



Esto. nian Jaz z

2023/24



Jazz
Estonia
jazz.ee

The aim of Jazz Estonia is to develop and promote Estonian jazz music both at home and abroad. Jazz Estonia organises concerts and thematic events, collects and shares information about Estonian jazz music and musicians, supports cooperation between musicians and organisations and searches for financial resources for promoting jazz music.

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«Small country, big jazz!»

– John Cumming

Greetings, jazz lover!

You hold in your hands a compilation album with 29 tracks from the most active Estonian jazz musicians. Only 1.3 million people live in Estonia; it's extraordinary how much music has been created by so few. And what's more: very diverse music! This record is a sampling of that rich and surprising output. May you find in it some new favorite artists and many hours of listening pleasure. Enjoy!

Yours truly,
Jazz Estonia

Listen here!



CD1

The background of the image is a vibrant red color. It features a series of overlapping, wavy, concentric bands in various shades of red and white. These bands create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized, abstract landscape or a series of ripples. The overall effect is dynamic and visually striking.

Kristjan Randalu

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Kristjan Randalu belongs to the most sought-after pianists of his generation, carrying the torch in both the improvised world of jazz and the traditional realm of classical music. Following his ECM debut «Absence», Randalu's recent outing with the New Wind Jazz Orchestra, «Sisu» (Whirlwind Recordings) won «Jazz Album of the Year» at the Estonian Music Awards 2023.

Established in 2018 by Lauri Kadalipp, the **New Wind Jazz Orchestra** (NWJO) is the leading professional 17-piece concert big band in Estonia. Presenting a diverse mix of repertoire, from big band classics to innovative cross-genre premieres, the orchestra has collaborated with notable figures such as John Riley, Kristjan Randalu, Ingrid Jensen, Ben Monder, Ola Onabulé and the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, to name just a few.



See Pole See Trio

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See Pole See Trio upcycles 60s Estonian pop music into multi-layered textiles. Imagine Estonian language, tenor saxophone with live-electronics, bass and accordion. Add modern improvisation, Nordic aesthetics and direct expression rooted in the «upcoming and unknown», as well as intimacy of silence.



TamTam

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TamTam is the captivating duo of Estonian vocalist Anett Tamm and bass guitarist Karl Tammaru. Their main strengths lie in their distinctive fusion of jazz and indie music and striving for a minimalistic approach without compromising compositional versatility. In 2023 TamTam released their debut album «Slumber Picture».



Ara Yaralyan

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Ara Yaralyan is a bass player and composer. Besides his own trio he also plays in the jazz guitar trio Sooäär/Yaralyan/Ounaskari, performing frequently in Estonia and abroad. He has shared the stage with many internationally known musicians, such as Ingrid Jensen, Kari Ikonen, Vardan Ovsepien.



Janno Trump

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Janno Trump is one of the most esteemed bass players of the younger generation in Estonia. He is primarily active as a jazz musician, but has also performed and recorded with a wide variety of pop and rock artists. Trump has written music for both smaller jazz ensembles and big bands; he has been the artistic director of several major music projects and is the leader of the groups JT Conception and Janno Trump Clarity Ensemble. In 2023 he was awarded «Jazz Musician of The Year» in Estonia.



Joel Rimmel

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Joel Rimmel is one of the brightest pianists in the Estonian jazz scene, appreciated both as an ensemble partner and as a solo performer. He has been leading his ensemble Joel Rimmel Trio since 2011, which was awarded «Jazz Ensemble of the Year» in 2021. Their latest release «Kevad» won «Jazz Album of the Year» in 2022. Since winning «Jazz Musician of the Year» in 2020, Joel has focused more on his solo music. His latest album «Vaimustav Looja» is a tribute to the spiritual songs and hymns that have guided him through his life.



Elajannad

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Mingo Rajandi is an Estonian composer and double bass player based in Brussels. She leads several ensembles and works in interdisciplinary settings with actors, dancers, writers and visual artists. In her music, Mingo likes experimenting with various styles and forms, bringing together musicians from classical and improvised music backgrounds.

In 2022 she began working with theatre director and actress Eva Koldits on a performance called «Elajannad». Mingo composed an entire programme of music for this, which has now been recorded and released as an album. The band consists of Estonia's most esteemed musicians each bringing their unique voice to Mingo's music. Cinematic and expressive, this music is a journey through the complexity of a woman's life, its ups and downs, from hell to paradise.



Sooäär/Yaralyan/Ounaskari trio

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Sooäär/Yaralyan/Ounaskari trio was established in spring 2016 and they have so far released three albums: «A Shooting Star» (2018), «Goodbye July» (2020) and «Zula» (2023). In 2022 they were awarded «Jazz Ensemble of the Year».



Mathei Florea

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Mathei Florea's New Grounds is an eight-member Tallinn/Berlin based modern and Nordic jazz band founded and led by pianist Mathei Florea. A standard jazz quartet combined with strings becomes a musical delight, mixing modern jazz with classical music in compositions greatly inspired by Petros Klampanis and Arvo Pärt.



Anna Regina Kalk

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Anna Regina Kalk, guitarist and composer from Estonia, is also active in the Swiss music scene. She leads and plays in many formations such as EDNA, Kalk/Baillod/Kaeser, Noblique and Assonance. Her newest projects are the Tallinn-based ensemble Anemoon and the Tallinn/Bern-based group Anna Kalk Quartet which will record its debut album later this year. She is the winner of the Estonian Young Guitarist Award 2022.



LUUM

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Led by Estonian pianist, keyboardist and composer **Madis Muul**, the Tallinn-based ensemble **LUUM** is known for their cosmic, cinematic sound. Comprised of members Madis Muul (pianist and composer), Raimond Mägi (double bass), Karl-Juhan Laanesaar (drums) and Allan Järve (trumpet), LUUM's approach to music is mystical and picturesque, masterfully rendering lush sonic scenery.



Andre Maaker

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In collaboration with the **Prezioso String Quartet**, guitarist **Andre Maaker** is exploring and enjoying the rich sounds of classical guitar with a string quartet. It was love at first note! In addition to song-like pieces, Maaker has also composed a 40-minute work called «Old Church» for this ensemble.



Sofia Rubina

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Sofia Rubina is an energetic, colourful, cheery and optimistic singer seamlessly blending all your favourite genres with her band. Whether you are dancing in your kitchen or your local club, she is ready to join you there. Rubina's catchy tunes and infectious grooves have brought her to perform in different places around the world, from the famous Blue Note in New York to the far corners of Asia. Now she is eager to meet you next! Sofia released her new album «I Am Soul» in December 2023.



CD2

The background of the image is a vibrant red color. Overlaid on this red background are several large, flowing, wavy shapes in white and light red. These shapes resemble stylized waves or abstract organic forms, creating a sense of movement and depth. The white shapes have a slight gradient, appearing brighter in the center and darker towards the edges. The overall composition is dynamic and modern.

Maria Faust

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Maria Faust is one of the most celebrated jazz musicians from Estonia, currently living in Copenhagen, Denmark. She is best known for her work in the fields of experimental jazz and other alternative music styles. Faust is a multiple winner of Danish Music Awards (2014, 2017 and 2020) and Estonian Music Awards (2021 and 2023).



Peedu Kass

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Bassist and composer **Peedu Kass** is a household name in the Estonian music scene. Having been awarded «Jazz Composer of the Year», his recent commissions include a bass concerto for chamber orchestra, the opening concert of the 2022 Jazzkaar festival, «Ode To The Forest» and the performance of Peedu Kass Momentum featuring Bugge Wesseltoft as the guest artist.



Titoks

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Titoks' virtuosic, bright, technically demanding and attention-grabbing music combines the traditional sound with compositional methods rarely used in gypsy jazz. They take the listener on a journey in a time machine, exploring nostalgic melodies and lively swing rhythms from the 1930s while incorporating a modern spark.

Titoks has been active as an ensemble from 2016. Since then they have performed on over 110 different stages in more than 11 countries. In 2018 they recorded their debut album «When Day is Done» and in 2022 their second album «Titoks».



Kirke Karja

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Kirke Karja is a pianist and composer known for her distinctive harmonic musical language and experimental, uncompromising performances. She leads the Kirke Karja Quartet, Captain Kirke and the Klingons, Karja/Renard/Wandering, and has also performed several different programs for solo piano.



Kaspar Kalluste

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Kaspar Kalluste is a diverse and sought-after drummer, producer and composer who has been working for several years with the top names in Estonian jazz and pop scene. He has won «Young Jazz Talent» (2012) and was chosen to be a member of Estonian Dream Pop Group in 2013. His latest minimalistic and multi-layered album «Humanoid» mixes the hues of jazz with electronics.



Karl Petti

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Karl Petti is a guitarist and composer who favours composition over improvisation, simplicity over complexity, reverb over dryness, synthesizer over acoustic guitar and minor over major. In 2022 he formed a trio with Indrek Mällo on bass and Karl-Markus Kohv on drums.



Allianss

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Allianss is a jazzrock group from Tallinn, Estonia. Started by Karl Tammaru in early 2018, the band's objective is to create music with a distinctive touch of «weirdness.» These are tunes that are fun to play and listen to, while also inspiring movement. Allianss' music represents a harmonious blend of composed elements and improvisation, with a strong focus on detail and precision.



IHA

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IHA is a fusion of modern jazz, electronica, alternative rock and classical music. **Raimond Mägi** primarily plays bass guitar, double bass and electronics with various samplers, synthesizers, euroracks and effect pedals. With approximately 15 years of experience in music, Mägi finds continuous inspiration from the energy he derives from listening to rock, blues, metal and experimental music. He believes that the sincere expression of musicians is essential for infusing music with energetic intensity.



Rahel Talts

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Rahel Talts is an Estonian jazz pianist and composer who currently lives and studies in Denmark. As a leader or a band member she participates in several groups and projects, mainly in Denmark, Estonia and Lithuania. Talts leads the 14-member Rahel Talts Ensemble with whom they have also released an album. She enjoys performing traditional jazz and bebop, but is also very much into modern melodic jazz with Nordic, folk, gospel and fusion influences.



Maarja Aarma MA

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Maarja Aarma MA captures the attention of every audience. Soul, neo-soul, vocal pop and Scandinavian jazz have influenced their albums «Connected Through» (2019) and «Queenland» (2022). The beats, sounds and melodies of the band – Maarja Aarma (vocals), Janno Trump (bass), Madis Muul (piano, keys) and Dmitri Nikolajevski (drums) – guide the listener through powerful stories in music.



Faershtein

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«**Faershtein** is translated as firestone, and to me, this artist name is a symbol of energy and mystery of the first spark in each new idea,» says Aleksandr Žedeljov aka Faershtein.

Aleksandr Žedeljov is a composer, musician and producer. He has created chamber music, played in bands, collaborated with many artists, participated at theatre shows, film scores, fashion shows, media exhibitions and sound installations. He is the creator and producer of Modulshstein, Triophonix, Audiokinetica and many other temporary art projects.



Mingo Rajandi

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Mingo Rajandi is an Estonian composer and double bass player based in Brussels. She leads several ensembles and works in interdisciplinary settings with actors, dancers, writers and visual artists. In her music, Rajandi likes experimenting with various styles and forms, bringing together musicians from classical and improvised music backgrounds. In 2020 she was awarded «Jazz Composer of the Year» and she has also won the Estonian Theatre Award for best original music.

The five members of Mingo Rajandi Quintet, each with a strongly personal musical handwriting, together form a unified organism, the internal combustion of which in live concerts can rise to high temperatures.

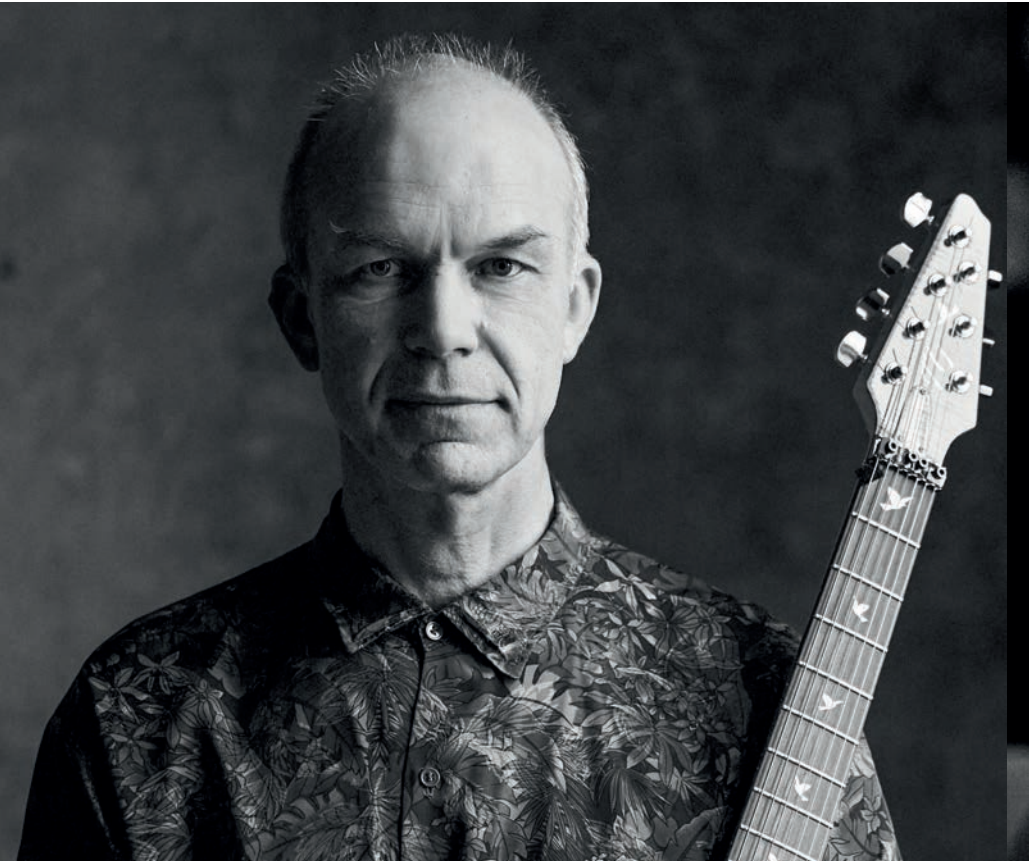


Robert Jürjendal

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Robert Jürjendal is an Estonian guitarist and composer. He has written music for mixed ensembles and choirs, but also for documentaries, art exhibitions and theatre productions.

Jürjendal has recorded over 60 albums and played with Weekend Guitar Trio, UMA, Markus Reuter, Tim Bowness, Jan Bang, Colin Edwin, Arve Henriksen, Jon Durant and Sandor Szabo among others.



Maria Väli

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Maria Väli is an Estonian jazz singer, composer, arranger and vocal coach. She is the soprano of an awarded a cappella ensemble Estonian Voices and also leads her own band Maria Väli Quartet. Väli has performed together with many internationally known bands and artists, Terje Bjørklund, Arve Henriksen, Take 6, Club For Five, Accent and Bobby McFerrin among others.



Siim Aimla

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Siim Aimla is a jazz musician, saxophonist, arranger, conductor and teacher. He studied in Metropolia University in Helsinki, Pop/Jazz Conservatory in Helsinki and the Estonian Music Academy. Aimla is the artistic director of Estonian Dream Big Band (since 2009) and leader of the Police and Border Guard Big Band (since 2006). He has released numerous albums, including «Pühendus» with Tafenau-Aimla Quintet, «Finest Groove» with Siim Aimla Quartet, «Mu süda, ärka üles» with Helin-Mari Arder and Siim Aimla Band and «Grab It!» with Liina Saar and Tallinn Riga Jazz Quartet.



Kalle Pilli Quintet

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Kalle Pilli Quintet is an Estonian jazz band formed in Tallinn in 2018. Their repertoire comprises a blend of jazz, pop, fusion and contemporary music genres, composed by the band leader, Kalle Pilli. In 2022 they released their debut album «Lantau».





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