

THIS

IS

IRISH

JAZZ



Scan for 30/30 Artist Playlist

Ireland's jazz scene is relatively small, with approximately 3000 concerts per year, but includes a number of well-respected small festivals and events, with some major events annually.

The jazz scene centres around the festival structure, with scenes primarily focused in major cities such as Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast and Sligo. Ireland's main jazz festivals include those in Bray, Limerick, Derry, Ballydehob, Cork, & Sligo along with the Dublin-based 12 Points & Spectrum festivals

Ireland is home to a number of innovative and skilled jazz musicians, with an undergraduate and post-graduate programme in jazz available at third-level. Ireland's jazz musicians are often seen crossing genre boundaries, also working in traditional, contemporary, and classical genres. Jam sessions are common, particularly in university cities such as Dublin and Cork, and are often hosted in pub venues which also programme jazz. A number of Irish jazz musicians also play frequently on international stages.

Ireland's main promoter & resource organisation for jazz - Improvised Music Company is celebrating 30 years of work this year by looking to the future, and supporting the musicians who are shaping the improvised music scene in Ireland in the years to come.

30 outstanding Irish improvising artists were selected for IMC's 30/30 programme this year - a year-long support programme and platform for their work. These artists showcase the huge range of improvised music in Ireland today. Some delve into the interpretation of life and humanity as material for songs, some work with the sounds of the environment in field-recordings, some explore elevated states of consciousness through music, some bring advocacy and activism into their art, and some draw inspiration from traditional music of Ireland, Romania, Indonesia, and India to name only a few.

Their common thread is a spontaneous element to their music. Improvisation means composing on the spot to one extent or another, and within their diverse styles, they share a sense of absolute presence in the moment as the music unfolds. Improvisatory music exists only in the now, between the artists and the audience - it can never happen in quite the same way again.

For music-lovers of any taste, there will be something to enjoy in this diverse pool of artists. Dive in and enjoy!

Scan to
check out
the artists





Aoife Doyle

AOIFE DOYLE

VOICE

"Aoife Doyle combines the guts and vulnerability of a blues singer with the poise and musicianship of a well-schooled jazz artist." The Irish Times

Aoife Doyle's unique, expressive voice is equally at home with soul, folk, blues or jazz and can evoke the sophisticated, velvet tones of Ella Fitzgerald, the earthy, sweet lyricism of Patsy Cline or the straight-up country clarity of Alison Krauss. Aoife studied jazz at Newpark Music Centre in Dublin and was established as an in-demand vocalist, but it was upon moving to the West Coast of Ireland that she found her songwriting voice.

Aoife's first album of original songs 'Clouds' was released in 2017. 'Infinitely Clear' is her second original album - a groovy, soulful mix of gospel, jazz and roots, with stomping brass arrangements, released in 2022 to wide acclaim, including Marty Whelan's 'Album Of The Week' on RTE Lyric FM, 'Album Of The Month' on The Acoustic Yard Radio Show, a 5-star Irish Times review. All four singles were crowned 'Track Of The Day' by Hotpress Magazine.

CLASSIC JAZZ

BLUES

CORMAC MCCARTHY

PIANO

Cormac McCarthy is a pianist, composer, arranger and conductor from Cork, Ireland. Noted for a diverse stylistic palette, and equally at home in a variety of genres, his music is said to “defy categorisation” (Lyric FM). In 2010, having completed his Masters degree in composition at the MTU Cork School of Music, Cormac received the prestigious Bill Whelan International Music Bursary for young Irish composers studying abroad. He spent a number of years living in Chicago, completing a Masters in Jazz Studies at DePaul University.

His compositions and arrangements have been performed and recorded by artists including Phil Woods, Jeff Hamilton, Mick Flannery, Martin Hayes, Andrea Corr, Niamh Regan, Dana Masters, Jack O'Rourke, The DePaul Jazz Ensemble, The RTÉ Concert Orchestra, The Irish Chamber Orchestra, The New Irish Jazz Orchestra and the Cork Opera House Concert Orchestra. As a pianist, he has performed extensively throughout Europe and the US, and continues to be in demand as a composer, arranger and orchestrator.

“...individualistic use of Irish traditional music with its lilting strictnesses and sudden bursts of passionate energy, introduced via a pronounced jazz filter ...excellent.” Marlbank.net

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

THIS IS IRISH JAZZ

Dan Walsh



DAN WALSH

DRUMS

Dan Walsh is a musician from Cork city, active as bandleader and composer in FIXITY, saxophonist in The Bonk, drummer with Junior Brother, one half of experimental electronic duo Senior Infants, director of The Council For The Dark Arts Orchestra and as collaborator with many other artists in various fields of intrigue.

In 2013, Dan founded Cork Improvised Music Club, collaborating with a large pool of artists from Ireland and abroad, exploring an approach to improvisation that now permeates all of his work. He went on to set up The Council For The Dark Arts, an 18-piece improvised music orchestra, in 2017.

Fixity is a group formed in 2015 as a home for his compositions, with a focus on collaboration and the interpretability by collaborators. To date, Fixity has put out 11 individual releases including 2 LPs on Penske Recordings. At present Dan is focusing on developing his practice further as a composer and multi-instrumentalist, while continuing to collaborate with an ever growing pool of artists.

"...endlessly interesting, pigeonhole-dodging tunes informed by a wide array of musical movements and ideas."

The Evening Echo

FREE IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

MATTHEW NOONE

SARODE

"Noone's compositions push and pull, bringing peace while challenging the mind. He lifts the listener to a different plane of existence." Folkradio.co.au

Matthew Noone is an Australian-Irish ex-indie rocker, improviser, composer and performer of the 25 stringed lute called sarode. After beginning his musical career as a guitarist in Brisbane, Matthew fell in love with the sarode during a trip to India in 2003. He has studied North Indian Classical music with Sougata Roy Chowdhury in Kolkata for almost two decades and more recently with UK based sarodiya, K. Sridhar. He has performed Indian classical music across the globe and composes in a diverse range of disciplines ranging from Irish traditional music, free improvisation and contemporary electroacoustic music.

He has collaborated with a host of artists such as Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill, Liam O Maonlai, Lisa Hannigan, Steve Cooney, K. Subramaniam, Debojyoti Sanyal, Catherine Sikora, Sean Mac Erlaine, Sean Tyrell and the Irish Gamelan Orchestra. He has released two albums with percussionist Tommy Hayes (An Tara) and three solo albums of contemporary material using sarode using loops, feedback, voice, electronics and ukulele.

WORLD/FOLK

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV



Matthew Noone



Niwel Tsumbu

NIWEL TSUMBU

GUITAR

Since arriving in Ireland in 2004 from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niwel Tsumbu has developed an enviable reputation as a masterfully elegant and fluent guitarist, vocalist, collaborator and composer. He has performed with the finest Irish and international musicians while continuing to craft his own distinctive fusion of new jazz, rhumba, flamenco, soukous and classical.

He has been hailed as “an exceptional guitar player” by Europe’s leading online Jazz magazine All About Jazz, creating music that “enchanted” [The Irish Times]. He performed and collaborated with Rhiannon Giddens and Francesco Turrisi on their Grammy Award winning album ‘They’re Calling Me Home’, to wide acclaim, and has collaborated with celebrated Irish folk musicians such as Sinéad O’Connor, Liam O’Maonlai, Donal Lunny, Glen Hansard, as well as international stars like Ma Xiaohui, Baaba Maal, and Nigel Kennedy.

Last year he released The Art of The Duo with long-time collaborator percussionist Éamonn Cagney, and continues to collaborate with a broad range of artists including contemporary classical group Crash Ensemble and composer Roger Doyle.

“An exhilarating guitar style that pulls from jazz, classical, rock, folk and rumba.” [Guitar.com](#)

FUSION

WORLD/FOLK

PAUL DUNLEA

TROMBONE

"A thoughtful and sensitive composer, with a gift for blending instruments to paint pictures in sound." *The Irish Times*

Although at home in a variety of musical styles, Cork Trombonist/Composer/Arranger, Paul Dunlea excels in jazz and improvisation. He directs a number of performance groups, most notably, his sextet and his big band, and is the director of the New Irish Jazz Orchestra.

Dunlea has performed/toured/recorded with the likes of Michael Bublé, Cassandra Wilson, Frankie Valli, Liam O'Maonlaoi, Mick Flannery, Richard Reed Parry (Arcade Fire), Bryce Dressner (The National), John Clayton, RTE Concert Orchestra, The Dublin City Jazz Orchestra and Hot House Big Band.

As well as writing for his own various groups and ensembles, Dunlea's compositions and arrangements have been performed by Martin Hayes, Larry McKenna, Tony Miceli, Stan Sulzmann, Julien Seigel, Camille O'Sullivan, Dana Masters, Jack O'Rourke, Brian Deady, The Frank & Walters, Band of An Garda Síochána, the Irish Defence Forces Bands, Cork School of Music Symphony Orchestra & CSM Wind Ensemble. He has also written/arranged for countless theatre productions, groups and recording artists.

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

FUSION



Top: Paul Dunlea

Bottom: Aengus Hackett

AENGUS HACKETT

Guitarist and composer Aengus Hackett has been a pivotal part of the jazz scene in the West of Ireland for more than 10 years, and is curator of the acclaimed JAZZGate series at the Black Gate Cultural Centre in Galway city.

Aengus studied jazz in New York and is a graduate of the prestigious Conservatory of Amsterdam, where he studied under world-renowned guitarist Jesse Van Ruller.

As a composer and producer, Aengus' original music draws on his diverse influences, combining elements of jazz, free improv, rock, electronica and folk. A versatile musician, his creative projects include explorations of Irish and Turkish folk music with vocalist Sanem Kalfa, and 'In Flow', a Javanese Gamelan ensemble with That's Life, award-winning arts program for adults with disabilities.

Under his producer alias 'Penji', Aengus has released an electronica EP to widespread acclaim. A follow-up release is planned for later this year, as well as his debut album with the Aengus Hackett Trio.

"One of the most proficient jazz guitarists in the country..."

The Connacht Tribune



Clockwise from top left: Cormac McCarthy, Eimear Reidy, Izumi Kimura, C.V. Lunny

BIANCA GANNON

PIANO

**"Extraordinary...inspiring...
a really special work..."**

ABC Classic, Australia

Bianca Gannon is a musician-composer who weaves together her extensive training in composition, improvised music, piano and Indonesian percussion. Her works are often immersive, multi-sensory, and investigative with social commentary.

Described by ClassikON as a "new music luminary", Bianca's compositions have been awarded the Pythia Prize and the Percy Grainger Award. Her album of improvisations 'with // without' (with her trio Impermanence) garnered four star reviews in the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, as did her performance with, and commission from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra - 'Utter Stutter Flutter' at the Myer Music Bowl.

Bianca's free improvisations and instant compositions traverse form and genre. The other-worldly extended harmonies and tunings of solo simultaneous piano + gamelan + singing bowls create an ethereal lyricism layered with pulsating difference tones.

FUSION

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

Bianca Gannon



EIMEAR REIDY

CELLO

Eimear is a cellist with a diverse musical practice ranging from Historical Performance Practice to Sound Art. Eimear has performed with ensembles throughout Europe in venues such as The Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vredenburg Utrecht, Symphony Hall Birmingham and Krakow Philharmonia

She is part of the Duo 'Whose Woods These Are' with Natalia Beylis, who released 'Whose Woods These Are' on Nyahh Records in 2021. They have performed at Cairde Festival, Hunters Moon, Echoes at The Castle and Test Site. Eimear's debut solo album 'Things That Happened at Sea' was written and recorded whilst on residency in Cill Rialaig, Co. Kerry and released on Nyahh Records in 2021.

Eimear is a keen improviser and collaborator, and has also written music for a variety of settings including theatre, art instillation and dance performances. She is part of a newly formed ensemble with musicians Mohammed Syf Khan and Cathal Roche with whom she will be performing and recording a selection of Arabic music arranged by Mohammed.

Cork-based cellist's vivid playing leaves behind a tantalising mystery... intensely lyrical use of the instrument..." The Quietus

FREE IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

MATTHEW BERRILL

CLARINET

"...an inventive and original musician...
style somewhere between Charlie
Parker's With Strings & Stan Getz."

All About Jazz

Multi-instrumentalist Matthew Berrill hails from Co. Galway. He grew up surrounded by music, and acquired a rich and varied education in jazz, traditional and classical music. He was awarded a Licentiate Diploma in Jazz Performance on saxophone and clarinet from the Guildhall School of Music, London, and subsequently studied with John Ruocco at the Royal Conservatoire, Den Haag, The Netherlands, graduating with a BMus. (Hons.) Degree in Jazz Performance in 2008, and a Master's degree in 2010, focusing on jazz composition.

During his studies, he won the "Grand Prix" in the Tremplin Jazz Competition in Avignon, France, and was twice awarded a place at the Banff International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music in Canada, which led to a collaborative tour with the international ensemble Sound Circus.

He is an integral member of numerous ensembles in the jazz, improvised and traditional Irish music spheres, including Cuar, The Irish Memory Orchestra and Ensemble Ériu. Matthew recently completed a Master of Arts in Performance at the Royal Academy of Music, London.

FUSION

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ



Top: Matthew Berrill

Bottom: Neil Ó Loclaínn

NEIL Ó LOCLAINN

BASS

Neil Ó Lochlainn is a musician and composer whose work is dedicated to exploring the contemporary and the universal in the local. He has been described as “a musical seeker” [The Irish Times] and his work as “redefining the possibilities of Irish traditional music” [All about Jazz].

He is the co-founder and artistic director of Ensemble Ériu whose album Stargazer was listed in Songlines’ 10 essential Irish albums of recent times. His chamber ensemble Cuar, which explores composition and improvisation within the framework of Irish traditional music, will release their second album ‘Umahill’ on Diatribe Records in November 2022.

As a jazz musician he has been bassist of choice for many of Ireland’s leading musicians and was a member of the Louis Stewart quartet from 2012. He travelled to Chennai, India to study Karnatak music with Dr. K.S.Subramanian and has travelled throughout Ghana to study the traditional music of the Ewe and Dagara people.

“Neil Ó Lochlainn has an instinct and a feel for different strands of music that allows him to create un-compromised musical worlds that speak with real depth and authenticity.” Martin Hayes

FUSION

WORLD/FOLK

ADAM NOLAN

SAXOPHONE

"A rising star of modern free jazz."

Jazzlife Japan

Adam Nolan is a free jazz saxophonist, producer and rapper from Kilkenny, Ireland. Over the past 5 years he has released many works and is known as a fearless improviser whose interest in free jazz, world music, hip-hop and soul go into the melting pot of his creative outlets.

After releasing 15 albums, Adam is known across the jazz scene in Ireland for his stream-of-consciousness style of rapping and playing. His work is informed by an exploration of the mind and our awareness of internal and external worlds, very audible in his recent release 'God's Planet'. His combination of hip-hop style lyrics and spoken word with contemporary jazz in his sets bring awareness to consciousness, meditation mindsets and abstract flow. Adam's music aims to bring the language of free jazz into a more modern and accessible experience, rebellious and fresh.

SPOKEN WORD

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ



Top: Adam Nolan

Bottom: Aleka Potinga

ALEKA POTINGA

VOICE

Aleka is a Romanian vocalist, cellist, composer and lyricist who lives in Dublin, Ireland. She has spent 20 years studying music, including a Bachelor of Arts in cello performance with the highest distinction, at the National University of Music Bucharest, and a B.A in Vocal Jazz performance, graduated with First Class Honors in Newpark Music Centre, Dublin, Ireland. Both her Ep 'Aleka' and her debut album 'Person I Knew' received 4 star reviews in The Irish Times. Aleka is a jazz lecturer in Dublin City University.

"Hip cosmopolitan sounds... a borderless, trans-national flavour, liberally spiced with bossa nova, downtown jazz, outlier pop, art rock and free improv." The Irish Times

CLASSIC JAZZ

FUSION

CHRIS GUILFOYLE

GUITAR

Chris Guilfoyle is a guitarist, composer, bandleader, educator from Dublin. After completing his BA in Jazz Performance at Newpark Music Centre, Dublin in 2010, he went on to receive a Masters Degree in Music Performance from Lucerne University. Over the last 10 years Chris has toured regularly around Ireland and abroad. He is also a founding member of the Dublin Jazz Co-op, a collective of Irish jazz musicians curating weekly gigs in Dublin. Chris leads his own group Umbra, a critically acclaimed quintet featuring some of the most promising musicians in the country. Umbra have released 2 records in the last 2 years and have toured extensively in Ireland and Europe. In his relatively short career, Chris has played with some of the biggest names in jazz including Dave Liebman, Jim Black, Tom Rainey, Theo Bleckmann, Nils Wogram, Ralph Peterson, John O'Gallagher and David Binney.

Chris is a Jazz Lecturer at Dublin City University where he teaches guitar and ensemble studies.

"Guilfoyle plays with great maturity and assurance throughout and quickly establishes himself as an exciting new voice on the guitar."

The Jazzman

FUSION

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

THIS IS IRISH JAZZ

Chris Guilfoyle



C.V. LUNNY

VIOLIN

Cora Venus Lunny is a freelance improvising musician with a strong classical background and extensive experience in contemporary classical, improvised, recorded and folk musics. A violinist since early childhood, who performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician, before specialising in contemporary music.

A member of Yurodny and Fovea Hex, they frequently perform with Crash Ensemble, solo as a free improviser and in free duo with Izumi Kimura. A fascination with consciousness, groove, and the social realities of music drives their compositional curiosity.

In recent years Cora has become a key figure in the Irish improvised music scene, particularly through their strong collaborative relationship with Kimura, which was initiated through a commission at IMC's BAN BAM festival in 2017. In 2021, Cora was awarded an inaugural BAN BAM Commission Award by IMC, to write *Currents*, a dramatic improvisation for four musicians which examines power dynamics within the improvising ensemble and the wider culture.

"Lunny travels back and forth between single and dual voices, mournful and dramatic melody, trance-like mellowness and boldly defined rhythms, lyricism and dissonance."

All About Jazz

FREE IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

EMILIE CONWAY

VOICE

"...a tempo most rappers would be envious of, while maintaining a bouncing melody and clarity of diction throughout."

GoldenPlec

Emilie is an award winning vocal jazz artist, composer and lyricist. Her music is informed by her love of literature, poetry, sound and silence. She blends her own compositions, and spoken word poetry, with improvised or composed music.

Emilie's arts practice is multi-disciplinary. Her music focuses on 3 areas: jazz and art/ literature, jazz and disability and jazz and children. She was awarded a commission with the National Gallery of Ireland to respond to modern artist, Piet Mondrian. Emilie also creates unique audio-described and sensory art tours for the RHA and the National Gallery.

A passionate activist for equal and equitable participation of disabled people in the arts, Emilie is frequently sought as a speaker and EDI consultant for many organisations including The Arts Council and Google. She was recently commissioned by Project Arts Centre, Dublin to respond to their EDI policy.

Emilie is the founder of DADA, Disabled Artists, Disabled Academics Campaign for Cultural and Human Rights.

CLASSIC JAZZ

SPOKEN WORD

IZUMI KIMURA

PIANO

Izumi Kimura, Japanese born and Irish resident, is a highly acclaimed practitioner of contemporary piano music, improviser, and educator. After graduating from Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo, she moved to Ireland in 1995 and started to work as a contemporary classical pianist with many Irish composers, before becoming increasingly drawn to the world of jazz and improvisation.

For the past decade, she has been developing her life-work in the practice of improvisation and its holistic process of musical interactions and communications.

She has several ongoing collaborative projects with other leading improvising musicians such as Barry Guy, Gerry Hemingway and Cora Venus Lunny, and has performed extensively in Ireland and around the world.

"A fearless explorer of the contemporary music landscape ...Kimura brings a combination of feral creativity and technical virtuosity to the stage that belies her calm demeanour." The Irish Times

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ



Top: Emilie Conway
Bottom: Jenna Harris

JENNA HARRIS

VOICE

Jenna Harris is a vocalist, composer and lecturer from Dublin. In Jenna's solo voice generated performances she combines vocal improvisation with improvisation of the effects that she uses to process her voice live. A style of improv has developed that intrinsically links the two, both feeding back and forth from each other. Her performances often incorporate reactive visuals that she builds as a platform to exhibit the voice as the instrument it is.

Jenna is the founding member of the three-piece group Berri, with Matthew Jacobson and Derek Whyte. Their debut album 'Shadow Chroi' was released in 2022.

Jenna regularly collaborates with guitarist and electronic musician Daniel Jacobson (Zoid). She is a member of guitarist Tommy Halferty's group Voices, with Izumi Kimura & Derek Whyte. Jenna is the founding member of the group Claritas, with vocalists Fiadh Rua Gregg and Aleka Potinga.

Jenna's research in Trinity college Dublin culminated in building a computer application designed to counteract vocal tension caused by performance anxiety in improvising vocalists. Jenna is a faculty member of DCU's Center for Jazz Performance Studies.

ELECTRONICS

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

LAURA HYLAND

VOICE

Wexford-based composer and vocalist Laura Hyland fuses mixed influences spanning folk song, classical music, jazz and literature into a unique concert experience. Hyland has a Sandy Denny-like classic folk voice and wraps it around timeless lyrics of nature, life, love and mortality as well as settings of texts by Dorothy Parker and other poets.

Her acclaimed group Clang Sayne was founded in 2008 fusing everything from 70's psychedelia, free jazz, sound art, folk song and beyond. Reviewers have dubbed it "an uncategorizable approach to songcraft" (Boomkat), with a sound that "venturers in the post-genre slip stream, weaving folk, improv, art pop and contemporary classical into new material that is soft on the ear but tough as leather." [Cormac Larkin, Irish Times]

"Musical alchemist Laura Hyland is an explorer of the hidden paths and less-travelled byways that connect folk and traditional music with contemporary jazz and the avant-garde." The Irish Times

WORLD/FOLK

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV



Top: Laura Hyland

Bottom: Lina Andonovska

LINA ANDONOVSKA

FLUTE

"Brimming with energy and bold textures, though marked throughout by nuance. A name to watch out for." *All About Jazz*

Australian born and Irish based, curiosity, fearlessness and versatility carry Lina Andonovska's artistry around the globe. Andonovska is a rare breed in the flute world; a name that you'll discover on both the pages of Rolling Stone and the Australian Chamber Orchestra roster, she has not only cultivated partnerships with leading artists including Louis Andriessen, Donnacha Dennehy and Claire Chase, but also deep community ties from Timor-Leste to Tokyo's Wonder Site.

She has recently been appointed as flautist of multiple Grammy Award-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird. A sought-after collaborator, this season she appears as guest musician with Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Recherche, and stargaze. Equally at home with improvisation and the written page, she is critically acclaimed for her interpretation of new music with Rolling Stone Magazine hailing her performance at Bang On A Can Summer Festival as "superbly played..."

FREE IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

MATTHEW HALPIN

SAXOPHONE

Matthew Halpin is a saxophonist and composer born in Dublin, based between Ireland and Germany. He talent and skill were recognised early on, receiving an international scholarship for degree studies at Berklee College of Music in 2009, and in 2010 he was chosen for the Berklee Global Jazz Institute.

Matthew leads and co-leads several bands, these include Last Chance Dance, The Owl Ones, Spilt Milk, Gamerz, Modern Men and Roamer (with Lauren Kinsella, Matthew Jaconson and Simon Jermyn).

Since 2013, Matthew has been composing on a regular basis for many of his own projects. His composition style is unique, distinctive and often braggadocios.

Halpin's debut album Agreements, with Kit Downes, Sean Carpio, Hanno Busch and Sergiio Martinez, was released in 2021 to wide acclaim. London Jazz News praised Halpin as "A powerful and imaginative improviser... lots of variety mixed with lots of imagination make for a fascinating forty five minutes"

"Matthew Halpin is quickly gaining a reputation as a fearlessly inventive improviser." The Irish Times

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

THIS IS IRISH JAZZ

Matthew Halpin



MATTHEW JACOBSON

DRUMS

"One of the most dynamic forces in Irish jazz, on and off the stage." The Irish Times

Matthew Jacobson is an Irish drummer, composer, bandleader, educator and producer.

As well as performing, composing for and recording with his own groups ReDiviDeR and Insufficient Funs, he also co-leads Roamer, a quartet of Ireland's most internationally recognised improvisers and performs regularly with Anna Mieke, UMBRA, Berri, Ensemble Ériu, SlapBang, BigSpoon, AERIE (DE); Fireplace Dragon (US) and Ms Mercy (UK) among others.

Matthew is co-director of Diatribe Records, Ireland's leading independent record label for new sounds and is the Irish producer of European exchange tour and event network Match&Fuse. He is also a full-time Jazz Lecturer in Dublin City University – specialising in drum skills, ensembles, free improvisation and music business.

Matthew holds a BA in Jazz Performance from Newpark Music Centre, Dublin, and an MA in Music Performance from Lucerne University. In 2021, he completed a practice based PhD at Ulster University, exploring improvisational approaches to motivic compositions.

CONTEMPORARY IMPROV

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ



Top: Matthew Jacobson

Bottom: Max Zaska

MAX ZASKA

GUITAR

Max Zaska is a guitarist, songwriter, musical director, and producer best known for his feel-good blend of neo-soul, modern funk, and indie jazz. ZASKA is a supergroup of Irish talent with collaboration at its heart that started with the band's original vocalist, Hozier.

ZASKA's second album, *A Better Way*, has a sustainability theme and is released in Autumn 2022. This album draws inspiration from the contemporary UK jazz & neo-soul scene and features vocalists Tolü Makay, Faye O'Rourke (Soda Blonde), Jess Kav, and more. *It Takes A Village* is ZASKA's critically acclaimed 2019 debut album featuring over 25 performers including Wyvern Lingo and Loah and was named Album of the Year on RTÉ 2XM.

In 2021, Max produced and co-wrote 2 albums as part of the ambitious project, *MåsExödu*s, blending contemporary jazz with hip hop elements. The project culminated in sold-out shows at the Guinness Cork Jazz Festival with Chicago-based Hypnotic Brass Ensemble and Denise Chaila.

With a reputation for fantastic, high-energy live performances, ZASKA has headlined shows and festivals throughout Ireland.

"A benchmark example of the talent that exists in this country."

The Irish Times

FUSION

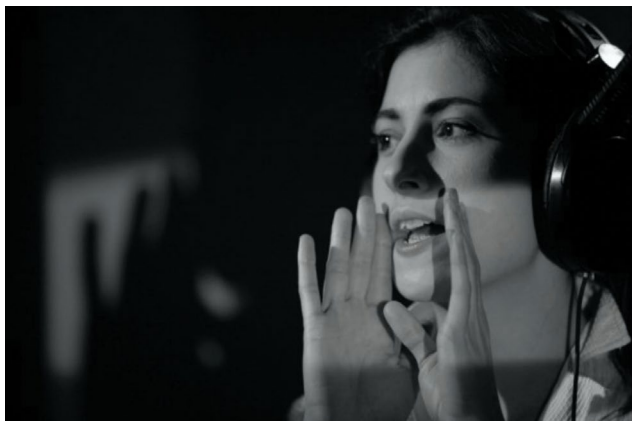
NEO-SOUL

OLESYA ZDOROVETSKA

Vocalist and composer Olesya Zdorovetska is a powerful and innovative voice in new music, fluent in a diverse range of disciplines and working internationally across numerous fields of activity. As a solo artist and collaborator she crosses the fields of improvised, jazz, Afro-Caribbean, contemporary classical and experimental music, and regularly composes for film and theatre. Olesya is a founder of the UICP (Ukrainian-Irish Cultural Platform) and co-curator of Phonica, an experimental music and poetry platform in Dublin.

Other recent work and awards includes a DEIS award with The Water Project / Iarla Ó Lionáird, an Independent Music Award (US) with Dislocados, multiple awards for 'Remnants' with London-based Erratica Theatre, Arts Council of England / PRS / MSBF awards for 'Arvoles Lloran por Lluvia' with Sefiroth Ensemble, an Asylum Arts award with Asya Gefer for the multimedia project 'Fragments of Memory'; European tours of 'Telling Sounds', 'Niemand'sland' and 'Dead Poets' projects; performances with Satoko Fujii Big Orchestra (JP-UA), Yurodny Ensemble, Kyiv Big Band, 'The Docks' and 'Camino's'.

Olesya is currently Musician in Residence at An Grianán, Letterkenny.



Top: Olesya Zdorovetska

Bottom: Jenny Hallahan



Dana Masters

DANA MASTERS

VOICE

Vocalist Dana Masters grew up in South Carolina, USA, in a family active in the civil rights movement and to a soundtrack of soul, rhythm and blues and gospel music. Since settling in Northern Ireland, her career has catapulted from featured vocalist with Van Morrison, to a rising international jazz career as a soloist and songwriter.

Her career here has ranged from live work with BBC Radio 4, Proms in the Park and RTE concert orchestra to developing her own sound with collaborator pianist Cian Boylan and band Dave Redmond and Darren Beckett.

A powerful and soulful jazz singer, Dana's reputation as one of Ireland's top vocalists continues to gain momentum.

**"She has a presence on stage
which is second to none..."**

London Jazz News

CLASSIC JAZZ

BLUES

JAMIE THOMPSON

ADJUNCT Ensemble is a fluid collective of musicians and artists led by composer Jamie Thompson who quarries the seams between electroacoustic, jazz, electronica, classical, and art-pop musics. His approach to exploratory music has seen him write works for choir and electronics, opera singers and experimental turntablists, jazz punk trios and spoken word poets. Jamie is also one half of avant-pop crooners Ex-Isles, who will release their second album in 2022.

ADJUNCT Ensemble's debut gig as a live septet was at Belfast's Brilliant Corners in March 2022, and featured Elliot Galvin on keys, spoken word poet Felispeaks, Sam Comerford and Kevin Lawless on woodwinds, Stephen Davis on drums, John Pope on bass, and Mike Soper on trumpet. The ensemble takes its initial cues from Zappa, Threadgill, Rob Muzurek's Exploding Star Orchestra, and Matana Roberts' notion of "panoramic sonic quilting".

Jamie will release a series of five long-form works throughout 2022 and 2023 under the title Sovereign Bodies / Ritual Taxonomy. Situated at the intersections of notated composition, open/graphic notation, and studio-based composition, it is an expansive collaboration exploring the UK Home Office interrogation of asylum seekers and refugees.

Jamie Thompson



JENNY HALLAHAN

BASS GUITAR

**"...beautifully performed neo-jazz...
laced with gorgeous melodies and
lush instrumentation..."**

The Sound Won't Stop

Jenny is an electric bass guitar player and composer, originally from Co. Kildare, but now based in Donegal.

Her experiences and influences come from Jazz, Rock, Soul and Pop music.

Jenny has performed with many artists throughout Ireland, and has most recently been performing with pedal steel guitar player Richard Nelson.

2020 saw the release of Jenny's first EP *This Life*, with Owen O'Neil on Baritone + Tenor Saxophone, Luke Dunford on Keys, and Dylan Lynch on Drums. Fusing composed ideas with melodic improvisation above repeating bass patterns, Jenny focuses on thoughtful soundscapes to spotlight each soloist's voice.

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

NEO-SOUL

MEILANA GILLARD

Born in London, raised in Ohio, blooded on the competitive New York jazz scene and now based in Derry, saxophonist and composer Meilana Gillard is praised for her fiery storyful improvisations and her robust tone, which recalls modern masters Joe Lovano and Branford Marsalis as well as legacy-masters such as Sonny Rollins and Dexter Gordon.

Meilana relocated from the US to Northern Ireland in 2012 and since then has worked with artists like Liane Carroll, Tom Harrison, Quentin Collins and performed at festivals such as Love Supreme, London Jazz Festival, Cork Jazz Festival, Brilliant Corners Festival and Derry Jazz Festival.

In 2019 she formed the collective RBG Trio with Ireland's top rhythm section Dave Redmond and Kevin Brady, and they are currently recording a debut album.

Gillard has released two albums as a leader. 'Day One' was released in 2009 on Greg Osby's label 'Inner Circle Music' and her trio album 'Dream Within a Dream' ('Lyte Records) was released in 2017.

"A gutsy, inventive player with a forceful melodic sense and an open, old-school tenor sound."

The Irish Times

Meilana Gillard



MICHEAL MURRAY

"His melodic improvisations flow effortlessly." All About Jazz

Saxophonist Micheal Murray grew up in rural Donegal in a musical family. Both he and his twin brother Conor have been mentored since the age of 16 by MOBO Award-nominated drummer David Lyttle. In 2015 he moved to Glasgow to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with saxophone icon Tommy Smith. After graduating in 2019, Micheal was the recipient of the Jazzlife Alliance award to study with David Lyttle, Meilana Gillard and renowned US saxophonist Jaleel Shaw. He has toured extensively with David Lyttle in Ireland and Britain, and performed with British jazz piano legend Jason Rebello and New Yorker Michael Kanan.

In 2019 Micheal played lead alto with the Tommy Smith Youth Orchestra All Stars in Edinburgh. He was commissioned by Jazzlife Alliance to perform and record a set of solo saxophone performances.

His new project, Micheal Murray's Colourfield, with Amsterdam based double-bassist Omer Govreen and pianist Joy Shechter, draws from Irish traditional melodies and church songs. Combining these rich elements they create beautiful melodies blended with the exhilaration of improvisation.

SCOTT FLANIGAN

PIANO

"An elegant, assured calling card that showcased both his technical command and sensitivity." All About Jazz

Belfast man Scott Flanigan is one of the foremost keyboard players on the Irish jazz scene. He performs regularly across Ireland, the UK, France and Germany, and has recently performed with Van Morrison, the Ulster Orchestra, Larry Coryell, Jean Toussaint, Jim Mullen and Rob Luft. As a leader, Scott successfully tours his own contemporary piano trio, as well as a hard-swinging organ quartet. He also runs the successful Scott's Jazz Club in East Belfast, a weekly jazz club bringing the best in Irish jazz to local audiences.

Equally at home in academia as well as the bandstand, Scott received his BMus degree from Ulster University and his MMus in Jazz Performance from Dublin Institute of Technology. Scott has recently completed his Ph.D in Jazz Performance at Ulster University, exploring and assimilating contemporary trends in jazz piano into his own playing.

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ

Scott Flanigan





SCAN TO LISTEN



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