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**From the editor**

It's a sign of the burgeoning academic currency of jazz that this year the EFG London Jazz Festival has added Professor George Mackay to its lineup. He isn't a professor of music but of media studies and has "curated" for the LJF a set of discussions on politics, power and history. (In fact he says "discussions around questions of politics, power and history" but we know what he means.) People who enjoy jazz might wonder why. He says: "For a music that talks a lot about freedom, these are key questions to debate." He should know because he had a head start back when the idea that jazz means freedom was taking off. According to his website he was in the womb when his mum and dad, rather than joining the rush to the exit, moved to the more expensive seats emptied by what he calls the "cacophony" of the Coltrane quintet in Glasgow in 1961. One might imagine Philip Larkin among the exodus, perhaps vacating one of those very seats. About a decade later he wrote *This Be The Verse*, with its melancholy observations about parenting and the propagation of misery.

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Cover: Joshua Redman by Markus Fägersten

