



**SCOTTISH
NATIONAL
JAZZ
ORCHESTRA**
1995 - 2019

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**.

It should therefore come as no surprise that many of the leading lights in world jazz have enthusiastically shared the stage with the SNJO.

People like **Cleo Laine, John Scofield, Gary Burton, Bobby Watson, Dave Liebman, Joe Lovano, Bill Evans, Kenny Wheeler, Gary Novak, Arild Andersen, Peter Erskine, Kurt Elling, Makoto Ozone, Randy Brecker, Mike Stern, Joe Locke** and **Branford Marsalis** have all joined the orchestra to explore virtually every room in the house of the jazz.

The SNJO repertoire has included re-imaginings of works by the great, the good and the gigantic, including **Weather Report, Herman, Rich, Strayhorn, Goodman, Kenton, Basie, Gillespie, Mingus, Corea, Monk, Metheny, Shorter, Miles** and **Coltrane**. They have also built a growing library of original compositions underpinned by a deep understanding and appreciation of improvisation.

Their discography includes vivid interpretations of **Gershwin** and **Ellington**, a remarkable re-reading of *Miles Ahead*, an ECM-tinted set on *Celebration* and **Tommy Smith's** suite, *Torah*. They then added

American Adventure – an exceptional album recorded in NYC, **Bobby Wellins'** atmospheric *Culloden Moor Suite*, their outstanding recording of *Jeune homme* with **Makoto Ozone** and **Tommy Smith's** *Beauty and the Beast* with saxophonist **Bill Evans**. Their most recent CDs, **Kenny Wheeler's** *Sweet Sister Suite* and **Serge Prokofieff's** *Peter and the Wolf*, were released in 2018.

The SNJO makes jazz for the people, **by** the people and delivers it **to** the people; at home in Scotland and across international borders. They give and receive a warm welcome wherever they go and carry with them the true democratic spirit of jazz.



The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) directed by Tommy Smith will celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2020 and is everything a modern big band should be: **bold, versatile, disciplined, inventive and expressive.**





"Tommy Smith has turned
his country's national jazz orchestra into
a **world-class outfit**."

THE GUARDIAN

"Tommy Smith's
re-orchestration of Gershwin's
original played with **love**
and **passion** by a very
young group, and piano soloist Brian Kellock
showing his genius for differing idioms
throughout... The standout is Smith's
brilliant invention of an
Afro-Cuban section, horns blazing."

THE INDEPENDENT

TOMMY SMITH

Artistic Director

Award-winning Scottish saxophonist-composer-educator Tommy Smith is a creative force in improvised music performing in settings from solo to symphonic concerts and is one of Europe's leading musicians. He has recorded 30 solo albums as a leader for Blue Note Records, Linn and his own label Spartacus Records and worked with stars like Chick Corea, Gary Burton, Jack DeJohnette, Jaco Pastorius, Arild Andersen, Trilok Gurtu and John Scofield.

Tommy Smith is artistic director of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's jazz course and holds three doctorates from Heriot-Watt, Glasgow Caledonian & Edinburgh Universities, a Professorship from the RCS, and an OBE from His Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. His album KARMA won him his 9th Scottish Jazz Award for album of the year, and he has received a UK Parliamentary Jazz Award for jazz education.

tommysmith.scot

**"One of the important voices
in the tenor players of today."** JACK
DEJOHNETTE

**"Tommy has a unique sound
and approach."** CHICK
COREA

**"The most talented sax star to arrive
on the world scene in years."** GARY
BURTON

**"Tommy is an incredible writer
and a great, great player."** JOHN
SCOFIELD

"The SNJO deserved **all the praise**
Kurt Elling so graciously lavished on them."

THE TELEGRAPH

1995-97

Established 1995

miscellaneous programmes

In An Ellington Mood

1998

The Solar Suite *world premiere*

Planet Wave with legendary poet Edwin Morgan

The Sweet Sister Suite featuring virtuoso trumpeter
Kenny Wheeler *world premiere*

Sketches Of Spain and Porgy & Bess
featuring Gerard Presencer

1999

Planet Wave
with legendary poet Edwin Morgan

Famous Scots Present and Past *world premiere*

In An Ellington Mood featuring Carol Kidd,
Joe Temperley and Bobby Watson

Ellington's Nutcracker and Toot's Suite

2000

Celebrating Sinatra and Torah
with Joe Lovano

In An Ellington Mood

Benny Goodman
with Ken Peplowski

Miles Ahead and Birth of the Cool
with Ingrid Jensen

2001

The Music of Maria Schneider

The Edinburgh Suite *world premiere*

Count Basie Tribute

Beauty & the Beast
with David Liebman *world premiere*

The Music of Charles Mingus

2002

Count Basie Tribute

Lilacs & Laughter - A Day in the Life of...
by Florian Ross

Classic Jazz - with Rebecca Kilgore,
Scott Hamilton, Harry Allen and Dan Barrett

“

The orchestra plays Evan's charts
with such **care, precision,**
and **assured composure,**
you almost expect Miles to arrive

and rasp "who's
been sleeping in
my bed?" ”

THE HERALD



"a continual round of treats"

THE INDEPENDENT

2003

Count Basie
The Music of Billy Strayhorn
The Music of Charles Mingus
Ellington's Nutcracker Suite

2004

The Orcadian Suite *world premier*
The Music of Goran Strandberg
The Music of Pat Metheny and Lyle Mays

The Music of Oliver Nelson
The Music of Charles Mingus
The Music of Thelonious Monk *world premier*
Stan Kenton Tribute
Ellington's Nutcracker

2005

The Music of Keith Tippett and Geoffrey Keezer *world premiere*
The Music of Thelonious Monk
Stan Kenton Tribute
The Music of Chick Corea featuring Gary Novak *world premiere*

2006

Benny Carter/Count Basie Tribute featuring Brian Kellock and the Kansas City Suite
The Music of Stan Kenton
George Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue featuring Brian Kellock *world premiere*
Tribute to Dizzy Gillespie

2007

The Music of Ray Charles, Joe Williams, Thad Jones & Mel Lewis with Tam White
Celebration of the 40th of John Coltrane *world premiere*
Rhapsody In Blue featuring Brian Kellock
The Music of Woody Herman

★★★★★
[5 stars]
RHAPSODY
IN BLUE
The Irish Times

"it's a triumph for Smith,
who is magisterial both as
orchestrator
and **player**."

THE IRISH TIMES

★★★★★
[5 stars]
CHICK COREA
14th August 2005
Scotsman

★★★★★
[5 stars]
JOHN COLTRANE
27th June 2007
The Herald

★★★★★
[5 stars]
RHAPSODY
IN BLUE
The Independent





"For the encore, **Burton and Smith** duet on Chick Corea's self-explanatory tribute, Bud Powell. There may be only two people onstage, but in terms of maestros, the material makes a serious four."

HERALD

2008

Rhapsody In Blue featuring Brian Kellock

Jazz Toons featuring the voice of Maureen McMullan

Three Decades of Steely Dan

The Music of Ray Charles, Joe Williams, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis with Tam White

New Tango: A Hommage to Piazzolla and Brazilian Scenes featuring Mario Caribe *world premiere*

★★★★★
[5 stars]
RHASPODY IN BLUE
June 2009
Irish Times

★★★★★
[5 stars]
RHASPODY IN BLUE
June 2009
Independent

★★★★★
[5 stars]
BUDDY RICH
23rd March 2009
The Herald

★★★★★
[5 stars]
GARY BURTON
14th Sept 2009
Scotsman



"An awesome display of **unflagging invention, endurance** and **virtuosity**."

THE IRISH TIMES

2009

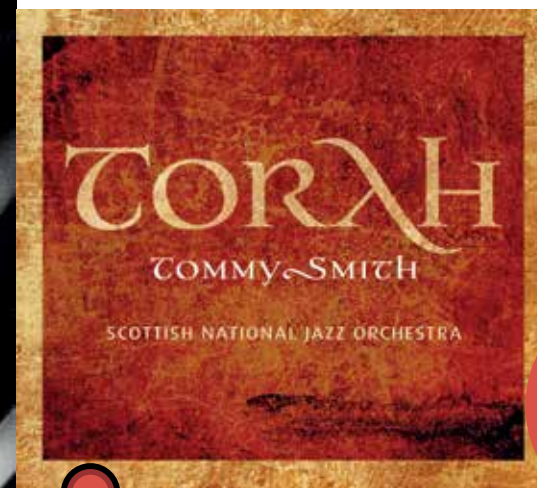
Traps the Drum Wonder - A Tribute to Buddy Rich featuring Alyn Cosker

Rhapsody In Blue featuring Brian Kellock

The Music of Woody Herman

Music of Steely Dan featuring Graeme Scott

The Music of Wayne Shorter featuring Gary Burton *world premiere*



"its gloriously Coltrane -like opening clearly indicates the musical and spiritual currents which run throughout a diverse and fervent piece."

SCOTSMAN

★★★★★
[5 stars]
TORAH
14th February 2000
Evening News

"a **bravura big-band score** for tenor sax tour de force."

JAZZWISE

2010

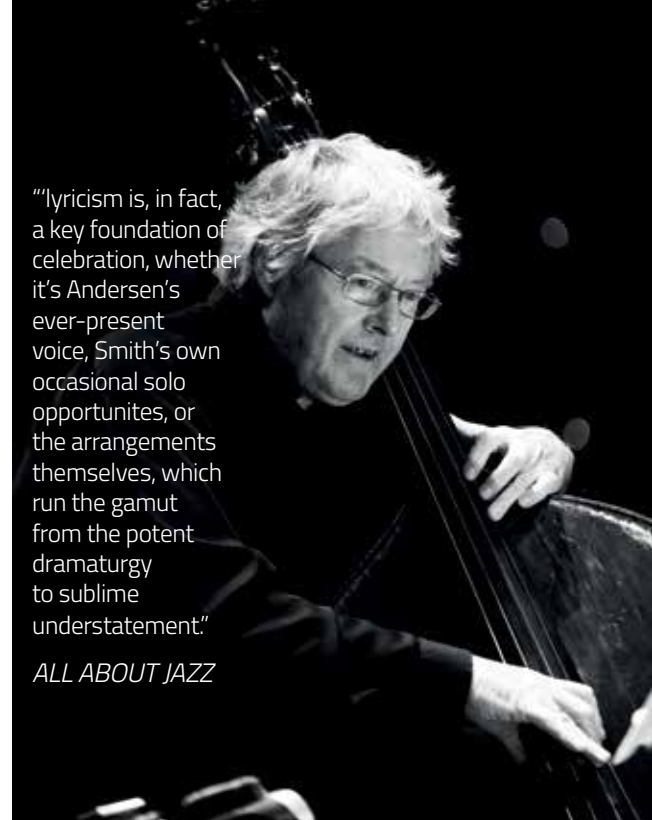
Electric Miles and Loud Jazz featuring John Scofield

World of the Gods featuring Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers *world premiere*

Torah featuring Tommy Smith

Porgy & Bess with Gunther Schuller and Joe Lovano

Celebrating ECM with Arild Andersen *world premiere*



"lyricism is, in fact, a key foundation of celebration, whether it's Andersen's ever-present voice, Smith's own occasional solo opportunities, or the arrangements themselves, which run the gamut from the potent dramaturgy to sublime understatement."

ALL ABOUT JAZZ

★★★★★
[5 stars]
JOHN SCOFIELD
7th March 2010
Scotsman

Rhapsody in Blue featuring Brian Kellock

The Music of Ray Charles, Joe Williams, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis with Tam White

The Music of Wayne Shorter featuring Gary Burton

Electric Miles featuring John Scofield *world premiere*



"as soon as this album ended,
I wanted to hear it again; one of the
best albums of the year."

DOWN BEAT

"Celebration
is atypically
accessible
and seductive."

JAZZ TIMES

"Smith has the orchestra
tuned like a Maserati;
a triumph all around."

JAZZ JOURNAL

"the recording **abounds**
with surprises."

NEW YORK CITY JAZZ RECORDS

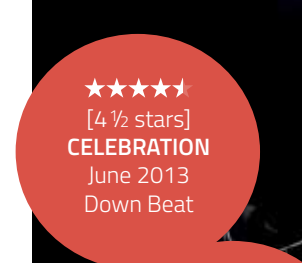
2011



Arild Andersen
Celebration
Scottish National Jazz Orchestra
Directed by Tommy Smith

An Evening with Kurt Elling
Beauty and the Beast featuring Bill Evans
Torah featuring Tommy Smith
World of the Gods featuring
Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers

Rhapsody in Blue featuring Makoto Ozone
An Evening with Jacqui Dankworth
Celebrating ECM with Arild Andersen
The Culloden Moor and Caledonian Suites
with Bobby Wellins



★★★★★
[4 ½ stars]
CELEBRATION
June 2013
Down Beat



★★★★★
[5 stars]
**IN THE SPIRIT
OF DUKE**
October 2012
Herald



2012

In The Spirit of Duke
An Evening with Kurt Elling
Torah featuring Tommy Smith
A Concert with Julian Arquelles, Ru Pattison
and Sylvain Rifflet



"it takes chutzpah to record
some of the most famous band
numbers in jazz history."

DAILY TELEGRAPH

"**excellent
recorded
sound** captures
the full detail and
the celebratory
atmosphere of the
concerts."

SCOTSMAN

2013

Celebrating Michael Brecker
featuring Randy Brecker *world premiere*
The Music of Weather Report
with Peter Erskine *world premiere*

Miles Ahead with Paolo Fresu
The Music of Stan Kenton
Culloden Moor recording with Bobby Wellins
Day & Night with David Liebman



★★★★★
[5 stars]
**IN THE SPIRIT
OF DUKE**
March 2013
Daily Telegraph



★★★★★
[5 stars]
**IN THE SPIRIT
OF DUKE**
March 2013
Scotsman

"The growth of the SNJO over the past two decades has been **the most significant development ever in Scottish jazz.**"

KENNY MATHIESON,
THE SCOTSMAN

"American Adventure is one of those rare gems: a **truly inspirational collection of music from people at the top of their game.**"

IRISH EXAMINER

★★★★★

[5 stars]

AMERICAN
ADVENTURE

Jazz Journal

★★★★★

[5 stars]

AMERICAN
ADVENTURE

The Scotsman



"Contemporary big-band music of the highest quality, and as such, totally recommended."

MIKE TUCKER, JAZZ JOURNAL

★★★★★

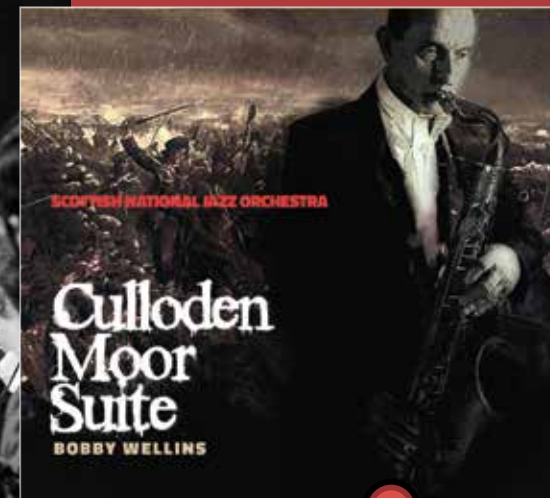
[5 stars]

CULLODEN MOOR
SUITE

The Observer

"His dry, haunting tone and spare, eloquent phrases dominate the performance and make this **an outstanding album.**"

DAVE GELLY, THE OBSERVER



2013

American Adventure recording New York

The Music of Wayne Shorter
with Branford Marsalis

Jazz Toons with Jacqui Dankworth

"If big bands are your bag, **you won't hear much better this year.**"

RON BURNETT,
THE YORK PRESS

2014

Kurt Elling - Syntopicon
world premiere

Courtney Pine - Revisiting Coltrane

Mozart's 9th Piano Concerto featuring Makoto Ozone
world premiere

The Music of the Yellow Jackets
with Bob Mintzer

Jaco! The Music of Jaco Pastorius
with Laurence Cottle

"[...] a clever, sympathetic and truly musical example of the treacherous art of jazz/ classical cohabitation."

JOHN FORDHAM, THE GUARDIAN



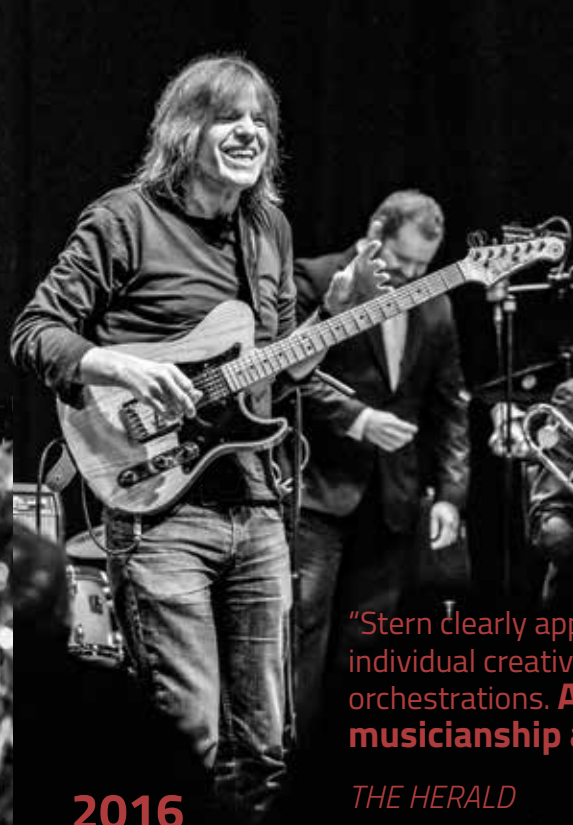
★★★★★
[5 stars]
JEUNE HOMME
Scotsman

2015

The Jazz Genius of Billy Strayhorn
Kurt Elling Swings Sinatra
ALBA: Songs of Scotland
featuring Eddi Reader



Benny Golson plays
Benny Golson
The Glenn Miller Sound



2016

Mike Stern Meets the SNJO
The Music of Brubeck
with John Nugent and Bill Dobbins
The Music of Steps Ahead
featuring Mike Mainieri



"One of those rare moments when the Earth moves!"

BEBOP SPOKEN HERE ****

"Stern clearly appreciated the spontaneous individual creativity as much as the tightly ordered orchestrations. **A top night of life-affirming musicianship all round.**"

THE HERALD

★★★★
[4 stars]
BRUBECK
Glasgow Herald

★★★★★
[5 stars]
MINGUS
Glasgow Herald

The Jazz Legacy of Charles Mingus
featuring Arild Andersen
The Legend of Charlie Parker

A Christmas Festival of Jazz with the SNJO and TSYJO



"This is the SNJO in full-blown mode:
it rocks and it roars."

THE SCOTSMAN



2016

★★★★
[4 stars]
**BEAUTY & THE
BEAST**
All About Jazz

★★★★
[4 stars]
**BEAUTY & THE
BEAST**
The Guardian

"From the opening drum
salvo and funky bass/piano,
this piece hits you and
carries you along in
a wave of euphoria."

JAZZ VIEWS

"[...] Scots jazz entrepreneur [...] **Tommy Smith**
has taken over the theme of good and evil with
a staggeringly potent piece of composition
using the relentless talents of American
saxophonist **Bill Evans** as his main voice
in front of the SNJO. Smith's writing for
the orchestra presents Evans with an
ever-changing palette against which to
leap and cavort as only he can."

JAZZ JOURNAL

★★★★
[4 stars]
**BEAUTY & THE
BEAST**
Jazz Journal

2017

The Songs of Mancini & Mandel
featuring Joe Locke and Kenny Washington

Porgy & Bess / Sketches of Spain
with Tom Macniven and Laura Jurd

Electric Contact: A Jazz Tribute to Tom McGrath
with Tam Dean Burn

"It was the sort of occasion that illustrates how **there's no
substitute for being in the room** where and when the music
is being played, even when that music features on iconic recordings."

THE HERALD

★★★★★
[5 stars]
**PORGY & BESS
SKETCHES OF SPAIN**
The Herald

★★★★★
[5 stars]
**PORGY & BESS
SKETCHES OF SPAIN**
Southside
Advertiser

"**'Very special'** is exactly what the
audience got from these performances."

SOUTHSIDE ADVERTISER

★★★★★
[5 stars]
**MANCINI
& MANDEL**
The Wee Review

"[...] add in one of the world's best
vibraphone players - **Joe Locke**, that five
octave voice of **Kenny Washington**, and
the **SNJO** - then you know you are in for
a great evening of music."

SOUTHSIDE ADVERTISER

2017

In the Spirit of Django
with Martin Taylor

Spirit of Light
with Kurt Elling and Cappella Nova
world premiere

"...a concert full of fun
and exuberance as well
as virtuosity."

"The Scottish National
Jazz Orchestra featuring
Martin Taylor at The
Queens' Hall Edinburgh
performing *In The Spirit
of Django* was simply a
perfect marriage of music
and performers."

SOUTHSIDE ADVERTISER

★★★★
[4 stars]
SPRIT OF LIGHT
The Times

"**Kurt Elling** and
Tommy Smith
make
midwinter magic
with the **SNJO**."

JAZZWISE

★★★★★
[5 stars]
SPRIT OF LIGHT
Southside
Advertiser

"The deliciously
dark double act of
Tommy Smith and
Kurt Elling creates
a grand spectacle...
a compelling flow
and an understated
atmosphere of
grandeur."

THE TIMES



"Such is the quality of **Scotland's premier orchestra** that the collective contribution is never less than magnificent."

BEBOP SPOKEN HERE



"... the orchestra reels and roams through variously stormy, hypnotic, swinging and gloriously tumbling passages of beautiful writing."

THE HERALD



★★★★★
[5 stars]
THE COUNT & THE DUKE
Southside Advertiser

"Norse Myths is a musical quest that illustrates how new ideas can be forged from free exchanges in a common language. Here, the language is jazz, with a distinctly Nordic accent yet Celtic feel."

REVIEWSPHERE

★★★★★
[5 stars]
NORSE MYTHS
Southside Advertiser



2018

The SNJO at Ronnie Scott's, London:
The Music of Mancini & Mandel with Joe Locke
Jazz Legacy of Charles Mingus with Arild Andersen

Peter and the Wolf / Carnival of Animals
with Tam Dean Burn and Makoto Ozone
world premiere

Kenny Wheeler's Sweet Sister Suite / Music of Mary Lou Williams
with Laura Jurd & Irini Arabatzí

Jazz Re-Imagined
Jazz Masters arranged and conducted by Florian Ross

The Count & The Duke

2019

The SNJO at Ronnie Scott's, London:
Peter and the Wolf with Tam Dean Burn
Alba: Songs of Scotland with Eddi Reader

Norse Myths
with Arild Andersen, Patrice Héral, Tommy Smith
world premiere

New Waves: Antonio Carlos Jobim / Fats Waller

"Two classic composers and performers from the classic years of Jazz and American music being performed live by a tight and innovative contemporary jazz orchestra, a perfect way to spend an evening."

ORIGIN / PAPER

★★★★★
[5 stars]
PETER AND THE WOLF
The Scotsman

"The entire performance **tears up the rulebook** in the best possible way. Unreservedly recommended."

BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE



"virtuosity and ingenuity with unadulterated theatricality... in a delightful collision between folk tale and big-band swing..."

THE SCOTSMAN

★★★★★
[5 stars]
PETER AND THE WOLF
BBC Music Magazine

★★★★★
[5 stars]
PETER AND THE WOLF
Bebob Spoken Here

★★★★★
[5 stars]
PETER AND THE WOLF
The Wee Review

★★★★★
[5 stars]
PETER AND THE WOLF
Southside Advertiser

2019

- Peter and the Wolf - USA and Japan Tour
- Sketches of Spain at the Edinburgh Film Festival
- An American Journey with Bill Evans
- The Artistry of Jazzmeia Horn

coming up in 2020

- The SNJO at Ronnie Scott's, London
- Planet Wave
- Rock, Pop, Jazz with Joe Locke and Kenny Washington
- Jazz of the 60s

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS



1995-2020



PATRONS GARY BURTON, CHICK COREA, KURT ELLING
DAME CLEO LAINE, DAVID LIEBMAN, JOE LOVANO

FEATURED GUESTS 1995-2019

ARILD ANDERSEN, RANDY BRECKER, TAM DEAN BURN, GARY BURTON, JACQUI DANKWORTH, KURT ELLING, PETER ERSKINE, BILL EVANS, PAOLO FRESU, BENNY GOLSON, JAZZMEIA HORN, INGRID JENSON, LAURA JURD, GEOFFREY KEEZER, CAROL KIDD, CLEO LAINE, DAVID LIEBMAN, JOE LOCKE, JOE LOVANO, MIKE MAINIERI, BRANFORD MARSALIS, DONNY McCASLIN, BOB MINTZER, EDWIN MORGAN, JIM MULLEN, CAPPELLA NOVA, GARY NOVAK, MAKOTO OZONE, KEN PELOWSKI, COURTNEY PINE, GERARD PRESENCER, EDDI READER, FLORIAN ROSS, MARIA SCHNEIDER, GUNTHER SCHULER, JOHN SCOFIELD, GIULIANA SOSCIA, MIKE STERN, MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS, MARTIN TAYLOR, JOE TEMPERLEY, KEITH TIPPETT, MIKE WALKER, KENNY WASHINGTON, BOBBY WATSON, BOBBY WELLINS, KENNY WHEELER, TAM WHITE, NORMA WINSTONE



"the orchestra deftly executes the flutters, riffs and stabs of big band tradition, and delivers **cushioning harmonies** and **springy rhythms**."

FINANCIAL TIMES

“ Smith’s SNJO has become one of the **great adornments** of our British jazz scene, the personnel invariably of the **highest quality**, their many successful collaborations an apt testimony to their prowess. ”

JAZZWISE





Scottish National Jazz Orchestra
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ML11 9WD
Scotland

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snjo.co.uk



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

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