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From the editor

A piece in the *Guardian* (bit.ly/2nHFapu) talks (yet again) about "a new jazz" in the UK, based on "cross pollination". Yet while many new players and bands are appearing and being hyped on an industrial scale (remember the advent of "the jazz industry" in the wake of cool Britannia about a decade ago?), those with somewhat educated ears will be able to analyse and find in this new wave little variation on the organic orgy of interbreeding that characterised, roughly, the years 1960-1990. This year's dance beats may introduce a little difference of timbre, perhaps some novel decoration, but in musical substance, surely not much you haven't heard over and over. Genre-blends are hailed today as new as if the melting pot of the 70s/80s had never happened. Why? Amnesia (or plain ignorance) is useful for arts pros in search of new angles, and jazz has become the go-to analogue for cultural diversity. But industriousness and right-thinking don't equal creativity. If jazz is truth, commentators need to be far more circumspect and honest about the music.

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