



**JOHN SURMAN:
THE BELTING ZODIAC
BY MIKE PEARSON**

THE BRAND NEW BOOK
FROM MIKE PEARSON
ON THE LIFE AND WORK
OF THE CELEBRATED
BRITISH SAXOPHONIST JOHN
SURMAN

This book is about one of the finest jazz musicians to have emerged outside America since the second world war. John Surman is an outstanding instrumentalist (clarinet, soprano and baritone saxophone), composer and quietly original maker of new music.

From his beginnings as a prize winning choir boy, through the years as a belting soloist on the London Jazz scene, to his exploitations of native roots and early English music, Surman has worked with steady conviction to make outstanding music. He has also been part of a wider evolution whereby notations of what jazz is have come under pressure and the creative conflict has stimulated the making of newer sounds less tethered to tradition of idiomatic limits

His story therefore takes us beyond England and beyond the most inclusive definitions of Jazz. He has composed 'Straight' classical works and made music with traditional English musicians. However his nationality and 'Englishness' are essential aspects of his story because he was formed here and took his heritage into the world of Jazz.

Mike Pearson

FEATURING:

**OVER 260 PAGES.
PHOTOGRAPHS**

**NEVER BEFORE SEEN MATERIAL
FROM THE SURMAN FAMILY**

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