

SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

DIRECTED BY TOMMY SMITH

THE ARTISTRY OF

JAZZNEHA HORN



NOVEMBER 2019

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra in concert with Jazzmeia Horn

The SNJO is delighted that Jazzmeia has accepted our invitation to join us for these exclusive concerts - we warmly welcome her to Scotland.

Drawing on her love for iconic singers of the 1950s and '60s like Nina Simone and Sarah Vaughan, Jazzmeia has created a sound that is all her own and become arguably one of the most exciting new vocalists in jazz today. Stunning vocals, soulful sensitivity, and a vibrant on-stage presence, have rapidly earned her a reputation as an artist of assured maturity and vocal confidence.

snjo.co.uk

If you enjoyed tonight's concert, please do consider becoming a "Friend of the SNJO" and help support the future of our orchestras and that of jazz in Scotland. We welcome new friends at any time.

Membership is available by

- filling in the form in this programme
- collecting a form at the SNJO desk
- joining online at snjo.co.uk

We do look forward to welcoming you.

SPONSORS

We are very grateful for the continued support of our regular partners **Creative Scotland** and the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**.



design by Nadja von Massow, nadjworks

PROGRAMME NOTES

Jazzmeia Horn is the jazz vocalist of the moment. These concerts with **the SNJO** will exemplify contemporary expression and allow the versatility and virtuosity of Jazzmeia as a modern improviser to take centre stage but with the spotlight firmly fixed on the art of song.

Improvisation is fundamental to creative jazz, but the jazz singer's ability to conjure compelling music from thin air is essentially existential. The urge to be heard and understood is to be human, but it becomes transcendental when a singer hits the right note or makes an emotional connection. It is music that rises above mere words, yet Jazzmeia Horn's voice couldn't be clearer or more direct. This is jazz song for the here and now, in this space and at this time.

The songs chosen for these performances are remarkable for their diversity. There are familiar standards, overlooked treasures and several sparkling originals from Jazzmeia's own pen. All are stamped with the qualities we associate with substantial, meaningful song writing and have been enhanced by **Bill Dobbins**, whose especially commissioned big band arrangements provide seamless continuity across the multiple, melodic patterns.

Jazzmeia Horn has the artistry to communicate these intentions perfectly. Yet she brings something else of paramount importance: that elusive creative spark, which lights the fuse and leads to explosive results. This is one reason why we should expect fireworks, whilst her assertive approach to jazz song is also the key to understanding why this

meeting with the SNJO will be significant as they fuse and unite in sound.

A good example of this is her ability to craft the familiar into extraordinary new shapes, as heard in her version of *I Remember You*. She takes the song as far as it seems prepared to go, then takes it further still. It is strongly reminiscent of **John Coltrane**'s use of '*My Favourite Things*' as a leitmotif for his relationship with music.

Like many past masters before her, Jazzmeia innovates constantly but seeks to command new heights where others would be content to rest and take the applause. This is particularly true in live performances of her original songs, especially '*Free Your Mind*' and '*Legs and Arms*'.

But Jazzmeia Horn is also a 21st - century songwriter who is mindful of modern sensibilities, concerns and anxieties. This awareness is self-evident in two acclaimed studio albums, the Grammy-nominated '*A Social Call*' and her latest CD, '*Love and Liberation*'. Alongside a string of appearances on elite concert platforms, they are a testament to her current status as the emancipated jazz voice of a new generation.

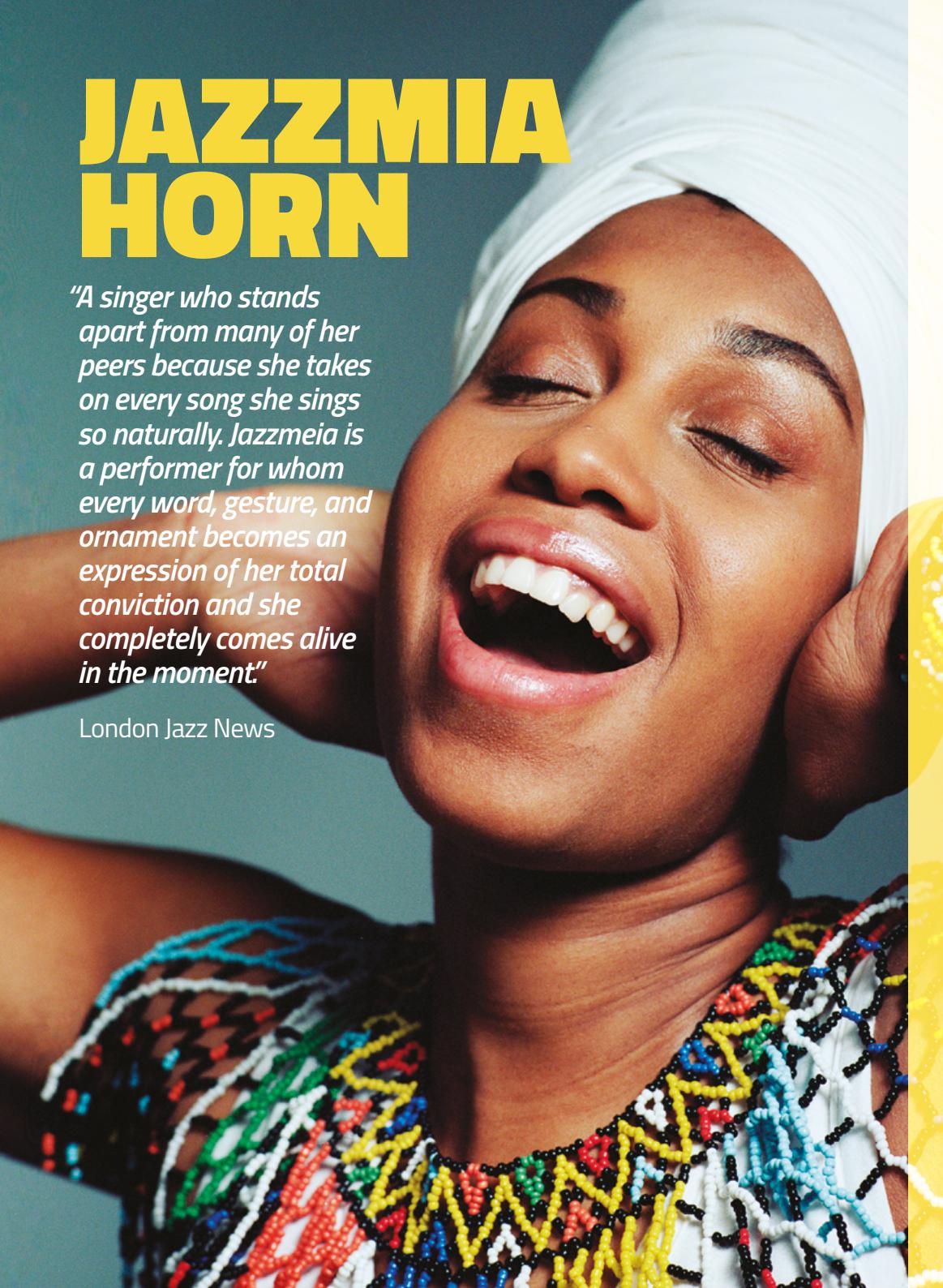
These shows with the SNJO directed by **Tommy Smith** are already momentous as they mark Jazzmeia's first visit to Scotland and her first collaboration with a jazz orchestra in Britain. More importantly, they mark a meeting of minds in which artist and ensemble are in perfect agreement as jazz explorers who do not hesitate to lead from the front.

Michael Clark

JAZZMIA HORN

"A singer who stands apart from many of her peers because she takes on every song she sings so naturally. Jazzmeia is a performer for whom every word, gesture, and ornament becomes an expression of her total conviction and she completely comes alive in the moment"

London Jazz News



Jazzmeia Horn was blessed with a fitting name for her future that was chosen by her jazz-loving, piano-playing grandmother. She was born in Dallas in 1991, grew up in a tightly knit, church-going family filled with musical talent and started singing as a toddler. She attended Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts, known for launching such musical greats as **Roy Hargrove**, **Norah Jones**, and **Erykah Badu**. Her education included steering herself to the mentors who would guide her passion for jazz, like **Bobby McFerrin**, **Abbey Lincoln**, and **Betty Carter**.

In 2009, Horn moved to New York City to enrol in The New School's jazz and contemporary music program. An intense four years of training and performing followed, during which she met many of the musicians who appear on her recordings, including Gould and Dillard. In a short time, her talent began to be noticed and she started to perform as a sideman with musicians including Lincoln Center Alumni **Vincent Gardner**, **Delfeayo Marsalis**, **Mike LeDonne**, **Peter Bernstein**, **Johnny O'Neal**, **Vincent Herring**, **Frank Wess**, and **Ellis Marsalis**.

"The most talked-about jazz vocalist to emerge since Cécile McLorin Salvant and Gregory Porter... she's possessed of a sassy tone in the highest register and an array of nonverbal sounds that add drama, hinting at meanings in the music that go beyond what fits on the page"

New York Times

In 2013, she entered and won a Newark-based contest named for an initial inspiration - the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Competition. In 2015, she won the Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition, the most coveted award a jazz musician can hope to attain. Part of her prize was a contract with Concord, which

led to her 1st album '*A Social Call*', which won a Grammy nomination for Best Jazz Vocal Album. She since has appeared with her dynamic group **The Artistry of Jazz Horn** in jazz festivals worldwide and legendary jazz clubs such as Lenox Lounge, The Apollo, The Blue Note, Dizzy's Jazz Club CocaCola, The Jazz Standard, Smalls Jazz Club, Zinc, Jazz Gallery, Birdland, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

In the two years since releasing '*A Social Call*', Jazzmeia has been busy on the road, honing her vocal skills to a finely tuned level, writing songs of personal relevance and social message, and perfecting a fearless approach to improvisation and performance in general. The convergence of this drive and development has resulted in what is being hailed as one of the most courageous recordings of 2019 - '*Love and Liberation*' - her 2nd album filled with songs of daring musicality, emotional power, and messages of immediate relevancy.

She says that she carefully chose the title '*Love and Liberation*' because it is "...a concept and mantra that I use consistently in my everyday life. For me the two go hand in hand and they both describe where I am in my life and career right now. An act of love is an act of liberation, and choosing to liberate - oneself or another - is an act of love."

"Jazzmeia has one of the best voices I've heard in over 40 years."

Jon Hendricks



BILL DOBBINS ARRANGER

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 Orkest. He currently teaches at the Eastman School of Music.



24 JAN 2020
1ST & 2ND SHOW

ALBA: SONGS OF SCOTLAND FEAT. EDDI READER

25 JAN 2020
1ST SHOW

TORAH

2ND SHOW

THE ATOMIC MR BASIE

PROGRAMME

*In alphabetical order.
Tunes will be announced from stage.*

DARN THAT DREAM

arr. Bill Dobbins

FREE YOUR MIND

arr. Bill Dobbins

HONEYSUCKLE ROSE

arr. Bill Dobbins

I DON'T GET AROUND ANYMORE

arr. Bill Dobbins

I REMEMBER YOU

LEGS AND ARMS

arr. Bill Dobbins

LIFT EVERY VOICE

THE PEACOCKS

arr. Bill Dobbins

PEOPLE MAKE THE WORLD

SOCIAL CALL

SOFTLY AS IN A MORNING SUNRISE

arr. Bill Dobbins

THE ORCHESTRA

REEDS

Tommy Smith
Martin Kershaw
Paul Towndrow
Konrad Wiszniewski
Bill Fleming
Yvonne Robertson

TRUMPETS

Russell Bennett
Sean Gibbs
Tom MacNiven
Lorne Cowieson

TROMBONES

Chris Greive
Kevin Garrity
Liam Shortall
Michael Owers

RHYTHM

Piano:
Pete Johnstone
Bass:
Calum Gourlay
Drums:
Alyn Cosker

PATRONS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SNJO/TSYJO

LIFE FRIENDS

Michael Connarty - Ellington
Colin McIntyre - Ellington
Ian Wilson - Ellington
Carl Bow - Gillespie
Margaret Doran - Gillespie
Robert & Sylvia Fleming - Gillespie
David Halkerton - Gillespie
Frederick Hay - Gillespie
Mark McKergow - Gillespie
Ann Mclean - Gillespie
Andrew McLeod - Gillespie
Lindsay Robertson - Gillespie
Ian Smith - Gillespie
Tom Bowden - Gil Evans
Albert Clowes - Gil Evans
Gordon Drummond - Gil Evans
George Duncan - Gil Evans
David Fenton - Gil Evans
Larry Foster - Gil Evans
Patrick Hadfield - Gil Evans
George Harrington - Gil Evans
Jack Hunter - Gil Evans
Alan Lawson - Gil Evans
Simon Lewin - Gil Evans
Robin McClure - Gil Evans
Andrew Mitchell - Gil Evans
June Mitchell - Gil Evans
Ian Rankin - Gil Evans
Jules Riley - Gil Evans
John Simpson - Gil Evans
Peter Wilson - Gil Evans

ANNUAL FRIENDS

Simon Best - Kenton
Alec Mason - Kenton
Martin Eckersall - Basie
Flora Harrold - Basie
Charles Humphries - Basie
Gerard Mehigan - Basie
Moira Pate - Basie
Mike Rymaruk & Jan McLardy - Basie
Tony Smith - Basie

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
Chick Corea
Kurt Elling
Dame Cleo Laine
David Liebman
Joe Lovano

SUPPORTER FRIENDS

Alan Barclay
Robin Bennie
Douglas Brownlie
Geoff + Ellice Cackett
Katherine Campbell
Phil Baylis / William Kay
Eric Colledge
Martin Denman
Chris Eilbeck & Frederike van Wijck
Gordon Evans
John Forrest
Graham Henderson
Graham Jackson
Guy and Ms Sallyann Jubb
David & Maureen Lightbody
Nadja von Massow
Bill + Liz McBain
Jenne McClure
Grant McLeman
Venetia Menzies
Jill Morgan
Allan Murray
Bill and Edna Newman
John Percival
Stuart Rae
Paul Sloan
Mr R Steele
J.W. Welsh

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

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 where you can also download forms. Alternatively complete the short form below and send to our orchestra manager. Thank you.

title & full name	
address	
town	post code
phone	
email	

I would like to remain anonymous.

If you are an 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.

I am including a cheque, made payable to SNJO Ltd.

I would like to make a BACS transfer. Please send me the details



Please send the completed form to

The Orchestra Manager, SNJO Ltd, 25 Dreghorn Loan, Edinburgh, EH13 0DF

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

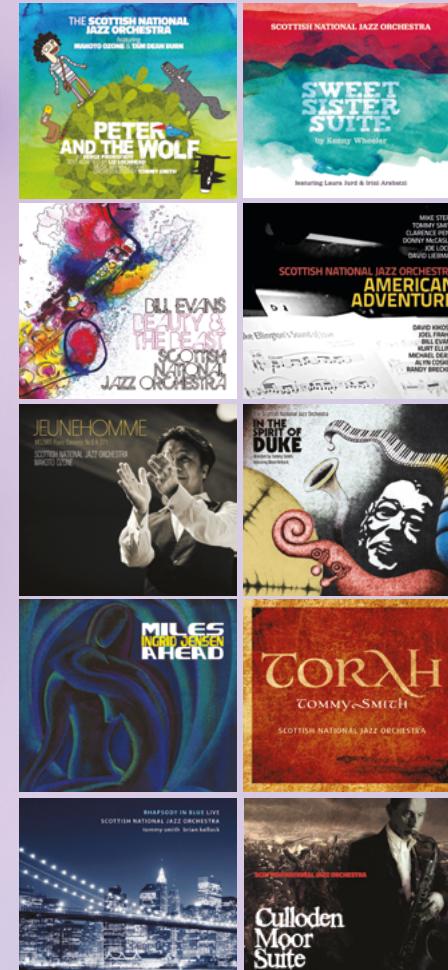
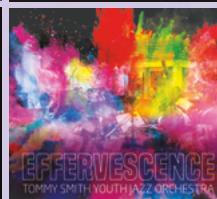
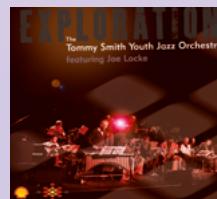
DECEMBER

ORIGINAL SNJO RECORDINGS
**FILL YOUR BOOTS
 IN TIME FOR
 CHRISTMAS**



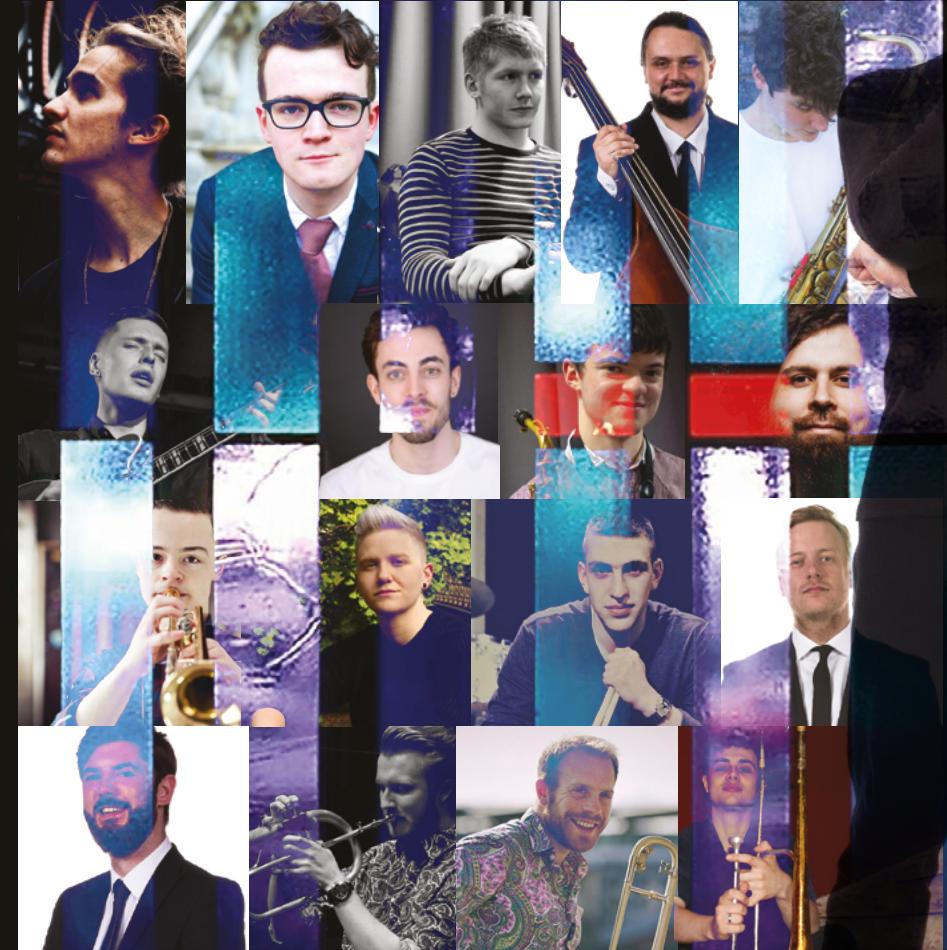
AVAILABLE
 HERE TONIGHT

AND AT
 SPARTACUSRECORDS.COM



**TOMMY SMITH SOLO
 / TSYJO ALL-STARS**

19 DEC 7.30pm
EDINBURGH
 The Queen's Hall



For the first time ever, Tommy Smith presents 'The TSYJO All-Stars' in a very special celebration of Scottish jazz, for a potentially very moving event featuring some of the best players to play in this unique ensemble since 2002. The concert will open with a solo saxophone set from Smith.

thequeenshall.net / box office: 0131 668 2019

40 YEARS
THE QUEEN'S HALL



M E D I C I
 ADVISORS



NEXT CONCERT SERIES

SCOTTISH NATIONAL JAZZ ORCHESTRA

DIRECTED BY TOMMY SMITH

PLANET WAVE

BY **TOMMY SMITH & EDWIN MORGAN**
FEATURING **NIALL GREIG FULTON**



Celebrate Edwin Morgan's centenary as the SNJO perform the colossal PLANET WAVE: an extraordinary collaboration between Morgan and composer Tommy Smith. Through music, poetry, theatre, and sound effects, explore waves of history from the beginning of time, 20 billion years B.C through early creation, the demise of the dinosaurs, the arrival of cavemen, the great flood, pyramids to the age of Copernicus 1543 A.D.

FRI 21 FEB EDINBURGH QUEEN'S HALL

SAT 22 FEB GLASGOW CITY HALLS

SUN 23 FEB ABERDEEN QUEEN'S CROSS



snjo.co.uk