



SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

THE MUSIC OF
**WEATHER
REPORT**

DIRECTED BY / FEATURING
ALYN COSKER

CONCERT PROGRAMME
SEPTEMBER 2025

Patrons, friends and supporters of the SNJO/SNYJO

To all our Friends of the Orchestra and to all those who have chosen to donate anonymously – your help has been much appreciated especially at this time of change for both orchestras and we thank you sincerely for your continued support both financial and as audience members.

We are also deeply indebted to Creative Scotland, and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for their support and are delighted to welcome The Music Box, Edinburgh College as our new partner for rehearsal and workshop space. Thank you.



The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra presents The Music of Weather Report

directed by & featuring Alyn Cosker

In the golden age of jazz fusion, a storm of creativity gathered on the musical horizon and that storm had a name: Weather Report. From the moment they emerged in 1970, they changed the forecast of modern music – electrifying, unpredictable, and utterly transformative. Their sound wasn't just shaped by the moment; it shaped the climate of a generation.

Weather Report was the most vital and innovative band in jazz, fusing instantly memorable melodies, infectious grooves, and brilliant improvisation with the drive of rock and the rich textures of world music. Weather Report was more than just a band – they were a complete weather system. Led by Joe Zawinul on keyboards whose notes painted atmospheric landscapes and with Wayne Shorter, Peter Erskine and Jaco Pastorius, they created music that moved like a front across continents, merging jazz, rock, funk, and global currents into a single, surging force.

Weather Report may have played their final notes in 1986 but their legacy lives on and Scotland's National Jazz Orchestra forecasts an exhilarating rekindling of that spirit. Tonight's concert promises a high-end performance of outstanding compositions given new interpretations by some of the world's top jazz arrangers and played by the cream of Scotland's jazz scene, the SNJO under the direction of drummer, Alyn Cosker.

The programme will feature music chosen from Weather Report's entire history, including Wayne Shorter's beautiful *Elegant People* arranged by Bob Mintzer, the dramatic *Night Passage* arranged by Vince Mendoza, and Joe Zawinul's signature composition *Birdland* arranged by Bill Dobbins. We are especially delighted to have invited our bass player Calum Gourlay to arrange two tracks - the *Badia/Boogie Woogie Walt* and *Black Market* and look forward to hearing these.

You are warmly invited to step into the realms of jazz fusion – to feel the gusts of genius, the warmth of nostalgia, and the refreshing clarity of innovation. Whether a long-time traveller on Weather Report's musical jet stream or just discovering them, prepare for a concert that is as dynamic as the forces of nature themselves.

FRI 26 SEP
QUEEN'S HALL EDINBURGH

SAT 27 SEP
SANCTUARY AT THE CROSS ABERDEEN

SUN 28 SEP
STEVENSON HALL, RCS GLASGOW

Programme

Selection of tunes - listed in alphabetical order but will be played as announced from the stage. There will be an interval of 20 minutes

A Remark You Made (*Zawinul*) arr. Christian Jacob
Badia / Boogie Woogie Waltz (*Zawinul*) arr. Calum Gourlay
Birdland (*Zawinul*) arr. Bill Dobbins
Black Market (*Zawinul*) arr. Calum Gourlay
Elegant People (*Wayne Shorter*) arr. Bob Mintzer
In a Silent Way (*Zawinul*) arr. Vince Mendoza
Night Passage (*Zawinul*) arr. Vince Mendoza
Pinocchio (*Shorter*) arr. Jacob Mann
Sightseeing (*Shorter*) arr. Tim Hagans
Teen Town (*Jaco Pastorius*) arr. Geoffrey Keezer

Orchestra

Woodwinds

**Martin Kershaw, Harben Kay, Matthew Kilner,
Konrad Wiszniewski, Bill Fleming**

Trumpets

Brinley Heywood-Snell, Tom MacNiven, Sean Gibbs, Lorne Cowieson

Trombones

Kieran McLeod, Aaron Singh, Pat Kenny, Michael Owers,

Piano

Pete Johnstone

Electric Bass

Laurence Cottle

Guitar

Kevin Mackenzie

Drums

Alyn Cosker

Percussion

Iain Sandilands

Alyn Cosker

Artistic Direction / Drums

Born and raised in Ayr, Alyn graduated BA (Hons) in Applied Music from Strathclyde University. His passion for music of all genres has led to creative projects with many well-known artists, including NDR Big Band, Capercaillie, Michael McGoldrick, Eddi Reader, Isobel Campbell and Mark Lanegan, Wolfstone, Duncan Lyall, Angus Lyon, Hue And Cry, Maggie Reilly. In 2009, Alyn released his first solo album 'Lyn's Une' for Linn Records and in 2018, his follow up album 'KPF'. In May 2025, his new album 'Onta' was launched on Chicago based Calligram Records and features a host of musicians from Scotland, Netherlands and the U.S.A including Karen Matheson, Paul Towndrow, Ewen Vernal and many more.



Arrangers

Bill Dobbins

Bill Dobbins is a pianist, composer, arranger and educator whose work has embraced performances with orchestras



and chamber ensembles under the direction of Pierre Boulez, recordings with jazz artists including Clark Terry, Al Cohn and Phil Woods, commissions for the Ohio Arts Council and

National Endowment for the Arts, and the principal directorship of the WDR Big Band in Cologne. As a musical director he has worked with artists as diverse as the King Singers, the Labeque Sisters, Steve Lacy and Paquito D'Rivera. His many

compositions and arrangements for big band, chamber ensemble and solo piano are played regularly on the international stage and his jazz education programmes, developed over some forty years at the Eastman School of Music in New York, are used in colleges and on university courses around the world.

Calum Gourlay

Calum Gourlay was born in Glasgow and developed through Scotland's premier youth jazz programmes, becoming the first bassist selected for the Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra - now the Scottish National Youth Jazz Orchestra (SNYJO) - at age 16. The only bassist enrolled on the Royal Academy of Music's jazz course



in 2004, he graduated with first class honours in 2008.

Since 2006, Calum has held the acoustic bass chair with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, whilst also featuring prominently in Smith's own quartet. He has been Professor of Jazz Bass at Trinity Laban Conservatoire since 2018.

His debut solo album 'Live at The Ridgeway' (2015) received widespread critical acclaim for its bold format of live, solo performance. His quartet album 'New Ears' (Ubuntu Records, 2019) earned nominations for both a Scottish Jazz Award and an Ivor Novello Composer Award in 2020.

Tim Hagans

Trumpeter and composer Tim Hagans is a widely experienced musician who has performed alongside such leading American jazz players as Dexter Gordon, Kenny Drew, Horace Parlan and Thad Jones. After enrolling at Bowling Green State University as a music major, Hagans dropped out while still in his teens and joined the Stan Kenton Orchestra for three years. He has also played in the Woody Herman Orchestra and worked in jazz education, teaching at the University of Cincinnati and at Berklee College of Music. His most recent successes include his work as musical director

with the acclaimed Norrbotten Big Band, from Sweden, leading recording and touring projects with Randy Brecker, Peter Erskine and Kurt Elling.



Christian Jacob

Born in Lorraine, France, Christian studied classical piano from the age of four and went on to study with Pierre Sancan at the Paris Conservatory. Having heard Oscar Peterson and Dave Brubeck when he was nine, he played jazz as a hobby throughout his Conservatory years but after graduating, decided to change allegiance and without knowing a word of English, moved to the USA to study jazz at Berklee College of Music. There he won a number of awards, including the Oscar Peterson Jazz Masters Award, the Great American Jazz Piano Competition and Down Beat magazine's distinction as Top Collegiate Jazz Soloist. On graduating in 1985, he joined Berklee as a piano tutor, toured with Gary Burton and with Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau Band as musical director and in 1997, recorded the first of his five trio CDs for Concord Records, with Peter Erskine and John Patitucci. He has since worked with many big names and composed and arranged for big bands and orchestras, including the Bangkok Symphony.



Geoffrey Keezer

Geoffrey Keezer is a GRAMMY®-winning pianist, composer, arranger and producer based in New York City. A native of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, he began playing piano



and composing at an early age. After briefly attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Keezer moved to New York in 1989, becoming the last pianist with the legendary Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. Keezer has toured and recorded with Ray Brown, Roy Hargrove, Joshua Redman, Diana Krall, Art Farmer, Benny Golson, Barbara Hendricks, Wayne Shorter, Dianne Reeves, David Sanborn, Chris Botti, Sting, Joe Locke and Christian McBride.

Jacob Mann

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Jacob Mann is a pianist, composer and arranger who is currently studying for a music degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where he is a member of the award-winning USC Thornton Jazz Orchestra led by Bob Mintzer. He has studied with renowned

musicians including Dave Loeb, Alan Pasqua, Russell Ferrante, and Otmaro Ruiz and was a recipient of the Outstanding Soloist Award at the 2011 Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival as well as receiving first prize in the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers Big Band Arranging Competition.

Vince Mendoza

Highly regarded equally as a musician, composer, and arranger, Vince Mendoza has amassed a huge body of work over the past twenty-five years, working with artists as diverse as Gary Burton, Bobby McFerrin, Michael Brecker, Kurt Elling, Joni Mitchell, Elvis Costello, Bjork and



Robbie Williams. As a musician he has recorded for the prestigious Blue Note and Act labels and as a composer and arranger influenced by Gil Evans, Brahms, Bach, Stravinsky and Henry Mancini, he has gained an international reputation for his work with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Metropole Orchestra in Hilversum and the WDR Big Band of Cologne. His work in television and films includes numerous theme tunes and the soundtrack to *Dancer in the Dark*.



Bob Mintzer

Best known on this side of the Atlantic as the saxophonist with award-winning fusion band The Yellowjackets, Bob Mintzer is also a composer, arranger, leader of his own GRAMMY®-winning big band and an educator who works all over the world. In a career spanning thirty-four years, Mintzer has written over 200 big band arrangements, including his homage to Count Basie, for which he won a Grammy, and a celebration of his former colleague, the late Jaco Pastorius, as well as saxophone quartets and symphonic works. He has recorded twelve CDs with The Yellowjackets and as a first-call New York session musician he has also recorded with Steve Winwood, James Taylor, Aretha Franklin, and Queen and toured with Buddy Rich, Thad Jones & Mel Lewis, Tito Puente, and Eddie Palmieri.



Be a friend of our orchestras



If you have enjoyed tonight's concert, why not consider becoming a friend? You can join at snjo.co.uk or speak to our manager at the SNJO desk. We look forward to welcoming you.

SNJO audience survey

We would love to understand our audience better and to hear your feedback about tonight's concert and beyond. To take part in our short survey, visit snjo.co.uk/survey or scan the QR code. It only takes 5 minutes.



snjo.co.uk/survey

Future 2025/26 dates for your diary



5 – 7 DEC 2025
CHASIN' THE HORIZON: THE RAILWAY SUITE

6 – 8 MAR 2026
POP! ROCK! SOUL!
with Joe Locke

30 APR – 2 MAY 2026
TWO GILS AND A BILL
Gil Goldstein plays Gil Evans and Bill Evans

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For upcoming Scottish National Youth Jazz Orchestra (SNYJO) live dates visit snjo.co.uk/snyjo/live