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with Laura Dale and Emma Percy

MUSIC

# Hugely talented band of brothers

BREAD AND CIRCUSES ALBUM LAUNCH

Neil Maya Quartet, Seven Stars, Totnes

☆☆☆☆

YOU'D be hard pushed to find a better sounding quartet in this neck of the woods — or any other for that matter.

One of the joys of the hugely talented Neil Maya and his merry band of brothers is that they are home grown in the South Hams.

As such, not only did they choose Totnes to launch their second album, *Bread and Circuses*, but the town also features heavily in the mix.

On Sunday, Neil and fellow composer Tom Unwin took time to explain the images behind the songs.

Whether reflecting on the imagery or simply listening to the tracks on their own merit, most have great depth and are performed with great tenacity.

The track *Welcome to the Circus* is broken up into many different parts, exploring the

complexity and contradictions of the town.

*La Fiesta* is a fiery number, followed by some interesting interpretations of more traditional fodder *Greensleeves* and *Israel*.

Marcus Vergette on double bass, Nick Carter on drums, Tom Unwin on piano and Neil leading the charge makes for a creative and accomplished combination.

Such was the quality you'd have expected a larger turnout.

Let's hope they don't move further afield for the next launch — the word is out now.

For more information and copies of the album, log on to [www.neilwayaquartet.co.uk](http://www.neilwayaquartet.co.uk)

JONPAUL HEDGE

