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JAZZ

THE IMPOSSIBLE GENTLEMEN

The Impossible Gentlemen

(Basho Records)

Meet an Anglo-US supergroup with a twist, in that the Anglo half, pianist [Gwilym Simcock](#) and guitarist Mike Walker, are the frontline stars in their professional prime while the Americans, bassist Steve Swallow and drummer Adam Nussbaum, are the respected veterans in supporting roles.

The Brits also contribute all but one of the quartet's eight fine originals. Some are chamber-like, others hard-driving, but the standard of improvisation and all-round musicianship is superb throughout. Simcock's versatility is no secret but Walker is a revelation, covering all bases from the cool neobop intensity of *Laughter Lines* to the warm chorded balladry of *Wallender's Last Stand* and the hot Santana-like lyricism of *You Won't Be Around to See It*. The day he forsakes his beloved Salford for [London](#) or New York, other guitarists should look out. The gifted Gentlemen's album-launch tour calls at Pizza Express, Dean Street, on Monday.

[JACK MASSARIK](#)