

Nu-Age Sounds

Nu-Age Sounds brings together nine of the current generation of artists who are taking Scottish jazz into the international arena with a group of established arrangers whose talent and nous will add weight and experience in shaping these exciting young musicians' highly individual, contrasting yet complementary styles into a unified work of wide appeal.

Singer **kitti**, pianist **Fergus McCreadie**, saxophonists **Helena Kay** and **Matt Carmichael**, trombonist **Noushy**, bassist **Ewan Hastie** and the collectives **KARMA** and **corto.alto** are all multiple award-winners whose achievements have been recognised across the UK and Scotland and further afield.

McCreadie has added Jazz FM and Parliamentary Jazz Awards to his Scottish Album of the Year title. **Hastie** was the judges' unanimous choice in the BBC Young Jazz Musician 2022 and **Carmichael** had the extraordinary honour of having his first album, *Where Will the River Flow* arranged by world-renowned saxophonist-composer Bob Mintzer for the WDR Big Band in Cologne.

Welcome to the current sound of Scotland brought to you by eight of Scottish jazz's top creative young minds via the internationally regarded Scottish National Jazz Orchestra.

Let's be Friends

If you enjoyed tonight's concert, please consider becoming a **Friend of the SNJO** and help support the future of jazz in Scotland. We welcome new Friends at any time.

If you would like to know more about our memberships, contact Cat Gillespie for more information:
phone +44 7446 286412
email management@snjo.co.uk

Sponsors

We would like to extend special thanks to our main sponsors, **Creative Scotland** and the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland** for their continued support.



To sign up for our updates visit snjo.co.uk/news

PROGRAMME NOTES

In recent years a significant number of young Scottish jazz musicians have gained national and international attention.

Scotland has a long and proud history of producing world-class jazz players, including saxophonist Bobby Wellins, trumpeter Jimmy Deuchar and guitarist Jim Mullen, to name but three. Great though these examples are, however, they all moved south or further afield to make their reputations.

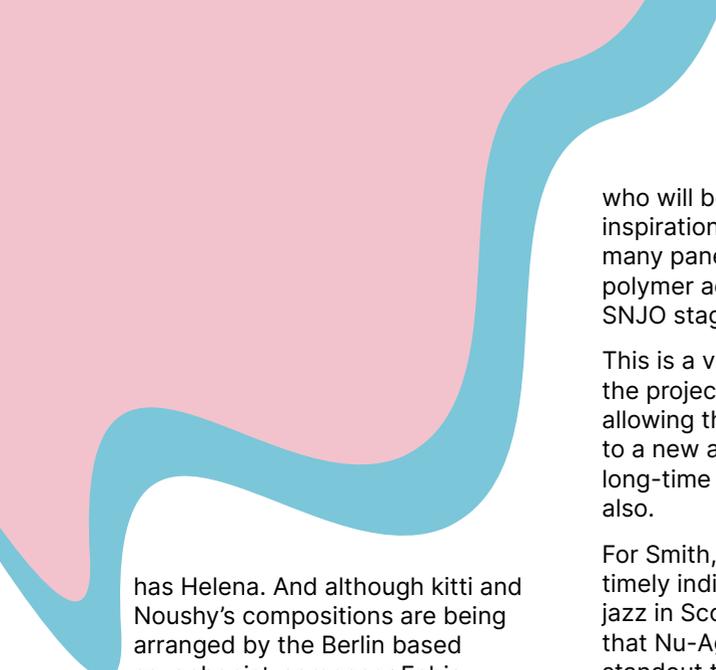
What marks out the current generation is that they have decided to stay in Scotland and often create music that reflects their surroundings. That this is by no means a disadvantage can be seen in pianist Fergus McCreadie's nomination for the cross-genre Mercury Music Prize. National acclaim has also seen saxophonist Helena Kay, pianist Peter Johnstone and Fergus McCreadie, again, winning the much-coveted, UK-wide Peter Whittingham Jazz Award and bassist Ewan Hastie winning the BBC Young Jazz Musician 2022 title.

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra's founder and artistic director, Tommy Smith wanted both to showcase the achievements of this generation and to bring orchestral jazz, with its long history, to a young audience who might not have experienced this rich tradition before.

Of the eight musicians – all multi-award winners – who are highlighted in these Nu-Age Sounds concerts, six have come through the jazz course that Tommy Smith oversees at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland: Matt Carmichael, Noushy (Anoushka Nanguy) and Liam Shortall (aka corto.alto) joining Fergus McCreadie, Peter Johnstone and Ewan Hastie.

“Watching the careers of these former students blossom is a joy,” says Tommy Smith. “I greatly respect and admire their musicianship and I am very proud of where they have taken their music. It's also great to have the singer kitti and Helena Kay onboard as they are very much part of Scotland's thriving young jazz scene.”

The tests that these musicians were put through at the RCS weren't the last challenges that their course director has given them. Fergus, Matt and Liam have been tasked with orchestrating, as well as composing, their contributions to Nu-Age Sounds, as



has Helena. And although kitti and Noushy's compositions are being arranged by the Berlin based saxophonist-composer Fabia Mantwill, and Ewan's piece is being orchestrated by long-time SNJO collaborator Florian Ross, they too are approaching these concerts with no small sense of anticipation.

"Just to have Fabia Mantwill listen to one of my songs would be a big deal," says kitti. "So to have this woman who has worked with Joni Mitchell's orchestrator, Vince Mendoza, arrange three of them is very exciting."

Another RCS student, the originator of Glasgow's Supersonic hip-hop and jazz nights Dillon Barrie has been responsible for Nu-Age Sounds' overall visual presentation with invaluable input from Daisy Mulholland, Connor McGhie and Niki Cardoso Zaupa (aka Moventia). Each piece of music will be accompanied by a video tailored to each composition's characteristics, created and executed by Niki

who will be projecting moods and inspirations from the music onto many panels of wire-hung shaped polymer across the front of the SNJO stages.

This is a vital component of the project for Tommy Smith in allowing the SNJO to reach out to a new audience, while keeping long-time supporters engaged also.

For Smith, the concerts are a timely indication of the strength of jazz in Scotland. "I am confident that Nu-Age Sounds will be a standout tour for the SNJO's ever-growing audience," he says. "It's also vital for the orchestra to embrace the younger audience and adopt a new focus on future sounds and fusions, widening our musical horizons."

© Rob Adams

PROGRAMME

I WALKED AWAY | WONDERLAND | MUST BE SOMETHIN'

music & lyrics by kitti
arranged by Fabia Mantwill

ON REFLECTION | DOWN SOUTH

composed by Ewan Hastie
arranged by Florian Ross

AS THE MIST CLEARS

composed and orchestrated by Fergus McCreddie

CAUSE & EFFECT | LAND OF HEROES | KARMA

composed and orchestrated by Tommy Smith

INTERVAL

TURNING TIDES | TOWARDS THE SUN

composed and orchestrated by Helena Kay

CONDIMENTS | WHISPER | CLOCK DON'T STOP

composed by Anoushka Nanguy
arranged by Fabia Mantwill

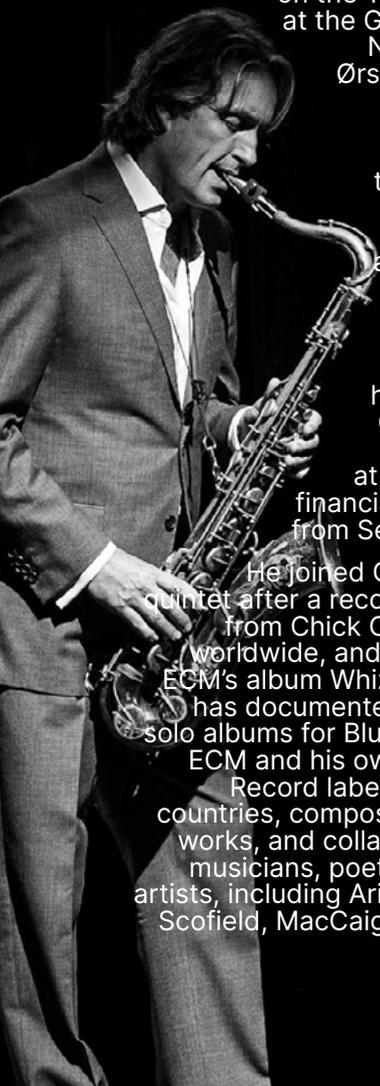
MANGATA | KITE

composed and orchestrated by Matt Carmichael

BAD WITH NAMES

composed and orchestrated by Liam Shortall

SNJO ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TOMMY SMITH



Born in Edinburgh in 1967, Smith began his prolific career at 14 when his quartet won Best Band, and he received the Best Musician Trophy at the 1981 Edinburgh Jazz Festival. A year later, he was invited to appear on the TV show 'Jazz at the Gateway' with Niels Henning Ørsted Petersen and Jon Christensen; toured with the European Youth Jazz Orchestra, and recorded his quintet for BBC Radio. At 16, he released his 1st album, Giant Strides and studied at Berklee with financial assistance from Sean Connery.

He joined Gary Burton's quintet after a recommendation from Chick Corea, toured worldwide, and recorded on ECM's album Whiz Kids. Smith has documented over thirty solo albums for Blue Note, Linn, ECM and his own Spartacus Record label; toured 50+ countries, composed over 300 works, and collaborated with musicians, poets, and visual artists, including Arild Andersen, Scofield, MacCaig, Alan Davie,

Kenny Munro, Jaco, Wheeler, DeJohnette, Liz Lochhead, Christine de Luca, Trilok, and poet Edwin Morgan with whom he developed a unique artistic relationship in 1996, collaborating on 55 works of poetry and music.

In 1995 he established the SNJO and ensured its progress until funding began in 1998. He founded the TSYJO in 2002 to provide an educational opportunity for the country's best young jazz musicians and fought to establish the first full-time jazz course in Scotland. In 2009 Smith was appointed head of Jazz at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and became Professor in 2010.

Smith has been awarded numerous jazz accolades from the BBC, British UK Parliamentary, and Scottish Jazz Awards. His contributions to Jazz were recognised nationally when in 1998, he became the youngest-ever recipient of an honorary Doctorate from Heriot-Watt University in recognition of his extraordinary artistic achievement. He subsequently received honorary doctorates from Glasgow Caledonian and Edinburgh Universities. In 2019 he was given an OBE for services to Jazz by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

tommymith.scot

SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) is considered by many to be one of Europe's foremost contemporary big bands.

Founder/Director Tommy Smith established the SNJO in 1995 as a not-for-profit organisation with a crystal-clear artistic vision and core values of versatility, discipline and expression. The SNJO is dedicated to promoting jazz as a pre-eminent art form through performances, original compositions, recordings, and educational outreach programmes. This commitment extends to the task of developing promising young jazz musicians through the ranks of The Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra.

The SNJO repertoire has included re-imaginings of works by the great, the good and the gigantic, including Weather Report, Herman, Rich, Carter, Strayhorn, Goodman, Kenton, Basie, Gillespie, Mingus, Jaco, Corea, Monk, Metheny, Shorter, Miles and Coltrane. They have also recorded vivid interpretations of Mozart, Prokofiev, Piazzolla, Gershwin and Ellington to rave reviews, alongside a remarkable re-reading of Miles Ahead, an ECM-tinted set on Celebration and Tommy Smith's suites, World of the Gods, Torah, and Beauty & the Beast. The SNJO has built a growing library of original compositions underpinned by a deep understanding and appreciation of improvisation.



FEATURED ARTISTS



ANOUSHKA NANGUY (known as Noushy) has become an in-demand artist, building her reputation in Glasgow with her own band NooVision and as co-leader of GLITCH41, as well as playing with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and Josef Akin. She has recently toured across Europe and Brazil with bands including the Urban Music Award-winning, Afrobeat-styled octet KOKOROKO, Alina Bzhezinska's Hip Harp Collective and the protean Nu Civilisation Orchestra. The recipient of the Rising Star Award in the 2020 Scottish Jazz Awards and cited as One to Watch in 2021 by The Scotsman, Noushy composes music that defies genres. Elements of jazz, hip hop, underground and Latin influences can be heard in her compositions but her main influences are human connection and nature.



EWAN HASTIE is a multi-award-winning bassist and composer, already making his mark on the UK music scene. Having played with the Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra from his early teens, he moved to Glasgow to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he won the Mark McKergow Prize for Jazz Improvisation in 2022 and 2023. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in jazz last summer. Ewan won the coveted BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year title at the televised final in the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London in November 2022, impressing judges including Bill Laurance of Snarky Puppy. Ewan currently leads his own trio, with pianist Tom Gibbs and drummer Stephen Henderson, and freelances widely across the UK.

FERGUS MCCREADIE is one of the most exciting jazz pianists on the world stage today. With a unique blend of jazz and folk inspired by Scotland's rugged landscape, his music appeals to audiences worldwide and across genres. Released on Edition Records to instant critical acclaim, Fergus's 2022 album, *Forest Floor* topped the UK Jazz & Blues charts and won a Mercury Prize shortlist nomination and the Jazz FM Instrumentalist of the Year Award as well as the 2022 Scottish Album of the Year Award. This year sees the release of his fourth album, international appearances in France, Germany, Norway and Italy, and the addition of strings to his trio's sound on an extensive UK touring project, *The Unfurrowed Field*.



HELENA KAY is one of the UK's most creative jazz artists, with two critically acclaimed albums and performances at leading venues including Ronnie Scott's and The Royal Albert Hall. Helena's second album, *Golden Sands*, earned high praise from the jazz media and showcased original compositions that are reflective of time spent at home in Scotland, and living in London and New York City. The 2015 winner of the Young Scottish Jazz Musician of the Year title, Helena went on to win the Peter Whittingham Jazz Award in 2017 and is now a City Music Foundation Artist. In addition to leading the Helena Kay Quartet, Helena also features with pianist Zoe Rahman's Octet and violinist Seonaid Aitken's Chasing Sakura Ensemble.





KITTI has been working on the Glasgow music scene since the age of fifteen. With a voice that communicates deep emotion she has progressed from local gigs to supporting Mavis Staples, Van Morrison and Rod Stewart on major stages and headlining concerts with her band previously known as the Katie Doyle Quintet. Now established as simply kitti, she has developed her own sound and writing style, taking influences from Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin and Betty Davis. Named Best Female Breakthrough at the Scottish Music Awards in 2020, kitti has also won Best Vocalist at the Scottish Jazz Awards twice. With her greatly anticipated debut album set for release later this year, she is making waves in Scotland and beyond.



KARMA Hailed on arrival by critics as the toughest, most creative group of his career, KARMA sees saxophonist Tommy Smith lead a virtuosic band on a deeply grooving acid jazz adventure that draws on influences from around the world. Joining Tommy on tenor and soprano saxophones and Shakuhachi flute, keyboardist Peter Johnstone, six-string bass guitar sensation Kevin Glasgow and jet-powered drummer Alyn Cosker present music of gobsmacking energy and superb inventiveness with occasional pauses in a chill-out zone that evokes Scottish landscapes and Japanese meditation rites. KARMA's debut recording won the Best Album title at the Scottish Jazz Awards 2012, made the cross-genre SAY Award shortlist and was awarded five stars by BBC Music Magazine, The Scotsman and The Irish Times.

LIAM SHORTALL corto.alto is the brain-child of award-winning multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer Liam Shortall. Based in Glasgow, this genre-defying producer brings together influences from Hip-Hop, Broken Beat, Electronica, Dub and Punk with an informed jazz sensibility. The winner of the Best Band and Best Album titles at the Scottish Jazz Awards 2020 and Best Band again at the 2023 awards, corto.alto has also won Liam the Scottish New Music Innovation in Jazz Award 2021 and has amassed millions of streams as well as playing sold out shows at Ronnie Scott's and making international festival appearances. As well as steering corto.alto, Liam features on trombone with Graham Costello's STRATA, Tom McGuire and the Brassholes, AKU!, Fat-Suit and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra.



MATT CARMICHAEL is the first student on the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland jazz course to win all three of the awards – for composition, arranging and improvisation – presented at the end of the academic year. Saxophonist Matt Carmichael blazed onto the international jazz scene with his first album, *Where Will the River Flow*. Adding to glowing critiques and extensive radio plays, the album was subsequently orchestrated by saxophonist Bob Mintzer for the esteemed WDR Big Band, with Matt as featured soloist, and has been followed by Matt's debut for Edition Records, the equally well received *Marram*. Winner of the Best Album title at the Scottish Jazz Awards 2023, with its evocative Scottish lyricism, *Marram* has established Matt as a distinctive voice in contemporary music.





PETER JOHNSTONE A former Young Scottish Jazz Musician of the Year, Peter is the first student on the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's internationally admired jazz course to return as a teacher. Having won the much-coveted Peter Whittingham Jazz Prize with the Scottish band Square One, he now features extensively with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, in the organ trio Prime and with saxophonists Helena Kay and Paul Towndrow. Peter has led a piano trio for a number of years and, in 2023, he launched his International Organ Quartet with New York vibes master Joe Locke, Tommy Smith on saxophone and Alyn Cosker on drums. The group toured the UK, including a sold-out date at Ronnie Scott's, and releases its first album this summer.

ARRANGERS

FABIA MANTWILL studied piano from the age of six and took up the saxophone at ten. She is also a vocalist, a composer, an arranger, and a bandleader. Fabia studied jazz and classical music in her native Berlin and later received her Master's degree from Hamburg University. Her composed music includes arrangements for ensembles such as the Metropole Orchestra, Die Junge Norddeutsche Philharmonie and her 24-piece orchestra. Fabia Mantwill also performs with Red ExiT: a collective of international female musicians and composers playing original music as well as free and guided improvisations.



FLORIAN ROSS studied piano and composition at the Guildhall School of Music and New York University. He has composed for the WDR and NDR big bands, and the Danish Radio Jazz Orchestra. Ross is a recipient of the Thad Jones Composition Award and the WDR Jazz Composition prize. Several CDs of his compositions have been released, many of which have featured leading jazz musicians from across Europe. Florian Ross is in demand as an educator and currently teaches at Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the Jazz Institute of Berlin, and the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne.



CREATIVES



DILLON BARRIE is a young drummer, producer and designer based in Glasgow, currently studying jazz drums in his third year at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Although still a student, Dillon has already enjoyed success with his creative thinking and abilities to make his ideas come to fruition. At the age of seventeen, he started promoting his hugely popular Supersonic shows, progressing from packing out the Blue Arrow jazz club weekly to selling out venues across the city, including Oran Mor, and playing with some of the Glasgow scene's hottest talents, including Matt Carmichael, Anoushka Nanguy (aka Noushy), and Liam Shortall (aka corto.alto). Dillon has also earned praise for his design work, which ranges from graphic design and video editing through outlining ideas for merchandise and creative direction.



NIKI CARDOSO ZAUPA Moventia is the vjing side-quest of multimedia artist Niki Cardoso Zaupa.

He employs algorithmic generative imagery, abstracted found footage and multi-sensorial data visualisations to accompany and complement sound in the most organic way possible. Moventia (which can be translated as 'entity in motion') aims to re-create a synesthetic feel in the viewer, translating sound into colours, shapes, pixel behaviours: light.

PATRONS AND SUPPORTERS

To all our Friends and Supporters listed below and to those who have chosen to donate anonymously – your help has been invaluable and we thank you sincerely.

PATRONS

Gary Burton, Kurt Elling, Dame Cleo Laine, David Liebman, Joe Lovano

FRIENDS

DUKE ELLINGTON

Michael Connarty, Colin McIntyre, Ian Wilson

DIZZY GILLESPIE

Aileen Wilson, Carl Bow, Dr Ella Taylor Smith, Frederick Hay, Ian Smith, James Brown, John Neath, Margaret Doran, Mark McKergow, Mr & Mrs Andrew McLeod, Stephen Duffy, Lindsay Robertson, Ian and Susan Shaw, Ann Mclean, Tom Bowden, David and Judith Halkerston, Robert and Sylvia Fleming

GIL EVANS

Alan Lawson, Albert Clowes, Andrew Mitchell, David Fenton, George Duncan, George Harrington, Ian Rankin, Jack Hunter, John Simpson, Jules Riley, Larry Foster, Patrick Hadfield, Peter Wilson, Gordon Drummond, Robin McClure, Ruth Allen, Simon Lewin, June Mitchell, Frank Carey

STANDARD FRIEND

Pauline Black, A F Mackie, Dr William Kay & Dr Phillis Roy, David & Maureen Lightbody, Graham Jackson, Charles Humphries, Katherine Campbell, Martin Denman, Mike Rymaruk & Jan McLardy, Martin Eckersall, Moira Pate, James Rooney, Jane Griffiths, Stuart Rae, Guy and Ms Sallyann Jubb, Mr R Steele, Eric Colledge, Gordon Evans, Mrs A Quigg, Venetia Menzies, Geoff and Ellice Cackett, Allan Murray, John Percival, Alan Barclay, Grant McLeman, Robin Bennie, Bill & Liz McBain, David Leslie, Jane George.

SUITE FRIEND

Catherine Way, Michael Shand, Robert Neill, Tony Smith, Colin Cheyne, Lennie Herd, Bill Gilby, Philip Galashan, Jane Griffiths

MAJOR FRIEND

Brian Shaw, Michael Connarty & Margaret Doran, Simon & Swati Best, Dr Alec Mason & Margaret Malcom, Allison Worth, Andrew Coleman, Margaret Duffy

We welcome new friends at any time

If you enjoyed tonight's concert, please consider becoming a Friend of the SNJO and help support our future and that of jazz in Scotland.

If you would like to know more about our memberships, please contact Cat Gillespie: phone +44 7446 286412 | email: management@snjo.co.uk

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE **SCOTTISH** NATIONAL **JAZZ** ORCHESTRA

Our Friends' scheme enables you to enjoy a closer relationship with the orchestra that will enhance your enjoyment of our concerts and maximize your jazz experience.

Support from individuals underpins much of our ability to bring exciting projects to our audiences. Every contribution plays an important role in the future of the

orchestra allowing them to produce new jazz works, original recordings, education projects and exhilarating concerts.

Further details of benefits can be found at snjo.co.uk/friends where you can register online. Alternatively complete the short form below and send it to our orchestra manager. **Thank you.**

title & full name

address

town

postcode

phone

email

I would like to remain anonymous.

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can help the SNJO further by allowing us to treat this and all future donations, to the SNJO as Gift Aid Donations.

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer.

STANDARD FRIEND

single: £60 per year / £5 per month

joint: £85 per year / £7 per month

SUITE FRIEND

single: £120 per year / £10 per month

joint: £150 per year / £12.50 per month

MAJOR FRIEND

single: £300 per year / £25 per month

joint: £450 per year / £37.50 per month

Please send this form either with a cheque payable to SNJO Ltd to
The Orchestra Manager, SNJO Ltd, 43/12 Albert Street, Edinburgh, EH7 5LN

OR

register online [by clicking here.](#)

THE SNJO is a registered Charity recognised by the Inland Revenue. Charity No: SC028653

TOMMY SMITH YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

The Tommy Smith Youth Jazz Orchestra has become synonymous with energetic performances that channel the creativity and excitement of big-band jazz, celebrating legendary jazz composers.

Since Tommy Smith formed the youth orchestra in 2002 to create a free educational opportunity for Scotland's best young jazz musicians, it has forged over 125 masterful young musicians, many of them acclaimed award winners who have gone on to have successful national and international careers.

Please join us at any of the dates and enjoy a relaxed afternoon with these talented young players.

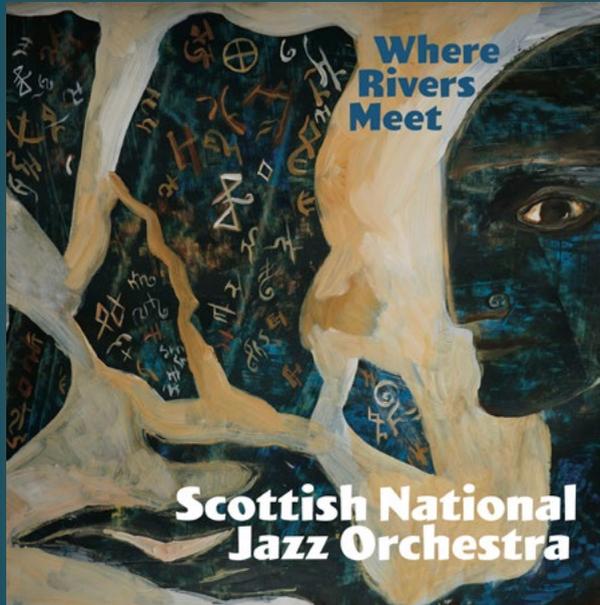
9 MAR 2024
Glasgow
Drygate Brewery

10 MAR 2024
Edinburgh
St Bride's Centre

Visit snjo.co.uk to book



LIVE ALBUM



"...the arrangements really sizzled with energy and complexity."
Mark McKergow – London Jazz News

"muscular", "emphatic", "beguiling", "formidable"...
Patrick Hadfield – London Jazz News

ALSO AVAILABLE



order online at snjo.co.uk