

# Coventry Telegraph

PREVIEW TO PERFORMANCE AT BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL

RUSH HOUR BLUES - 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007

## Join rush to hear a new star

*Jazz With Martin Longley*

CARDIFF keyboardist **Dave Stapleton** has suddenly become one of the fastest-rising young jazz names in the UK.

He will be bringing his dynamic quintet to Birmingham Symphony Hall today as part of the Rush Hour Blues series.

Admission is free and there is a slightly earlier start time of 5pm to fit in Stapleton's bulging-to-bursting bag of original tunes.

He released an album at the beginning of this week on his own **Redeye** label, which was founded in 2003, and is clearly a motivated self-publicist, as organised and thrusting as is his own music.

He also issued a two-CD live set of Keith Tippett's large Tapestry ensemble only a few months back, so his energies aren't just limited to his own output.

The House Always Wins has been picking up a hot set of reviews and Stapleton has been appearing at most of this year's major jazz festivals.

**Stapleton** plays both acoustic and electric pianos, which allows massive contrast between sensitive dappling and thundering distortion, from chamber jazz to prog-rock riffing.

His horn front-line duo are equally impressive. Reedsman **Ben Waghorn** will reel out an intense barnstormer of a solo and trumpeter **Jonny Bruce** will follow it in a more surreptitious way, muted and stalking with great subtlety.

Stapleton's music crushes up soul, blues, salsa and folkish themes, and is always filled with ideas.

He will create tranquil space for solos, then gallop off into a patch of dense activity, maybe followed by a pulsatingly-exposed bass solo from **Paula Gardiner**.

That just leaves drummer **Elliot Bennett** to complete this highly-recommended band.

**[www.davestapleton.com](http://www.davestapleton.com)**

Order you copy of 'The House Always Wins' from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)