

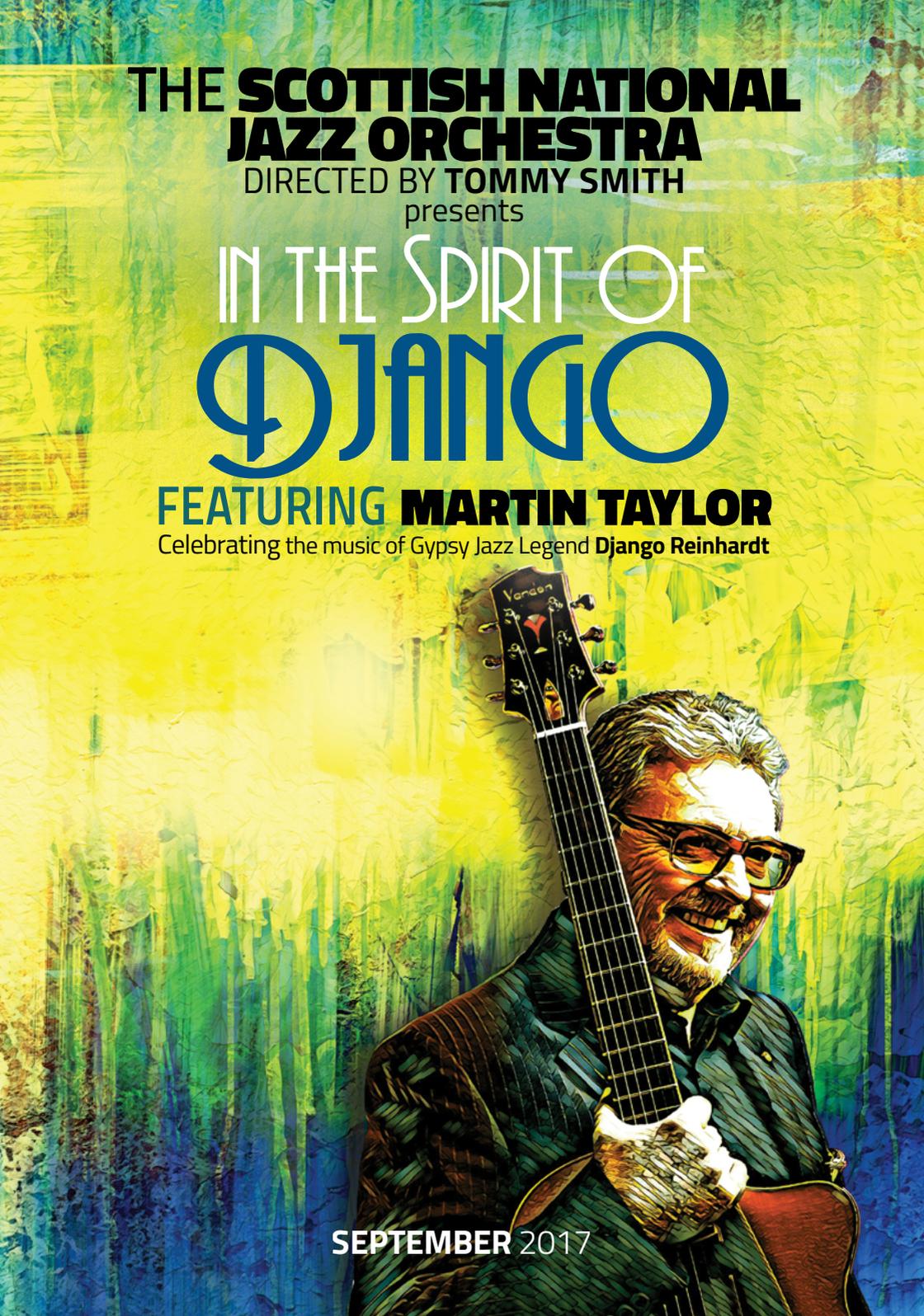
THE **SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

DIRECTED BY **TOMMY SMITH**
presents

IN THE SPIRIT OF **DJANGO**

FEATURING MARTIN TAYLOR

Celebrating the music of Gypsy Jazz Legend **Django Reinhardt**



SEPTEMBER 2017

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA WITH SPECIAL GUEST MARTIN TAYLOR

The **Scottish National Jazz Orchestra** is delighted to welcome renowned guitarist **Martin Taylor** to perform the music of **Django Reinhardt**, one of the most perennially popular figures in jazz.

There is no guitarist on the world stage more capable of evoking the spirit of Django's ageless music than Martin Taylor. He connects the golden age of Parisian Swing to the present day through a discography full of authentic gypsy jazz, and his extraordinary partnership with Reinhardt's closest musical collaborator, **Stéphane Grappelli**.

Rheinhardt became world-famous for his delightfully idiosyncratic jazz music, his unique style and his sheer artistry. Long after his passing, Django remains a hero to guitarists everywhere, and his wonderfully evergreen music never fails to reach into our hearts and lift our spirits.

The SNJO and Martin Taylor are sure to raise the temperature several degrees with liberated interpretations of free-spirited music that speaks equally to the young and the young-at-heart.

snjo.co.uk

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With your help, we can promote our fabulous musicians and National Jazz Orchestra and disseminate our news to ensure as many people as possible know about the SNJO and have a chance to hear this great music.

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PROGRAMME NOTES

The much loved and universally admired jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt is one of several key figures in modern music whose life and career have acquired almost mythical status. A recent biography and a French biopic might help to create more coherent timelines, but Django himself is just as likely to remain elusive.

A great deal has been written about Django Reinhardt. He has often been described as a fickle and feckless personality and he was, according to his close friend and colleague Stéphane Grappelli, "hard to pin down". Nevertheless, he was evidently disciplined and plainly purposeful when it came to making spirited jazz music.

There is, however, no need to wait for Django the legend to separate itself from Reinhardt the artist in order to gain insights into his world. The clues can more readily be found simply by listening to his music. It is the sound of sympathetic melody wandering into your subconscious and asking how you feel today. It is this essential element combined with incredibly intuitive jazz thinking that defines the Reinhardt's repertoire.

It is no accident either that *Django's Music* is the name he gave the first big band collective he formed in occupied Paris on 22nd March 1940, and his choice of words was a clear statement of ownership and authority. Reinhardt was already extremely famous as a jazz musician and performer, and his guitar-led *Parisian Swing* travelled across borders with a dashing disregard for politics or circumstances.

Yet, the foregoing may present modern listeners with a different sort of puzzle. How do gypsy jazz, wartime swing and modern orchestral jazz all fit together? How does music travel through time from an increasingly distant past into the present day, yet remain solidly real and absolutely relevant?

SNJO director Tommy Smith and our special guest Martin Taylor anticipated all those questions (and more) at the design stage of this programme.

The primary historical context is provided by Django Reinhardt's resonant 1940's recordings with various big band permutations in Paris. There is period detail too in compositions by Fats Waller, Huber Fol and Marguerite Monnot. In subtle contrast, Django's contemporary influence is keenly expressed in Martin Taylor's original compositions, *Musette for a Magpie* and *Chez Fernand*, and firmly acknowledged in new arrangements commissioned by the SNJO.

Some of the world's finest jazz arrangers have worked closely with the SNJO to create imaginative, yet highly disciplined re-composed music that challenges prevailing preconceptions about modern orchestral jazz. Geoffrey Keezer, Bill Dobbins, Florian Ross, Christian Jacob and Martin Kershaw contribute charts that group some of Reinhardt's most evocative tunes into medleys that swing seamlessly and retain all the charm of the originals. Famous classics such as *Nuages*, *Djangology* and *Belleville* are interspersed with less widely known pieces like *Place de Brouckère*, *Artillerie Lourde* and *Féerie*.

It's been suggested that the stylistic differences in these later tunes are an indication that Django had begun re-think his own compositional style. It's possible too that he was concerned about remaining relevant and contemporary, but he needn't have worried. His reputation is intact, and it is now the onerous task of others to re-interpret his genius. The SNJO directed by Tommy Smith, with Martin Taylor guesting on guitar, will happily rise to that challenge with improvisational flair and very much in the spirit of Django.

Michael S. Clark

DJANGO REINHARDT

Jean 'Django' Reinhardt (1910-1953) was a prolific and influential jazz guitarist and composer of the 1930's and 40's. He is largely credited as the originator of gypsy jazz, a sophisticated blend of European folk music, the French musette style, and American jazz influences.

Django was a Manouche Romani whose family led a traditional nomadic existence and he was raised primarily in Roma encampments in the French countryside around Paris. It was here that Django learned to play the six-string 'banjo-guitar' an instrumental hybrid that looks like a banjo but is tuned like a guitar.

He learned quickly and he made his first recordings in his teens alongside the well-known Parisian accordionists Jean Vaissade and Victor Marceau, and the singer Maurice Chaumel in 1928. Soon, Django was beginning to attract attention as a player with promise, but his progress was severely checked when he was badly burned in a caravan fire.

Reinhardt suffered terrible injuries, including the complete paralysis of two fingers on his left hand. He set about teaching himself to play the guitar in a way that accommodated the use of only two fingers on the fretboard. The guitar became his first instrument and for the next few years he returned to a nomadic existence, moving around France and essentially playing for his keep.

In the early 1930's Django met the jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli, and they became the nucleus of the famous Quintette du Hot Club du France. From 1934 onwards, until the outbreak of World War II, *the Quintette* was considered the most popular and inventive jazz group in Europe. They were in demand at home and abroad, and toured England three times.

On each of their visits to the UK, they recorded many of Django's most famous compositions at Decca in London, but the third tour in 1939 ended in confusion, disarray and disbandment when war in Europe was declared. Grappelli elected to stay in London for the duration of the hostilities, but Django and the others chose to return to Paris.

For much of the war, Reinhardt continued performing, recording and composing, largely at the discretion of

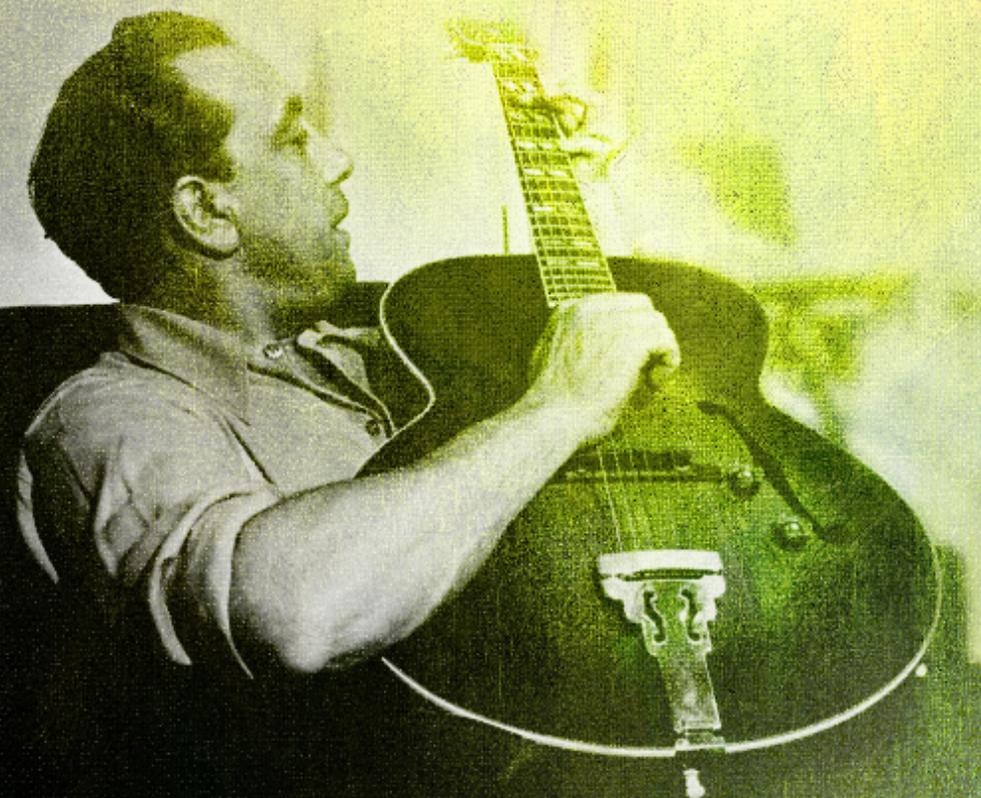
the occupying administration in Paris. If anything, his popularity grew, and he regularly took his groups on short tours and engagements in Belgium and the south of France. It was, nevertheless an uncomfortable existence, and Django unsuccessfully attempted to flee to Switzerland with his family on two well-documented occasions

After the allied liberation in 1945, Django Reinhardt remained a significant figure in jazz, both at home and abroad. He reunited often with Grappelli to re-ignite the 'Hot Club' spark, and travelled to America where he played with Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie, and there were quartet sessions in Rome with an all-Italian rhythm section.

In the course of a relatively short career, Django Reinhardt composed over one hundred original tunes, covered countless standards, and recorded over nine hundred tracks. At the time of his death in 1953, he was still playing regularly and working intermittently on his unfinished orchestral work for organ, a *Mass for the Gypsies*.

Django Reinhardt died prematurely in Samois, France, at the age of forty-three from a brain haemorrhage. He was married twice and is survived by several children, grand-children and great-grandchildren. A gypsy jazz festival in his honour takes place every year at Samois. It is the principal celebration, among many around the world, of Reinhardt's life and music.

Michael S. Clark



THE ORCHESTRA

Reeds Martin Kershaw, Paul Towndrow, Tommy Smith, Konrad Wiszniewski, Bill Fleming

Trumpets Sean Gibbs, Tom MacNiven, Lorne Cowieson

Trombones Chris Greive, Laim Shortall, Michael Owers

Rhythm Section Alyn Cosker (Drums), Calum Gourlay (Bass)

Guests Adam Bulley (Rhythm Guitar), Christian Garrick (Violin), Karen Street (Accordion)

THE ARRANGERS

BILL DOBBINS is a respected pianist, composer, arranger, and educator who has performed with classical ensembles under the direction of Pierre Boulez, Lukas Foss, and Louis Lane. Bill was previously principal director of the WDR Big Band, and guest director with the NDR Big Band and the Metropole Orchestra. He currently teaches at the Eastman School of Music.



CHRISTIAN JACOB studied at the Paris Conservatory and Berklee College of Music but gained widespread exposure as co-leader, arranger and jazz pianist with the Tierney Sutton Band. He has also arranged and conducted worldwide, performing with big bands, symphonies and as soloist. More recently, he became music director for Broadway singer Betty Buckley and this move into musical theatre allows him to draw from his classical background christianjacob.com

GEOFFREY KEEZER is a composer, arranger and educator. He studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and has composed for the St Joseph Ballet and the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego. He has taught widely at Dave Brubeck Institute, the Royal Academy of Music, The Jazz School at Berkeley, and the Guildhall School in London. geoffreykeezer.com



MARTIN KERSHAW is a saxophonist, composer and arranger. A Berklee graduate, he has been 1st alto saxophone in the SNJO since 2004. His music as a leader and collaborator appears on three CD's: Fruition, Maths and Exit Strategy. His 2008 album, Hero As A Riddle, was New Project of The Year at the Scottish Jazz Awards and his most recent album The Howness is an exciting collection of his fascinating compositions. martinkershaw.co.uk

FLORIAN ROSS studied piano and composition at Guildhall School of Music and New York University. He has composed for the WDR and NDR big bands, and the Danish Radio Jazz Orchestra and has received the Thad Jones Composition Award and the WDR Jazz Composition prize. Florian currently teaches at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne. florianross.de



PROGRAMME

Listed in alphabetical order, tunes will be announced from the stage but may be subject to change.

Belleville [Django Reinhardt]

arranged by Florian Ross

Chez Fernand [Martin Taylor]

arranged by Christian Jacob

Django's Rag [Django Reinhardt]

arranged by Bill Dobbins

Douce Ambiance [Django Reinhardt]

Impromptu [Django Reinhardt]

Keep Cool [Hubert Fol]

medley arranged by Christian Jacob

Hymne à l'amour [Marguerite Monnot]

arranged by Martin Taylor

Manoir de mes rêves [Django Reinhardt]

Swing Guitars [Django Reinhardt]

Féerie [Django Reinhardt]

medley arranged by Bill Dobbins

Musette for a Magpie [Martin Taylor]

arranged by Bill Dobbins

Nuits de Saint-Germain-des-Prés [Django Reinhardt]

Troublant Boléro [Django Reinhardt]

Djangology [Django Reinhardt]

medley arranged by Geoffrey Keezer

Place de Brouckère [Django Reinhardt]

arranged by Martin Kershaw

Swing 42 [Django Reinhardt]

Honeysuckle Rose [Fats Waller]

Nymphéas [Django Reinhardt]

medley arranged by Florian Ross

Vous et Moi [Robert Bosmans]

Artillerie Lourde [Django Reinhardt]

Nuages [Django Reinhardt]

medley arranged by Martin Kershaw

There will be a 20 minute interval

MARTIN TAYLOR

GRAMMY nominated musician Martin Taylor, MBE, is a virtuoso guitarist, composer, educator and musical innovator. Widely considered to be the world's foremost exponent of solo jazz and fingerstyle guitar playing, Martin possesses an inimitable style that has earned him global acclaim from fellow musicians, fans and critics alike.

Martin has enjoyed a remarkable musical career spanning five decades, with more than 100 recordings to his credit. Completely self-taught beginning at the early age of 4, he has invented and developed a unique way of playing the guitar that is greatly admired, and often emulated, by guitarists all over the world.

In addition to solo concerts and recordings, he has collaborated with musicians from many different musical genres, including: Jeff Beck, Tommy Emmanuel, Bill Wyman, Chet Atkins, Stephane Grappelli, David Grisman, George Harrison, Jamie Cullum, Bryn Terfel, Dianne Schuur and Gary Burton. He brings a rich and varied musical heritage to his play, to the extent that Tommy Emmanuel remarked that Martin is "a portal into all that came before."

From 1979 to 1990, Martin toured the world and recorded over 20 albums with the French jazz violin legend Stephane Grappelli and their album with Vassar Clements "Together At Last" won a Grammy Nomination in 1987. Grappelli described Martin as "A great artist, rich in talent and elegance."



His ground breaking solo album ARTISTRY, produced by Steve Howe, was released in 1992 to much critical acclaim. It was #1 in the HMV Jazz Charts for a record 12 weeks and launched his career as an international solo artist.

Over his stellar career, Taylor has amassed a record 14 British Jazz Awards and in 1999, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of The West of Scotland. Appointed MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) "For Services To Jazz Music" on The Queen's Birthday Honours List (2002), he received it personally from Her Majesty The Queen at an investiture at Buckingham Palace.

In 2005 he published his autobiography "Autobiography of a Travelling Musician" and In 2007, Taylor received the prestigious BBC Radio 2 "Heart of Jazz" Award in recognition of his career in music and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Wales Jazz Guitar Festival for his "Contribution to Jazz Guitar Worldwide".

2010 started with the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama presenting him with his second honorary doctorate. Then in April, he launched the Martin Taylor Guitar Academy, an online guitar school that propelled Taylor into becoming one of the world's most recognized and beloved online guitar teachers. This innovative online learning program has been featured on NPR, BBC, Fox News and in the Los Angeles Times and today has students in over 60 countries.

Later that year, Taylor was invited to perform a special private concert at Windsor Castle for Prince William on the eve of his engagement to Kate Middleton.

2011 featured extensive touring of the Far East, USA, Europe and UK to introduce his music to younger and more international audiences. Taylor also launched the first two models in his own guitar range with Korea-based guitar manufacturer Peerless. The 'Maestro' and 'Virtuoso' have gone on to achieve both critical and commercial success globally.

With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics in 2012, the BBC made a special performance of Martin Taylor's 'Spirit of Django Suite' part of their Proms concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall. Taylor received the BrandLaureate International Brand Personality Award in Asia in 2013 to join other notable recipients including Steve Jobs, Hillary Clinton, Nelson Mandela and Mark Zuckerberg.

As well as extensive touring, both solo and with his new group, The Great Guitars Martin has many film and TV credits to his name including the French comedy "Milou En Mai" directed by Louis Malle, "Green Lady" is featured in the movie "The Killing of John Lennon", the theme music for "After You've Gone" featuring Nicholas Lyndhurst and the cult "Nicole-Papa" TV commercials for the Renault Clio.

When not touring, Martin Taylor divides his time between Scotland and California, where the Martin Taylor Guitar Academy is based.

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