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2026-2027

SOUL, INDIE FOLK

OCTAVE LISSNER

JAZZ, WORLD MUSIC

DOMINIC MILLER, JACOB KARLZON, IRIAO, SALMAN GAMBAROV,
RON MINIS, THE BIG HUSTLE



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SOUL, INDIE FOLK

OCTAVE LISSNER *Singer & songwriter, soul, indie folk*

France

JAZZ, WORLD MUSIC

DOMINIC MILLER *Jazz, fusion*

İrlanda, Amerika

JACOB KARLZON *Jazz, fusion*

Sweden

QUESTAR

KARLZON & KRIJA

TOLSTOY & KARLZON

IRIAO *Ethnic jazz, polyphonic vocal*

Georgia

SALMAN GAMBAROV *Jazz, world music, classical, improvisation*

Azerbaijan

RON MINIS *'Brutal' jazz*

Israel

THE BIG HUSTLE *Elektro jazz, funk*

France



OCTAVE LISSNER (FR)

Singer & songwriter, soul, indie folk



One of the most distinctive voices in contemporary French songwriting, **Octave Lissner** began his musical journey with classical violin lessons as a child; in his school years he moved on to guitar and songwriting and found his own voice. Shaped by his passion for rock, folk and soul, **Lissner's** music has a rich texture that carries traces of legends such as **Nino Ferrer, Bob Marley, Kings of Leon, Otis Redding, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, The Rolling Stones** and **The Beatles**.

His 2017 debut album 'Wildflower', close to indie folk, reached millions of streams on digital platforms and drew international attention. With each album that followed, **Octave Lissner** revealed more of his eclectic taste and his range as a singer-songwriter.

His self-titled second album in 2019 was followed by the mature 'Learning to Live', released in March 2025. Drawing on **Octave Lissner's** inner journey, the album addresses the rush of the outside world, love, growth, change and transformation with sincere storytelling, ranging from indie folk to soul.





Although he chose to continue his musical journey as an independent artist, **Octave Lissner** has built a loyal audience across different countries and has performed at renowned venues and festivals such as **Paradiso** in Amsterdam, **Koko** in London and **Montreux Jazz Festival**.





DOMINIC MILLER (IE, US)

Jazz, fusion



British guitarist, composer and producer **Dominic Miller** is best known to wider audiences for the distinctive guitar tone and playing that have become a hallmark of **Sting**'s songs. In addition to *La Belle Dame Sans Regrets*, with lyrics by **Sting**, **Miller** co-wrote many songs that have become part of popular music history. Among them is *Shape of My Heart*, later recorded not only by **Sting** but also by **Craig David** and **Sugababes**.

Born in **Buenos Aires**, **Dominic Miller** grew up in Argentina, the United States and London. Raised in a musical family, he was already an accomplished guitarist by the age of eleven. He studied at the **Guildhall School of Music** in London and at **Berklee College of Music** in Boston, and also trained with the renowned Brazilian guitarist and composer **Sebastião Tapajós**.

Since 1991, **Miller** has appeared on every **Sting** album and tour. Throughout his career he has also collaborated with artists including **Phil Collins**, **Eddi Reader**, **Bryan Adams**, **Paul Young**, **Nigel Kennedy**, **Peter Gabriel**, **Tina Turner**, **Sheryl Crow**, **Level 42**, **Pretenders**, **Vinnie Colaiuta**, **Manu Katché**, **Chris Botti** and **Pat Metheny**.

Although most people know him as **Sting**'s guitarist, **Dominic Miller** has built an impressive solo career spanning more than three decades, releasing fourteen studio albums under his own name, the latest of which, 'Vagabond', was released in 2023. The upcoming album 'Diana' is due out November 20.





Touching on jazz, contemporary classical, Latin, pop, rock and folk throughout his recordings, his concerts feature music from his solo albums alongside compositions co-written with **Sting**, as well as jazz-fusion reinterpretations of familiar classics such as *Fragile*, *Fields of Gold* and *Bring On The Night*.

Dominic Miller's live performances highlight his virtuosic fingerstyle technique and emotive compositions, creating a natural flow between delicate melodies and powerful grooves while taking audiences on intimate, masterfully crafted musical journeys. Together with his world-class band, he creates an environment where every musician has the freedom to express themselves; this openness allows technical precision and spontaneous interplay to exist in perfect balance. Beyond the musical richness of his performances, **Miller's** warm, unpretentious stage presence and genuine connection he establishes with his audience make every concert an experience that lingers long in the memory.

[A Musician Freed From Self-Importance Through Music – Dominic Miller](#)

Özlem Köseoğlu @ Jazz Dergisi

EXCERPTS FROM ISTANBUL CONCERT – 16.12.2022





JACOB KARLZON (SWE)

Jazz, fusion



Mentioned in the same breath as Sweden's legendary musicians **Esbjörn Svensson** and **Jan Johansson**, Swedish jazz pianist, composer and Steinway artist **Jacob Karlzon** makes music that sits where Scandinavian qualities (space, melancholy and sensitivity) meet their emotional opposites (warmth and passion).

Karlzon creates music for 'inner films' and loves it when others connect with these worlds. **Karlzon** explains what drives him: "We are a modern people with a long history, and that is exactly what I want to reflect in my music. I am fascinated by the possibilities of new technology, but I also need warmth and a connection to the world in order to feel happy."

A classically trained pianist, **Jacob Karlzon** has shared the stage with jazz musicians such as **Dominic Miller**, **Kenny Wheeler**, **Billy Cobham**, **Till Brönner**, **Nils Landgren** and **Victoria Tolstoy**, but he prefers to describe himself as an 'alternative musician'.

As a piano virtuoso who loves to explore the extremes, **Karlzon** brings metal and electronic elements into his music, as well as Swedish folk songs.

Awarded Sweden's **Django d'Or** in 2010, **Karlzon** was added to the Steinway artist roster in 2012, an international recognition of excellence. Over a 30-year solo career, **Karlzon** has released 14 albums of his own music in solo, duo and group projects.





QUESTAR

JACOB KARLZON – piano, keyboards, electronics

MADS LA COUR – trumpet

THOBIA GABRIELSON – bass guitar

ROBERT MEHMET İKİZ – drums, electronics

Born from a desire to explore new sounds and new musical spaces, **QUESTAR** brings together deep grooves and flowing rhythms with boundary-crossing Nordic soundscapes.

In the open, ever-changing atmosphere the music creates, takes its own shape in every concert: composition meets improvisation, acoustic and electronic intertwine, and listeners are invited to create their own stories.

Meaning 'one who seeks', **QUESTAR** offers music for the film inside you and an invitation to a gentle journey into the unknown, creating an experience shared with energy and a sense of discovery.





KARLZON & KRIJA – MOSAIC

JACOB KARLZON - piano, keyboards

RHANI KRIJA – percussion



MOSAIC is the playground of Swedish pianist **Jacob Karlzon** and Moroccan percussionist **Rhani Krija**: a duo where rhythm and harmony trade places and every piece takes shape live on stage.

Fed by jazz, North African musical traditions, Scandinavian music and other genres, and shaped by their deep love of improvisation, this music travels between continents and moods – subtle, spacious, both raw and refined. In their performance the piano keeps the pulse and the percussion sings; roles shift and brand-new stories emerge.

No set formulas, no boundaries – just two musicians listening deeply to each other, and a creation that brings the pieces together into a whole. Theirs is a music built on trust, shaped by intuition, and most meaningful in the moment.



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TOLSTOY & KARLZON

VIKTORIA TOLSTOY – vocal

JACOB KARLZON – piano, keyboards



The 30-year musical dialogue between **Viktoria Tolstoy** and **Jacob Karlzon** rests on trust, curiosity and quiet courage. The world has changed many times since, and so have they, but their shared musical language has endured, deepening and growing richer. Their collaboration carries the ease of two artists who no longer need to explain themselves to each other, and the confidence of knowing when to step forward and when to step back. Their music is like an intimate conversation shaped by time, friendship and change.

Tolstoy & Karlzon move with great ease between light and shadow, fragility and strength, the familiar and the new. What emerges is the simple beauty of two musicians drawing on a life fully lived — and the excitement of all that is still to be discovered.



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IRIAO (GE)

Ethnic jazz, polyphonic vocal



Founded in Tbilisi in 2013, **IRIAO** is an ethnic jazz group that presents traditional Georgian music in jazz fusion arrangements. Bandleader **David Malazonia**, regarded as one of the first Georgian composers to combine the two genres in his own original compositions, builds this synthesis on Georgian polyphonic singing, recognized by **UNESCO** as 'Intangible Cultural Heritage'. It is performed with 3 vocalists, piano, bass, drums and ethnic instruments.

Taking its name from the phrase "iriao-uruao", often used in the traditional song style 'Krimanchuli', the group has won praise from Georgian audiences and music press and has performed at international festivals and contests such as **Java Jazz, Borneo Jazz, Alfa Jazz, Baku Summer Jazz Days** and **Eurovision**.

The group performs in the 8-piece line-up below and also appears with symphony orchestras and big bands.

David Malazonia: Composer, keyboards

Bidzina Murgulia, George Abashidze, Misho Javakhishvili: Vocals

David Kavtaradze: Traditional instruments, vocals

Shako Karkarashvili: Keyboards, acoustic guitar, vocals

Luka Kitiashvili: Bass guitar, vocals

Saba Kitiashvili: Drums





EXCERPTS FROM THE CONCERT 'KAMARA'



EXCERPTS FROM THE CONCERT 'KAMARA' - 2





EXCERPTS FROM 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT



IRIAO & TBILISI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA





SALMAN GAMBAROV (AZ)

Jazz, world music, classical, improvisation



Jazz pianist, composer and arranger **Salman Gambarov** has long explored how Jazz relates to other musical cultures and styles, and is always open to what lies outside the traditional frame. A tireless explorer, **Gambarov** built his distinctive style on years of experimentation: “In every familiar situation, there is always something new and unknown to be found.” Besides **Bakustic Jazz**, **Gambarov** often takes part in projects that combine jazz with other genres. American trumpeter **Amir ElSaffar**, Italian accordionist **Luciano Biondini**, German tenor saxophonist **Werner Englert**, soprano **Farida Mammadova** and Indian singer **Vasumathi Badrinathan** are among the musicians from around the world he has collaborated with.

The album by **Hawniyaz**, the ethnic music group with Iranian kamancheh master **Kayhan Kalhor**, singer **Aynur** from Turkey and Kurdish-German tanbur virtuoso **Cemil Qoçgiri**, was released by **Harmonia Mundi** in 2016 and given four stars by **The Guardian**.

He has performed at international festivals such as **Montreux Jazz Festival** (Switzerland), **Kassel Musical Days**, **Freiburg Zelt Music Festival** and **Bonn Beethoven Festival** (Germany) and **Buenos Aires ‘Piano Piano’ Festival** (Argentina), and has given concerts all over Europe.

Salman Gambarov played his own project in Turkey for the first time in 2023 at Istanbul’s **Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall**.





RON MINIS (IL)

'Brutal' jazz



Ron Minis began classical piano lessons at the age of six at his family's encouragement, and later added electric guitar and drums to his musical arsenal. But this classically trained young musician's heart belonged to the harder forms of rock. After working on various projects early in his career, especially punk, noise rock and metal, he brought these experiences into the piano trio format, found his own voice, and laid the foundations of the music he now takes around the world.

His YouTube videos, in which he tells the story of his own musical journey with humor, such as "When You Want to Solo Like Slash but Your Parents Sign You Up for Piano Lessons", went viral with millions of views. Showing how an acoustic piano can be played like a guitar, these videos won Ron a large global fan base.

Musical adventures that combine the latest technology and sound effects are a playground for **Ron Minis**. A killer piano trio with effects and pedals connected to the piano and a distorted guitar that sometimes joins the show: when the music he calls 'brutal jazz' meets the audience's excitement on stage, it is no exaggeration to say the place catches fire. Just as their dynamism is about to take your breath away, **Ron Minis'** concerts bring you back with gentle melodies, offering a surprising and unique experience that ranges from jazz to punk and from classical to electronic sounds.





RON MINIS TRIO - LIVE



WHEN YOU WANT TO PLAY SOLOS LIKE SLASH BUT YOUR PARENTS MADE YOU LEARN PIANO





THE BIG HUSTLE (FR)

Electro jazz, funk



Founded in Paris in 2013, the French funk and electro jazz band **The Big Hustle** belongs in the same category as bands like **Snarky Puppy**, **Soulive** and **Electro Deluxe**. Always true to its funk spirit and its dose of groove, **The Big Hustle**'s music, with its rock-solid horns, funk and rock foundations and percussion, covers a wide range, from calm moments to sonic explosions and even dance-floor moments.

After their first two albums, 'Worldwide' and 'Live Large', released in 2016 and 2018, the band's third album 'Wish I Wrote Dat' (2019) consisted mainly of covers, with versions of songs by **George Duke**, **Ennio Morricone**, **Justin Timberlake**, **John Scofield**, **Michael Franks**, **Serge Gainsbourg** and **Jaco Pastorius**. Their 2021 album of originals, 'For Life', was followed in the same year by their second cover album, 'Wish I Wrote Dat 2'.

'The Dallas LP', a special project by **The Big Hustle**'s founder, bassist **Sebastien Levanneur**, with musicians from Dallas, was released in 2023.

