

# THE PRICKLE

Taking centre stage on a cold EFG London Jazz Festival night at London's Cardogan Hall, Chico Freeman Plus+tet simmered as they cooked up a sumptuous set emboldened by a terrific score off of his new album: Spoken into Existence.

After a sensual start to the night, Freeman's trademark pink blazer began to glow a fiery red as the heat from Mike Baker's rattling rose bronze cymbals and the warm, sonorous noise of Kenny Davis' golden-brown double bass forged a layer of sound that animated the entire hall. The brilliant Luke Carlos O'Reilly's piano accompanied Chico's smooth saxophone perfectly and brought the concert back into ice-cold-cool for which Chico Freeman is known.

The only issue quickly became a non-issue thanks to Chico's pragmatic and playful style. A recurring cough throughout was transformed from problem to percussion and personified why he is still a key player on the jazz scene. A point reaffirmed by an astounding rendition of Erika's Reverie; and an overall set emblazoned with a passion for what he was doing.

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