

# Joan Vidal Sextet



Joan Vidal, *drums and compositions*

Gabriel Amargant, *tenor and clarinet*

Martí Serra, *tenor and soprano sax*

Marco Mezquida, *piano*

Adrià Plana, *electric guitar*

Miguel Serna, *acoustic bass*

Joan Vidal Sextet is a project started in London in 2008 when Vidal, while studying at the Royal Academy of Music, decides to put together an ensemble with five young musicians from the British scene to perform his original music, which combines the traditional jazz style with the avant-garde of the European jazz (Kenny Wheeler, Django Bates or John Hollenbeck).

Now, based again in Barcelona, Vidal decides to reunite the ensemble with raising stars from Barcelona's scene. After performing at the 606 Jazz Club in London, the Granollers Jazz Festival and Barcelona's International Jazz Festival, the band has recorded his first CD with *Quadrant Records* label which was released in January 2012. The CD, "*Depford Suite*", is a live recording of Joan Vidal's jazz suite based on the literary trilogy by the great Canadian writer Robertson Davies. The sextet is now preparing their second recording, a homage to György Ligeti's musical world called *Illusionary Rhythms*.

More info [www.joanvidaljazz.com](http://www.joanvidaljazz.com)

# Projects

## Deptford Suite (2011)



### *The art of daring*

“Unique” defines the work you have in your hands: a circular suite which begins and ends with a penetrating sequence, masterfully led by the great pianist Marco Mezquida. In between, we embark upon a voyage that is at times refined, at others poetically terrifying. A journey with nods in the direction of what we could call contemporary jazz, towards the so-called avantguard – which people prefer to refer to as the periphery, or the world of ECM – to the *Sweet Time Suite* of Kenny Wheeler, for example.

But beyond any analogy, the great individuality of Vidal’s work is to be found in the excellent combo which accompanies him: the saxophonist Gabriel Amargant and Josh Arcoleo – a British recruit – spin spiral forms of extraordinary beauty, the pianist Mezquida and also the British player Alex Munk, on guitar, clothe the passages of this adventure exquisitely, the bass Miguel Serna gives skilful underpinning to the undulating rhythm of each piece, and Vidal on drums accompanies with subtlety, in the style of an *ad hoc* orchestra conductor, the meandering rivers and, at certain moments, the gullies, which occur in this monumental suite. Visions, melodies, harmonies, passages, landscapes, details, climates of a suite in which everything flows; of the work of a jazzman who is possibly the most daring of the new generations.

**Martí Farré (Jazz critic)**

To listen to Deptford Suite on Spotify [click here](#)

To watch the Deptford Suite première videos [click here](#)

For more information about Joan Vidal Sextet visit [www.joanvidaljazz.com](http://www.joanvidaljazz.com)

***“This is mature writing from a truly individual voice.”***

*Pete Churchill - Head of Jazz Composition at the Royal Academy of Music*



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## Illusionary Rhythms (2012)



Illusionary Rhythms is a tribute to the Hungarian composer, György Ligeti – a key figure in the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century music. Ligeti who, throughout his life, suffered the misery of the post-war period, the holocaust, and exile, is in my opinion, one of the most sincere and lucid composers of the last century.

When people such as Luciano Berio or Karlheinz Stockhausen were de-constructing western musical tradition, creating movements such as electronic or serialism, begun by Schonberg, Ligeti searched for a compromise between continuity and innovation.

The works of Ligeti draw on influences as diverse as the music of Johannes Ockeghem or Conlon Nancarrow, fractal geometry, the music of the Central African Republic, or the nationalism of Béla Bartók.

From this eclectic conjunction of influences is born the music of Illusionary Rhythms – a CD which aims to be, not an exhaustive compilation of Ligeti's work, but only a review of the different creative stages of this composer.

"Illusionary Rhythms" was recorded in December 2012 and will be released in April 2013 by JazzGranollers Records thanks to grant given to Joan Vidal by the Catalan Government.

To listen to Illusionary Rhythms on Spotify [click here](#)

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*" [Illusionary Rhythms] means a new firm step in Vidal's composing style as well as as a leader of his own sextet, facing new and more difficult challenges without losing the formal coherence of his last recording"*

Joan Cortès—Tomajazz Magazine



Joan Vidal Sextet has received the following **nominations and awards**:

- **Awarded Best Jazz Composer** for Deptford Suite by the Catalan Jazz Musicians Association 2012
- **Nominated for Best Jazz Band** by the Catalan Jazz Musicians Association 2012
- **Nominated for Best Jazz Album** (Deptford Suite) by the Catalan Jazz Musicians Association 2012
- Deptford Suite was selected as **one of the five best Spanish recordings of 2012** by Cuadernos de Jazz Magazine.

