# CHESTRA DIRECTED BY TOMMY SMITH perform the Music of Contemporary European Composers November 2021

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# **Kurt Elling reunites with Tommy Smith and the** SNJO for APPARITION BRIDGE.

Few singers in the world bring to bear the unique combination of artistic depth, intellectual breadth and soulful delivery that our friend Kurt Elling does. Combine his talents with the searching eloquence of saxophone master Tommy Smith and the SNJO and you have the makings of a powerful and unique musical regrouping. Previous tours with Kurt Elling have featured An Evening with Kurt Elling, Syntopicon, Swingin' Sinatra and Spirit of Light.

For this all-new concert series — exclusive to Scotland the team will perform freshly-conceived arrangements and recently composed lyrics to the works of Europe's most exciting contemporary composers; including Jan Garbarek, Anne Mette Iversen, Anna Pacéo, and the late Esbjörn Svennson. This project promises to reconnect us all through music as we span the ethereal chasms between the ancient and the future, between sorrow and joy, and between time and timelessness.

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We look forward to welcoming you.

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# Renowned for his singular combination of robust swing and poetic insight, two-time GRAMMY winner Kurt Elling has secured his place among the world's foremost jazz vocalists. The New York Times proclaimed Elling, "the standout male vocalist of our time". Over a twenty-five year career of touring and recording, Elling has won three Prix du Jazz Vocal (France), two German Echo Awards, two Dutch Edison Awards, and has been nominated for a GRAMMY award fifteen times. He has had a 14-year run atop the DownBeat Critics and Readers polls and has won twelve Jazz Journalists Awards for "Male Vocalist of the Year".

Kurt Elling's voice is instantly recognizable, embracing listeners with his warm, rich baritone and navigating the full span of his fouroctave range as a virtuoso improvisor and a compelling storyteller. The Guardian (UK) has named Kurt Elling, "a kind of Sinatra with superpowers," and, "one of jazz's all-time great vocalists."

Elling has recorded and toured with Branford Marsalis, Danilo Perez, Stefon Harris, Fred Hersch, James Morrison, and Charlie Hunter. He has performed extensively with larger ensembles like The Clayton/Hamilton Orchestra, The National Youth Orchestra (led by Sean Jones), The Bob Mintzer Big Band, The BBC Concert Symphony (led by Guy Barker), The Metropole Orchestra (Holland), The Irish Radio and Television Orchestra (led by Brian Byrne), The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, and The WDR Orchestra and Big Band (Germany).

The Wall Street Journal said:

"Elling combines authenticity with stunning originality." The Washington Post declared that "since the mid-1990s, no singer in jazz has been as daring, dynamic or interesting as Kurt Elling."

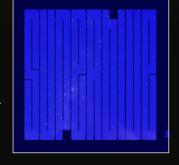
Elling's dynamism is enhanced exponentially by the fact that he consistently generates new vocal material by writing and recording signature and definitive lyrics to the compositions of foundational jazz composers like of John Coltrane, Keith Jarrett, Pat Metheny, Jaco Pastorius, Wayne Shorter, and Joe Zawinul. Additionally, Kurt Elling has co-created multi-disciplinary performances for Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater and The City of Chicago. Jazz At Lincoln Center saw the world premiere of The Big Blind, an entirely new jazz musical-in-progress Elling is co-writing with collaborator Phil Galdston ("Save The Best For Last"). National Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky declared that "In Kurt Elling's art, the voice of jazz gives new spiritual presence to the ancient, sweet and powerful bond between poetry and music."



Elling has toured the world in a variety of contexts, including UNESCOsponsored "International Jazz Day" performances in Havana, Cuba, in St. Petersburg, Russia, in Melbourne, Australia and in Washington DC. He has twice performed at the White House, including a performance in collaboration with the late Marvin Hamlisch and the National Symphony Orchestra for President Obama's first State Dinner. He has served as Artist-In-Residence at the Monterey and Singapore Jazz Festivals. As a music industry leader, Elling spent six years serving as a Trustee and two years as Vice Chairman of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.



Kurt Elling released "SuperBlue", a new recording in collaboration with Charlie **Hunter** and members of the future groove band Butcher Brown in October 2021 on Edition Records.





# **THE ORCHESTRA**

# **WOODWINDS**

Yvonne Robertson Martin Kershaw Tommy Smith Konrad Wiszniewski Bill Fleming

## **TRUMPETS**

James Davison Sean Gibbs Tom MacNiven Lorne Cowieson

# **TROMBONES**

Kieran McLeod Liam Shortall Anoushka Nanguy Michael Owers

### **RHYTHM**

Pete Johnstone *piano*Calum Gourlay acoustic bass
Alyn Cosker drums



# PROGRAMME

Listed in alphabetical order, tunes will be announced from the stage.

Appleton	composed by Lars Jansson orchestrated by Florian Ross
Eighthundred Streets by F	composed by e.s.t orchestrated by Helge Sunde
Free Like You	composed by Hue & Cry orchestrated by Geoffrey Keezer
Land of Me	composed by Maggi Olin orchestrated by Nikki Iles
Memory of Enchantment	composed by <b>Michiel Borstlap</b> orchestrated by <b>Joe Locke</b>
Midnight Mood	composed by <b>Joe Zawinul</b> orchestrated by <b>Christian Jacob</b>
Molde Canticle	composed by <b>Jan Garbarek</b> orchestrated by <b>Helge Sunde</b>
Ophelia	composed by <b>Becca Stevens</b> orchestrated by <b>Fabia Mantwill</b>
Sea Lady composed by	Kenny Wheeler & Norma Winstone orchestrated by Gil Goldstein
Some Day	composed by <b>Anne Mette Iversen</b> orchestrated by <b>Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol</b>
Strings in the Earth & Air	composed & orchestrated by <b>Brian Byrne</b>
Sunshine	composed by <b>Anne Paćeo</b> orchestrated by <b>Brian Byrne</b>



# **ARRANGERS**



Nikki lles is a leading British jazz pianist and composer. She studied clarinet and piano at the Royal Academy of Music and jazz music at Leeds University. Since then, she has performed continuously and worked with a host of noted musicians, including Art Farmer, Kenny Wheeler, Tim Garland and Norma Winstone. Nikki's compositions include commissions from the London Sinfonietta. The National Youth Jazz Orchestra, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra's contemporary ensemble Renga. Other projects have included work with dancer and choreographer Mimi Cichanowicz. Nikki Iles has published several books of jazz piano music and is an active member of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.



Joe Locke is a multi-award-winning vibraphonist - including being a six-time recipient of the Jazz Journalists Association Mallet Player of the Year Award. He is a composer, arranger and lyricist with a broad stylistic palette, who is also internationally recognised as an influential improviser and performer. Locke has appeared as a leader and sideman on numerous recordings, including an acclaimed collaboration with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra. As an educator, he has worked with student ensembles and taught widely in the US and Europe. Joe Locke is the visiting International Vibraphone Consultant at the Royal Academy of Music in London and has received the prestigious title of Honorary Associate of the same institution in 2014.



Christian Jacob is an award-winning pianist, composer, and arranger. He studied at the Paris Conservatory and Berklee College of Music. Christian has arranged for big bands and orchestras, including the Swiss Youth Jazz Orchestra and The Bangkok Symphony. Aside from his role as music director for the Broadway singer Betty Buckley and the American vocal legend Jack Jones, Christian Jacob has arranged music for, among others, Billy Cobham, Charlie Haden, and Gary Burton. He has also collaborated with the renowned Japanese composer Kunihiko Murai and conductor Jorge Calandrelli. In 2016, Jacob composed the original score for the film Sully, which featured a seventy-piece orchestra conducted by Conrad Pope.



Geoffrey Keezer is a composer, arranger, and educator. His commissions have included compositions for the Mainly Mozart Festival, Saint Joseph Ballet, and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra. Keezer's music can be heard in the films What Happens in Vegas and Inhale and numerous TV shows, including The Young and the Restless, Parks and Recreation, and House of Lies. Geoffrey Keezer studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston and has since taught at Dave Brubeck Institute, the Royal Academy of Music, The Jazz School at Berkeley, and the Guildhall School of Music in London.



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.



Bill Dobbins is a respected pianist, composer, arranger, and educator at the Eastman School of Music. As a pianist, Dobbins has performed and recorded with many jazz artists, including Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Dave Liebman, and Peter Erskine. He has also featured in orchestra and chamber ensembles under Pierre Boulez. Lukas Foss, and Louis Lane. Bill Dobbins was previously Principal Director of the WDR Big Band, although he continues to write for the WDR Big Band, the Netherlands Metropole Orchestra, and the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra. A prolific author, Dobbins has seen jazz education programs worldwide include his transcriptions and jazz textbooks in their courses.



**Brian Byrne** is a highly sought-after composer, arranger, songwriter, pianist, and conductor. Byrne graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in 1997 and received the Peter Knox Memorial Award for overall performance. He later won the PRS Sir Arthur Bliss Prize Scholarship for composition and went on to study film composition at the Royal College of Music. Brian Byrne has composed music for the cinema, including The Good Doctor, Albert Nobbs and The Secret Scripture. In 2012, Byrne released his classical work Tales From The Walled City and recently completed Goldenhair, his musical setting of poems by James Joyce.



Mehmet Ali Sanlikol studied classical piano from an early age and studied with the Turkish composer/pianist Aydin Esen. Sanlikol later studied jazz composition at Berklee College of Music, where, in 2004, he was awarded a DMus in Composition. Mehmet has composed music for numerous jazz artists like Dave Liebman. Billy Cobham, and Esperanza Spalding. Other commissions have been performed by the Boston Camerata and the American Composers Orchestra. His work is noted for unifying Turkish and Western forms, most notably his 'coffeehouse opera' Othello in the Seraglio. Mehmet Sanlikol is an author on Turkish musicology and is the current director of the New England Conservatory's Intercultural Institute.



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.



**Helge Sunde** is a Norwegian composer and multi-instrumentalist. He is noted for composing contemporary music and jazz for large ensembles and for his work as a music arranger for symphony orchestras. Sunde was educated at the Norwegian Academy of Music, where he was awarded 'Work of the Year' for Tierre Obletz. His commissioned compositions have been performed by ensembles such as the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, the Bergen Filharmoniske Orkester, and Oslo Sinfonietta. Helge Sunde is the recipient of several honours, including an Echo Award for his 2009 album Finding Nymo.



Gil Goldstein is a three-time Grammy Award-winning pianist, composer, and arranger. He began his long career in music at the age of five with his first instrument, the accordion, which he still plays professionally. Goldstein is also a performing pianist and toured extensively with the Gil Evans Orchestra during the 1980s. His writing and arranging credits include work for Randy Brecker, Pat Metheny, Al Jarreau and an award-winning collaboration with Michael Brecker. Gil Goldstein is Professor of Jazz Piano at the Steinhardt School in New York City but continues to be active as a noted composer of film scores.



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# **COMPOSERS**

Kenny Wheeler was a Canadian trumpeter, flugelhorn player and composer who became a leading figure in British jazz. He is especially noted for his affinity with highly melodic compositions for large ensembles. Wheeler made twenty-four albums as a leader, including the landmark Music for Large and Small Ensembles (1990). His last album, Songs for Quintet, made in 2013, was released posthumously in 2015. The Kenny Wheeler Jazz Prize for Excellence in Performance and Composition is awarded to graduating jazz musicians at the Royal Academy of Music, where Kenny Wheeler's entire composing archive is currently held. In 1998, the SNJO commissioned him to compose the Sweet Sister Suite and he performed it with them that same year.

Norma Winstone is a singer, lyricist and improvisational composer who first came to prominence in the 1960s. She became known for her wordless approach to vocal improvisation, although she is a noted singer of jazz standards. Winstone has performed with many innovative small groups, orchestras, and big bands, including the SNJO, but arguably her most fruitful work has been the music she made with Kenny Wheeler. Although her many solo recordings are highly regarded, Somewhere Called Home has been singled out for praise. Norma Winstone's career has also been marked by several awards, most notably a Lifetime Achievement Jazz Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians.



Anne Paceo is an award-winning drummer and composer. Anne studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur, developing her strikingly melodic approach to composing for percussion. Paceo was born into a family of artists and spent her childhood in Daloa on the Ivory Coast, where an early inspiration was the sound of drum masters practicing next to the family home. She is now a much sought-after accompanist who has performed with jazz icons such as Archie Shepp, Charlie Haden and Michel Legrand. Anne Paceo often collaborates with ensembles in genres further afield, featuring alongside artists such as China Moses and Lena Chamamvan.

Joe Zawinul was an Austrian composer, keyboardist, and bandleader. He learned to play several instruments from a very early age and attended the Vienna Conservatory when still quite young. Zawinul moved to America in 1959, aged 27, and became a working musician alongside many jazz greats. He featured on recordings as a leader and sideman throughout the 1960s, including the iconic Miles Davis album, In A Silent Way. Joe Zawinul was best known for his work with the fusion group Weather Report, which later evolved into The Zawinul Syndicate. As a visionary composer, his long career embraced many genres and culminated with his symphony, Stories of the Danube.



Anne Mette Iversen is a Danish bassist, pianist and composer who is an influential voice in creative jazz in Europe and the USA. First educated at The Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus and The Rhythmic Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen, Iversen went on to study at The New School University in New York City. Since then, she has been commissioned to compose for many diverse projects incorporating poetry, liturgy, drama, and film. Anne Mette Iversen is also a founding member of the Brooklyn Jazz Underground collective and Professor of Jazz Composition and Arrangement at the Institute of Music, Hochschule Osnabrück, Germany,

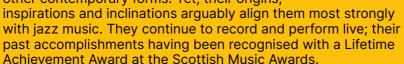
**Becca Stevens** is an American singer and composer who works across a variety of genres and styles. Stevens performed from an early age with her musical family, touring at the age of ten. Later, she took up classical guitar at the North Carolina School of the Arts and studied vocal jazz and composition at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in New York City. Becca has released five albums as a leader and has worked with Brad Mehldau. Travis Sullivan's Björkestra, and Snarky Puppy. As a songwriter, her many credits include contributions to releases by Jacob Collier, Ambrose Akinmusire and David Crosby.



Jan Garbarek is a saxophonist, composer, and leading figure in European jazz. His numerous recordings as a leader feature a trademark sound that is almost instantly recognisable. His many collaborations are diverse, but melodic folk forms have consistently informed his compositions over the years. Garbarek is particularly known for his work with Keith Jarrett, Trilok Gurtu and Zakir Hussein. A sequence of particularly successful recordings with the Hilliard Ensemble began in 1994 with the best-selling album Officium, which was followed by Mnemosyne in 1999 and Officium Novum in 2010. Jan Garbarek is the recipient of several awards, including the Willy Brandt Award and Knight 1st Class of the Order of St. Olav.

e.s.t. was a Swedish jazz trio that deliberately blurred lines within roles and across genres by incorporating multiple genres into jazz composition. Led by pianist and composer Esbjörn Svensson, the group featured Dan Beglund on bass and Magnus Öström on drums. They were especially associated with the use of electronica and shared credits simply as e.s.t. Nevertheless, their music was rooted in jazz and classical forms, and a loyal following gathered around their empathetic conceptual music. The trio came to an end with Svensson's untimely death in 2008, by which time they had become an internationally recognised awardwinning ensemble.

**Hue and Crv** is a Scottish genre-defying duo that has enjoyed considerable success as crossover artists since 1987. The band is the brainchild of brothers Pat and Grea Kane, who have recorded several hit albums, beginning with Seduced and Abandoned and including Stars Crash Down and Jazz Not Jazz. Their approach has been to deconstruct the distinctions between jazz, rock, pop, and other contemporary forms. Yet, their origins,



Maggi Olin began playing the piano from the age of six and continued her musical education at the Swedish Music Conservatory. Olin subsequently studied at Berklee College of Music where she graduated in Jazz Composition and Arranging. She has composed commissioned music for, among others, the Stockholm Symphony Orchestra while international collaborative projects have included Nordic Connect and

Transatlantic Conversations. Maggi has made several original recordings, toured Europe extensively with her groups, and performed alongside notables such as Maria Schneider, Donny McCaslin, and Carla Bley. A respected musician and educator, Maggi Olin has received many awards and currently teaches at Malmö Academy of Music in Sweden.



Michiel Borstlap is an award-winning Dutch pianist and composer whose life in music began at the prodigious age of four. Michiel first studied the piano formally and later received private tuition in jazz. He graduated with honours from the Conservatory in Hilversum and served his performing apprenticeship in bars and clubs with like-minded fellow students. His jazz career flourished with high-profile commissions and collaborations with Herbie Hancock, Wavne Shorter and Bill Bruford. In recent years, Borstlap has concentrated on solo recordings and film music in conjunction with a hectic schedule of concert performances.

Michel Legrand was a famed film composer, arranger, jazz musician, conductor, and producer. His life in music covered six decades and saw him working at a very early stage in his recording career with Miles Davis and John Coltrane, Legrand was a prolific writer of film scores that oftenfeatured songs that later became hit records and jazz standards. His many film music awards included Oscars for the hypnotic Summer of 42 and the perennial Windmills of Your Mind. Legrand was a child prodigy who shone at the Paris Conservatoire under Natalie Boulanger, but he will be remembered as much for his lingering melodies as his astonishing musicianship.



**Lars Jansson** is a Swedish pianist. composer, arranger and leader whose jazz career has focused mainly on the trio format. Numerous recordings by his group feature this permutation with occasional changes in personnel and additional musicians. Lars has worked alongside Arild Andersen and Jan Garbarek, although his trio enjoys considerable fame. Jansson studied at Göteborg College of Music, where he played alongside professional musicians in nightly jam sessions. In 1998, he became the first Danish jazz professor at the Conservatory of Music in Aarhus and is a recognised provider of visiting jazz clinics at other educational institutions.



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