







MAY 2025 BRAYJAZZ.COM

WELCOME

We can't wait to see you all again, when we return with another Bray International Jazz Festival presentation on the upcoming May Bank Holiday.

This year will be our 24rd festival - and we're really happy to be able to welcome the great roster of composers and musicians who you'll read about on the pages to follow.



Our gratitude is also due to the production team who make Bray Jazz possible each year, to the musicians who bring the magic to us every year, and to you – our audience – without which the entire show would not be possible!.

We look forward to seeing you on the May Bank Holiday weekend.

























2025 MAY

FRIDAY, MAY 2

BRAY INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

0.00piii	memala. Opening.
9.00pm	Mermaid: Feature Presentation Nubya Garcia (UK)
6.30pm	Town Hall: Mieko Miyazaki & Franck Wolf (Japan/France)
8.00pm	Whale Theatre, Greystones: Amy Gadiaga Quartet (France)
6.30pm	Harbour Stage: Greg Murphy Trio (US/Ireland)
8.30pm	Harbour Stage: Zoe Basha Sextet (Irl)
10.30pm	Harbour Stage: Bill Carrother Trio (US/Ireland)
	DAY, MAY 3
2.30pm	Matinee: Zaska (Irl)
4.30pm	Harbour Stage: Katharine Timoney Quartet (NI)
6.30pm	Harbour Stage: Carole Nelson Trio (Irl)
6.30pm	Town Hall: Norman&Corrie (Scotland)
8.00pm	Mermaid Opening: Ronan Guilfoyle's Bemusement Arcade (Irl)
9.00pm	Mermaid Feature Presentation: Vijay Iyer (USA)
8.30pm	Whale Theatre, Greystones: Nduduzo Makhathini Trio (SA)

8.00pm Mermaid: Opening: Christine Tobin & Phil Robson (Irl/UK)

10.00pm

8.30pm Harbour Stage: Pizza Jazz (Irl) Harbour Stage: Collider (Irl)

10.00pm Harbour Stage: Magical Dog (Irl)

SUNDAY, MAY 4		
2.30pm	Matinee: Nabou Claerhout & Lynn Cassiers (Belgium)	
4.30pm	Harbour Stage: Aengus Hackett Trio	
6.30pm	Harbour Stage: Hayley Kavanagh Quartet	
6.30pm	Town Hall: Steinar Raknes (Norway)	
8.00pm	Mermaid Opening: Francesco Turrisi Trio	
9.00pm	Mermaid Feature Presentation: Vernari Pohjola Quartet (Finland)	
8.30pm	Harbour Stage: Chief Keegan (Irl)	

Various venues - **Jazz Fringe** May 2-5 (info on the inside back cover)

NUBYA GARCIA

UK

Nubya Garcia is one of the breakthrough international stars of the UK urban jazz boom.

A generational talent since long before she released her Mercury Prize nominated debut album, 'The Source' in 2020, saxophonist Garcia has since played Glastonbury Festival, guested on Later... with Jools Holland and co-released a live album with psychedelic rock band Khruangbin – after a period touring with the Texan instrumentalists, last year.

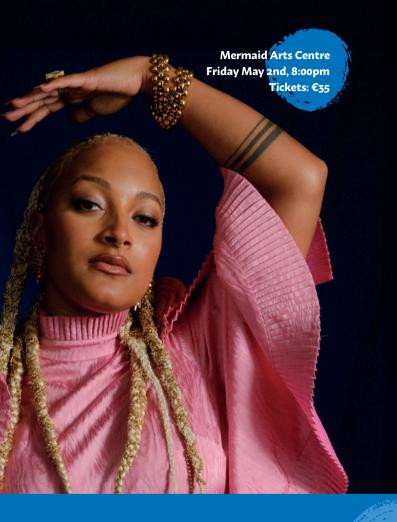
One of an array of gifted graduates of the UK's inspirational jazz education and artist development organisation 'Tomorrow's Warriors,' Nubya Garcia is a regular collaborator with such contemporaries as Ezra Collective, Moses Boyd and Sons of Kemet, amongst others.

"Alive with intensity and rich with the luxury of inspiration" - Pitchfork

The 33-year old London born composer and band leader earned a Rolling Stone 'Artist of the Year' nomination following the release last Autumn of her second album 'Odyssey'. The Irish Times called her new recording as "an exhilarating mix of jazz, neo souland R & B". Nubya Garcia's gig in Bray will be her first major concert appearance to an Irish jazz audience.

OPENING:
CHRISTINE
TOBIN &
PHIL ROBSON
IRELAND/UK





Christine Tobin has been feted by critics around the world for her unique vocal abilities and her haunting original compositions. She a former winner of the Jazz Vocalist of the Year at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards. Guitarist Phil Robson became one of the most in-demand players on the London scene in the 90s, and was co-founder of influential UK jazz quartet The Partisans.



Described by The New York Times as a "social conscience, multimedia collaborator, system builder, rhapsodist, historical thinker and multicultural gateway," Vijay lyer is an influential and shape-shifting presence in twenty-first-century music.

"Headu. A three times visceral iazz" Grammy Award The Irish Times nominee and fourtimes 'Downheat Magazine Jazz Artist of the Year' winner, the New York based composer and pianist is revered across multiple musical communities, and has produced a consistently innovative body of work over the last three decades that has earned him a place as one of the leading contemporary music-makers of his generation.

Vijay Iyer, who is a onetime California Physics PhD
student, draws his musical
inspiration from some of the
great composer-pianists - from
Duke Ellington and Thelonious
Monk to Alice Coltrane and
Geri Allen - as well as from
the rhythmic traditions
of South Asia and
West Africa, and the
African American
creative music

His 2024 recording on the ECM Records label, 'Compassion,' was amongst many of the jazz 'Best Album of the Year' listings. This is a solo, inconcert performance.

and 70s.

movement of the 60s



Bemusement Arcade is the new quartet from Ronan Guilfoyle, one of the most prolifically creative figures in Irish jazz in the past 30 years. The band, which recently recorded their new album 'At Swing Two Birds' on Dublin's Livia Label, will launch their work at this year's festival. Guilfoyle, who has played with many of the greats, from Dave Liebman and Joe Lovano to Brad Mehldau, is joined by young London saxophonist Sam Norris, guitarist Chris Guilfoyle, and Belfast-drummer Darren Beckett.

VERNARI POHJOLA QUARTET

FINLAND

A series of stand-out albums over the past decade have marked Finnish trumpeter Verneri Pohjola out as one of the major new talents in contemporary Scandinavian jazz.

A dazzling player with a commanding individual sound, his compositions are strong and bold and find hooky melodies that stick in your mind.

Born into a Finnish musical dynasty, Vernari Pohjola's grandfather and uncle were conductors, while his father came to international prominence as a member of Finnish prog rock group Wigwam.

Verneri was named 'Musician of the Year' at the Pori Jazz Festival 20 years ago, his 2015 release 'Bullhorn' which was name by Jazzwise Magazine as 'among the truly finest jazz albums of recent times.'

A distinctive trumpeter with a rounded, breathy tone, Pohjola's solo's soar, and bring a seering clarity to his music. His quartet include major players in Finnish jazz, including Olavi Louhivuori on drums, pianist Tuomo Prättälä and bass player Antti Lötjönen.





OPENING: FRANCESCO TURRISI TRIO ITALY





Grammy Award winning pianist and multi-instrumentalist Francesco Turrisi is a musical polymath who has played baroque operas with ensemble L'Arpeggiata, toured with The Silk Road ensemble, interpreted the music of Steve Reich, and accompanied flamenco star Pepe El Habichuela. Since 2018, he has collaborated with singer and instrumentalist Rhiannon Giddens, and won a 2022 Grammy Award in the best folk album category for their duo album 'They're Calling Me Home.' His latest piano solo album "Northern Migrations" was described as "wholly engrossing" by the Irish Times.



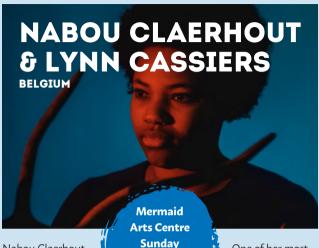
Max Zaska is a guitarist, songwriter, and producer best known for his feel-good blend of modern funk, neo-soul, and indie jazz.

With his seven-piece band, ZASKA, Max brings his original songs to life with a verve and enthusiasm that is infectious. His live work and recordings over the past decade have featured a dizzying array of Irish artists, ranging from Hozier, who was his first vocalist, to Wyvern Lingo, Loah, Tolu Kakay, Jess Kav, Hypnotic Brass Ensemble, Little Green Cars and Denise Chaila.

Bray born and raised and now living in the midlands, Max Zaska pays a welcome return to his hometown and to this year's Bray Jazz, where he will play songs from his newly released third album of original material.

He exudes breezy optimism, plays with a smile on his face, and leads a tight big band that's part funk, part jazz and part RnB, the overall concoction serving up rich slabs of what Max Zaska himself describes as "future soul."

"...a refreshing sense of fun and mischief, who isn't afraid to go deep" – The Irish Times.



Nabou Claerhout is a rising star of the European jazz scene, and Lynn Cassiers a singer, soundscaper and innovator who's a key figure in Brussels burgeoning contemporary jazz scene.

One of the most innovative and prolific trombone players in Europe, Nabou Claerhout is at the vanguard of new jazz in the Benelux countries, a bandleader of the eight-piece Nabou Claerhout Trombone Ensemble, the award-winning young quartet N△BOU, and series of smaller ensemble projects.

May 5th 2.30pm
Tickets: €15

Sunday

One of her most compelling projects is with Brusselsbased singer and Lynn Cassiers. Their

Lynn Cassiers. Their work together is an engaging combination of jazz, electronics and ambient music that reaches from the ethereal to intense, and back again. They deploy trombone, keyboards, voice and special effects to paint a rich and colourful palate of sound.

"There is real star quality - real presence. Claerhout is definitely one to watch." - London Jazz News (UK)



AMY GADIAGA QUARTET

FRANCE

"Gadiaga's star continues to rise, cementing her status as a significant new voice in contemporary music" –

Jazz Messengers

Parisian born Amy Gadiaga is making waves as a bright young star of contemporary jazz– pushing boundaries while upholding jazz music's finest traditions.

A bassist, vocalist and band leader, she is an exciting new artist whose been picking up acclaim ever since she decamped to London to advance her career

Amy has received support from both Tomorrow's Warriors and Jazz Re:Freshed, two organisations that championing the brightest and best in new jazz talent. She's also been championed on radio stations including Jazz FM and BBC Radio London, was shortlisted as 'best newcomer' at last year's Parliamentary Jazz Award, and was a nominee for a prestious MOBO Award, this year.

Gadiaga earned glowing reviews for her performances at last Summer's ultra-hip We Out Here festival, and for her appearances at Cheltenham Jazz Festival, and at last year's London Jazz Festival.

Tickets for this show are on sale from **Box Office at Whale Theatre**: Tel. **01-2010550** or online at: **https://whaletheatre.ticketsolve.com**



NDUDUZO MAKHATHINI TRIO

SOUTH AFRICA

Pianist Nduduzo Makhathini has been a central figure in South Africa's vibrant jazz scene for over a decade.

One of just a handful of African-based musicians to be signed to the prestigious Blue Note jazz label, he has released three albums on Blue Note, one of which earned a New York Times 'Best Album of the Year' ranking.

Makhatini's a warm, engaging performer his concerts are absorbing. He imbuses his music with distinctive cultural references

- "...quite simply magnificent"
- Best of Jazz

- Zulu language recitations, trills, treble fill-ins, intimate microphone murmurs and passages studded with impressive tongue click consonants of the Khoisan languages of his homeland.

Makhathini is joined in his stellar trio by South African doublebassist Zwelakhe Bell le Pere and Cuban drummer Lukmil Perez, musicians with whom he appears to have a near telepathic understanding.

Tickets for this show are on sale from **Box Office at Whale Theatre**: Tel. **01-2010550** or online at: **https://whaletheatre.ticketsolve.com**



MIEKO MIYASAKI AND FRANCK WOLF

JAPAN/FRANCE

Mieko Miyasaki and Franck Wolf form a rare and original duo, their music blending the elegant charm of the 'koto,' a half tube zither that is Japan's national instrument, with the melodic lines of Wolf's clarinet and saxophone.

Miyazaki is recognised globally as one of the masters of the koto. She has performed at numerous international events, while her compositions have been voted amongst the most beautiful koto compositions. In 2020, she recorded and released a remarkable transcription of Bach's 'Goldberg's Variations' for solo koto

Their musical partnership has flourished since Miyasaki made her home in France, and their ability to take listeners through the different musicial world's that they occupy – Wolf's inspiring melodic chants fliting with the elegant, etherial charm of Mieko Miyazaki's deft and lovely koto playing.

Prepare for an impressionistic and lyrical musical recital that will shed new light on the links between the Japanese and western musical worlds.



Shetland islander Norman Wilmore and Glaswegian Corrie Dick daringly blend the old and new with their reimagining of the airs and rich musical heritage of Scotland's northernmost isles.

Using as their reference point ancient melodies discovered during an island residency, Norman&Corrie's compositions bridge the gap between tradition and innovation, infusing ancestral melodies with modern production – much has Lankum have done with traditional music in Ireland.

They combine drum kit and saxophone, with organ foot pedals, sampled field recordings and earthy, cutting-edge electronics to breathe new life into instrumentals that range from haunting spirituals to raucous ceili stomps.

The pair are immersed in the UK's jazz and contemporary music scene, Corrie Dick drumming with the acclaimed quartet Dinosaur and the award-winner Jacob Collier, and Norman Wilmore working with The Peatbog Faeries and Glaswegian Mercury Prize nominee, Corto. Alto, and Beth Orton.

Norman&Corrie they launched their debut album Twa Double Doubles, at last year's London Jazz Festival to rave reviews, and were selected as UK representatives at this year's influential Jazzahead showcase festival, in Germany.

"They make a sound with more depth than aduo rightly ought. Stunning, mesmerising and dazzling." - UK Jazz News



STEINAR RAKNES

NORWAY

Steinar Raknes is a Norwegian bassist, vocalist and songwriter who has worked with artists as rich and varied as Chick Corea, Michael Brecker, Bobby McFerrin and Ola Kvernberg.

Regarded as one of the leading bassists of his generation, he is also a member of the trio of celebrated pianist Tord Gustaysen.

A double bass virtuoso, playing both pizzicato and arco, he is known for his captivating solo presentations.

Steinar Raknes has a broad musical palate, and his work encompasses contemporary jazz, Sami folk music of northern Scandinavian, as well as American roots, blues and Americana

He is an instrumental double bass teacher on the celebrated Trondheim Musikkonservatorium, from where he is also a graduate.

"Surprising, beautiful and highly rewarding" – All About Jazz

HARBOUR STAGE

In partnership with:

THE HARBOUR BAR



FRIDAY. 2ND MAY

GREG MURPHY TRIO (USA/Ireland) 6.30pm

Pianist Greg Murphy played for more than 20 years with Rashied Ali, former John Coltrane drummer, on the New York scene. He appears here with top-line Irish rhythm section, Cormac O'Brien on bass and drummer Shane O'Donovan. A world class pianist, Greg Murphy has also worked with Ornette Coleman, Carlos Santana and Archie Shepp. His 2019 album 'Bright Idea' was #1 in the jazz charts.

ZOÉ BASHA SEXTET (USA/Ireland) 8.30pm

Zoé Basha is a musician and songwriter of French and American origin, who blends traditional singing with jazz and blues. She draws inspiration from Appalachian folk, Irish traditional airs and American ragtime. Zoé Basha plays Bray as part of an Irish tour to support the release of her debut solo album 'Gamble'.

KEVIN BRADY TRIO featuring Bill Carrother (USA/Ireland) 10.30pm

Irish jazz A-listers, drummer Kevin Brady and bass player Dave Redmond have enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration with American pianist Bill Carrothers that spans more than 15 years. They've toured Europe, the US and Asia and have released a series of well received albums.



SATURDAY, 3RD MAY

KATHARINE TIMONEY QUARTET

(N.Ireland) 4.30pm

Katharine Timoney is an award-winning jazz and soul singer-songwriter from Northern Ireland whose music combines elements of vocal jazz and retro soul. Winner of a 2018 Young Musician Platform Award, her acclaimed debut EP 'Life Came Into Colour' has received more than 600,000 streams on Spotify.



HARBOUR STAGE

THE CAROLE NELSON TRIO (Irl) 6.30pm

Pianist Carole Nelson 2020 album release 'Arboreal' was named by The Irish Times as one of the top jazz albums in Ireland, that year. A mainstay of the Irish jazz scene since she first emerged in the early 1990s as one half of the jazz pop combo Zrazy, London-born Nelson is widely regarded as one of Ireland's most original composers.

PIZZA JAZZ (Irl/USA) 8.30pm

Lucky's in Dublin has become a popular hang space for live jazz, in no small part thanks to the growing following attracted by the brilliant quartet who've been playing a residency at the Meath Street restaurant and pizzeria. Bassist Sean Maynard Smith is joined by New York saxophonist Steve Welsh, Darragh O'Kelly (keys), and Brendan Doherty (drums).

COLLIDER (Irl) 10pm

A melting pot of ideas that brings electronics to jazz and guitar rock, Chris Guilfoyle's 'Collider' fuses the driving power of drum and bass, house and early 1990s tech with jazz and rock. He's joined here by drummer Shane O'Donovan, and keyboardists Scott Flanigan and Darragh O'Kelly.

SUNDAY, 4TH MAY

AENGUS HACKETT TRIO (Irl) 4.30pm

The Galway-based guitarist Aengus Hackett creates music across an impressively wide range of genres, from jazz to folk, post rock and synth pop. His debut release with bassist Derek Whyte and drummer Matthew Jacobson was one of The Irish Times jazz albums of last year.



HAYLEY KAVANAGH QUARTET (Irl) 6pm

Hayley Kavanagh's a Dublin-based saxophonist and flautist who's been involved in various ensembles since she returned from living in Prague and Berlin. Here, she's with a great quartet featuring Eric Doyle (guitar), Fionn Ruadh (bass) and Niall Crichton (drums).



HARBOUR STAGE

CHIEF KEEGAN (Irl) 8pm

Instrumental four-piece Chief Keegan received rave reviews when they released their long-awaited debut album last year. The Dublin-based of Luke Dunford (keys), Mark Dudley (guitar), Alan Elliot (bass) and Cian Hanley (drums) deliver tunes with that funky Memphis feel, a set packed with rich, tight grooves and catchy hooks.

MAGICAL DOG (Irl) 10pm

Named after an explosive Jan Hammer composition, 'Magical Dog' is a power-house quartet dedicated to the high energy classic jazz fusion – their music the raw driving grooves and collective improvisation associated with the genre. Expect tunes from the great fusion era,



including John McLaughlin, Jan Hammer and Steve Grossman.

ON THE JAZZ TRAIL

All shows 9.30pm unless otherwise stated

FRIDAY, 2ND MAY

DES HOPKINS DIXIELAND BAND DUFFS BAR, MAIN ST

DENNIS BUGGLE

THE HIBERNIA INN, STRAND ROAD

HOUSE BAND THE MARTELLO, STRAND RD

SATURDAY, 3RD MAY

LEE MEEHAN BAND DUFFS BAR, MAIN ST

DES HOPKINS DIXIELAND BAND THE MARTELLO, STRAND RD

SUNDAY, 4TH MAY

GUSTAVO DEMORIAS (Brazil) DUFFS BAR,MAIN ST

STRAIGHT AHEAD TRIO

THE HIBERNIA INN, STRAND

HOUSE BAND THE MARTELLO, STRAND RD

MONDAY, 5TH MAY

L & R BAND DUFFS BAR,MAIN ST, 6PM





"One of the very best small jazz festivals in Europe"

- All About Jazz

See page 3 for full festival listings

www.brayjazz.com Box Office: 01-2724030