kindness throughout our academic careers and we hope to continue their example of collegiality in our new roles.

Sadly we are also saying goodbye to Peter Elsdon, the journal's reviews editor, and wish to warmly thank him for his contributions. Taking his place from the next issue onwards is Will Finch (University of Bristol). Will has expressed an ambition to broaden the scope of the reviews section while retaining the scholarly rigour that Peter has fostered and we are excited to see what he offers to us in future issues.

The invitation to take on responsibility for *Jazz Research Journal* prompted many unhurried and in-depth telephone conversations between us before we accepted. As major changes were taking place in our family lives, were we ready to take a lead on this august publication and, if we were (a big if), what would our presence add? As researchers, we have been privileged to witness and participate in a moment when our discipline has become more adventurous, more diverse and arguably more prominent within not just the humanities but the public understanding. The old barriers that have persistently divided practice and research seem to be eroding—encapsulated nicely by the concurrence of Corey Mwamba's PhD award with his debut as a presenter-producer of BBC Radio 3's *Freeness*. If we were to help *Jazz Research Journal* along on the next step of its journey, we resolved that the publication must reflect these changes.

This editorial, then, is a first opportunity to set out our stall. We won't always get it right and no doubt our ambitions will develop and change. But here are some foundational principles guiding us now. We are committed to intersectionality and inclusion. We are committed to scholarship that is fearless and politically conscious. We are committed to a jazz studies that belongs to the world rather than to nations. We are committed to shaping the discussion in ways that provoke reflection, innovation and joy.

Over to you.