



**SLIGO JAZZ PROJECT, INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL & FESTIVAL
25-30 JULY 2023**

SLIGO JAZZ ANNOUNCES 2023 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE TONY KOFI

And

YOUNG ARTIST IN RESIDENCE 2023 NILS KAVANAGH

Sligo Jazz Project (SJP), host of Europe's biggest and most inclusive jazz education event each July, has weathered many storms in its 18 year history, including forging a path throughout the Covid pandemic - with the help of the Irish arts council - by hosting, in 2021, the biggest ever showcase of Irish Jazz ever broadcast, all of it still streaming, including a complete [virtual jazz festival](#) and online mini-[summer school](#).

Some festival over the years highlights include Brazilian bass virtuoso [Michel Pipoquinha's](#) sensational performance in 2019 and [Joe Dart's very first, very fun 2019 masterclass](#) with SJP's Federico Malaman in danger of out-Joeing Joe in his multi-instrumentalist supporting role. Other notable concerts in the festivals history include Dhafer Youssef, Avishai Cohen, Rufus Reid, John Taylor, The Impossible Gentlemen, The Bad Plus, The Yellowjackets, Mike Stern & Victor Wooten, the list goes on and on.

In 2023 SJP is weathering an untimely dearth of funding with a slightly lower key offering, one which relies on the strength of its past activities. In 2023 SJP will focus on the SJP summer school's primary ethos, which is to promote jazz education in the region by bringing world class musicians to Sligo to teach and perform, inspire and educate, and subsequently SJP takes every opportunity possible to showcase its alumni, with the announcement of a 2023 Young Artist in Residence chair for the first time going to [Nils Kavanagh](#), who received the inaugural Young Irish Jazz Musician of the Year award by Limerick Jazz in 2022.

This is just one of the differences which SJP 2023 will have, but visitors to the summer school will be reassured that the faculty will be as strong as ever, with Artist in Residence Tony Kofi taking the lead saxophone chair too, along with virtuosic German based composer, conductor and saxophonist [Theresia Philipp](#), Cathal Roche and SJP alumnus Micheál Murray. Keeping things fresh as always, SJP has other new faces on the 2023 faculty including double bass powerhouse Yuri Golubev, Irish bassist Derek Whyte, pianist Liam Noble and renowned Irish educator and performer, drummer Conor Guilfoyle.

Returning to Sligo Jazz's 20-strong faculty this year are vocalists Liane Carroll, Sara Colman, drummer/percussionist Paul Clarvis, drummer Steve Davis, trumpeter Linley Hamilton, guitarist Joseph Leighton, bassist Conor Murray, pianist Scott Flanigan, Sligo's own Mike Nielsen and Roscommon resident, guitarist Phil Robson.

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Sligo Jazz Project's Youth Academy goes from strength to strength each year. "This is really beginning to pay dividends" says SJP Artistic Director Eddie Lee, "which is so evident from the high number of young musicians performing jazz in their Leaving Certificate practical examinations this year in Sligo alone. Its heartening to see so many great musicians appearing on the scene, with some thanks to our work but to the all-year-round dedication of Niamh Crowley, Stan Burns and Martin Moeser at Sligo Academy of Music. We will be celebrating that great institution at our festival this year by featuring Sligo Academy of Music Jazz Orchestra and guests on Wednesday 26 July at the Hawks Well Theatre, where all of our main festival concerts will take place."

The festival itself will kick off in Hargadons on Tuesday 25 July at 4:30pm with a performance by Sligo-based traditional singer Cathy Jordan performing her take on several jazz, roots and blues classics, accompanied by two London based jazz greats, Paul Clarvis and Liam Noble.

As well as SJP's two artists in residence, Tony Kofi and Nils Kavanagh, the festival's main concert bill will feature shows from Phil Robson, Liam Noble, Liane Carroll & Sara Colman and Sligo Academy of Music Jazz Orchestra, plus the scintillating annual faculty showcase, The SJP All-stars.

As always, there will be wall to wall music from 4:30pm each day of the festival and from lunchtime on at the weekends, including twice daily jam sessions and the famous Hargadons sessions each afternoon.

SJP's Summer School and Youth Academy is now open for registration and bookings are looking as busy as ever. More info sligojazz.ie