

# Listen to Norway

#2 2012 Jazz Ahead focus

## Norway at Jazz Ahead:

**The Trondheim Jazz Orchestra**

**Saturday 21 April**

**14:30 - 15:00**

**Borgward Saal**

**Fattigfolket**

**Saturday 21 April**

**17:15-17:45 - Halle 2**

**22:00-23:00 - MS Stubnitz**

**Marius Neset**

**Saturday 21 April**

**20:45-21:15**

**Kulturzentrum Schlachthof**

**Solveig Sletthjell**

**Saturday 21 April**

**21:30-22:00**

**Kulturzentrum Schlachthof**





Live: Saturday 21 April - 17:15-17:45 - Halle 2  
Saturday 21 April - 22:00-23:00 - MS Stubnitz

# Fattigfolket

Fattigfolket photo by C F Wesenberg

Fattigfolket is a Swedish/Norwegian quartet that gathered in Copenhagen at the beginning of the decade. The last ten years has seen Fattigfolket touring Norway, Sweden, Denmark, France, Czech Republic and Germany, performing at key jazz festivals, clubs and radio shows.

The band name translates as 'the poor people'. States the band members: 'As kids we shared the same fascination for stories told by our grandparents about their childhood, and what it was like to grow up in the 1920s and 1930s. Even though they didn't own much, they shared the little they had. Today we have a lot, but share very little.'

The third album from Fattigfolket is titled 'Park', and saw its release in 2011 via German label Ozella Music. Says Fattigfolket on the album title: 'As musicians we are visiting many different countries and cities, and we spend a lot of time on traveling by plane, train, bus or car, to an airport, to a hotel, etc. But sometimes we

enjoy some hours off, and then our favorite activity is to go to a park. Almost every city has at least one park, where you can find a calm and a quiet place. Some of the songs on this cd are conceived in a park, or inspired by parks we have visited.' Through communication and a balance of compositional and improvisational material, that pays homage to the contemporary jazz tradition, Fattigfolket perform original compositions written by the band members. The music on 'Park' is also inspired by the rich folk music tradition in Norway, Sweden and abroad.

Earlier releases include 'Fattigfolket' in 2003, and 'Le Chien et la Fille' in 2005, both on Danish label ILK Music.

Writes Jazzwise's Stuart Nicholson in his review of Fattigfolket's 'Park' album:

'The album's title seems to come from the urban institution of the open space – ten of the compositions refer to a specific park, while

Grunewald is the famous German forest park in Berlin. Yet there are no programmatic inferences here, just solid well written melody and solos that orbit the composers intent so composition and improvisation seem of a piece. Their ability to come up with an ear-catching melodic line is exemplified by 'Pfaueninsel Park', but in truth this is an exceptionally good album that communicates timeless musical values.'

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## Line-up:

**Putte Johander (b)**  
**Hallvard Godal (sax, cl)**  
**Gunnar Halle (tp)**  
**Ole Morten Sommer (dr)**

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**Saturday 21 April**  
**17:15-17:45 - Halle 2**  
**22:00-23:00 - MS Stubnitz**

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The Trondheim  
Jazz Orchestra:

# Sidewalk Comedy

Live: Saturday 21 April 14:30 - 15:00  
Borgward Saal

Gambling and gangsters, Ellington and Vaudeville; The Trondheim Jazz Orchestra sets the stage for a unique Jazzahead! performance with their performance of composer and saxophonist Eirik Hegdal's celebrated work 'Sidewalk Comedy'.

During the course of the orchestra's more than ten years of existence, The Trondheim Jazz Orchestra has established itself as one of the leading jazz ensembles in Norway and its reputation as one of the most innovative jazz orchestras in Norway has long spread far beyond the borders of their home country. With origins in the reputable jazz department of NTNU, the orchestra has enjoyed strong and rewarding partnerships with Norwegian and international jazz profiles such as Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, Joshua Redman, Erlend Skomsvoll and Eirik Hegdal.

At the Jazzahead! 2012, The Trondheim Jazz Orchestra is set to perform its musical director Eirik Hegdal's work "Sidewalk Comedy" which saw its premiere at the 2011 Vossa Jazz festival. As a composer Hegdal has written works for the group Krøyt with Vertavo string quartet, Alpaca Ensemble, Trondheim Jazz Orchestra, Trondheim Sinfonietta, Midtnorsk Kammerorkester and others. In addition to being a saxophonist and composer Hegdal teaches saxophone and composition at NTNU's jazz department in Trondheim, Norway.

'Sidewalk Comedy' brings associations to the 1920-30s in USA. Gambling and gangsters, Ellington and Vaudeville, The Jazz Age followed by the Great Depression. As if escaping from the economic crisis with prohibition and the like, the orchestra presents a fascinating show where all the everyday sorrows are forgotten.

Among the orchestra's recent highlights includes the anniversary tour with Chick Corea in Norway and Sweden, commemorating the now legendary 2000 concert at the Molde International Jazz Festival, a performance that has since been recreated for major and highly successful nation-wide tours. The 2004 recording 'Live in Molde' stands as a monument, documenting the unique musical rapport established between Chick Corea, arranger Erlend Skomsvoll and the Trondheim Jazz Orchestra.

2001 saw the orchestra teaming up with Pat Metheny for an equally successful Molde appearance and subsequent domestic touring. TJO also struck a successful artistic partnership with New York Voices in the autumn of 2002 during the annual Trondheim Jazz Festival. TJO and NYV reunited last year to tour of Norway and Sweden and an album documenting the artistically successful collaboration is in the pipeline.

Recent album releases include "stems and cages" by TJO & Kim Myhr and "Triads and More" by TJO & Eirik Hegdal w/ special guest Joshua Redman. In March 2011 TJO made their European live debut when they toured Germany and Austria with Hegdal and Redman. Other TJO artistic partners that have contributed with works written specifically for the highly skilled ensemble includes Norwegian composers/performers such as: Jon Balke, Terje Rypdal, Knut Kristiansen, Eirik Hegdal, Vagleik Storaas, Geir Lysne, Erlend Skomsvoll and Bendik Hofseth.

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#### Line-up:

**Øyvind Brække (tb)**  
**Tor Haugerud (dr)**  
**Eirik Hegdal (sax)**  
**Kirsti Huke (voc)**  
**Maria Kannegaard (p)**  
**Martin Küchen (as)**  
**Ola Kvernberg (vln)**  
**Eivind Lønning (tp)**  
**Mattias Ståhl (vib)**  
**Ole Morten Vågan (b)**

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**Saturday 21 April**  
**14:30 - 15:00**  
**Borgward Saal**

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*"...a far reaching orchestra clearly capable of handling anything and everything that's put in front of it." (John Kelman, All About Jazz).*





# Solveig Slettahjell

SolveigSlettahjell photo by AndreasFrøland

Solveig Slettahjell is a gem among singers. Her first albums with the Slow Motion Orchestra/ Duo earned her international praise as one of the great jazz-standard interpreters of our time, and from the album *Pixiedust* (2005) she has stood forth as one of the foremost conveyors of original material in the same genre. Her latest outing is 'Antologie' created in partnership with keyboardist Morten Qvenild and represents a return to her favourite repertoire with its covers of some of pop and rock's all time classics.

Says Slettahjell on 'Antologie' and its collection of favourite tracks ranging from Rolling Stones' *Wild Horses* to Abba's *The Winner Takes It All* and Gnaris Barkley's *Crazy*: - This album could have been my first. This is how I started; Coming home from school, sitting down at the piano, picking whatever song was my flavour of the day and in my childish way making it my own. Piano and vocals has always been my basic format and as I grew up, I most often played the piano myself. Then when I started studying at the Academy I met the piano-player Håkon Hartberg and started my most defining collaboration up until then. After many years of

working in other constellations it is really exciting to go back to my original format and see what these years of life and music brings to it – to redo it in our way today.

While Slettahjell's previous album, 2009's 'Tarpán Seasons' featured original material, 'Antologie' is a collection of Solveig and Morten's personal favourites, compiled through a long process that even involved friends and family:

- I have always seen myself as singer first and songwriter second. Not that song-writing doesn't interest me or is not important to me, but because singing is what nourishes me. So then, now to finally have the possibility to record an album with my dear friend Morten Qvenild where we sing and play our way through this rather eclectic selection of songs has been a thrill. Somehow it feels like coming home. Morten and I have worked together for more than ten years now and his open-mindedness and dedication to the music is as strong now as it was when we first met. Our interplay and friendship has been a strong fundament for our finding our way through these borrowed gems

of songs. We searched among our favourites and our friends have been suggesting their favourites to us – and we have chosen the ones that spoke to us the most and triggered our urge to make music.

Musically, a project of 'Antologie's calibre entails shedding all notions of correctness and letting the songs –and the singing itself– manifest as a basic mode of being.

-I am always completely immersed in what I am doing. It is not just that music and singing is very important to me, it is a way of reflecting on existence. I really sing because I have to, singing works as a fundamental perspective on life. I don't think I could keep on doing what I do if I felt detached from my music. Actually, I feel blessed with an inability to distance myself and just do a job. This means that there is always a form of oscillation going on, between changing personal phases, concerns, inspirations and moods. Lately the pendulum has swung towards this love of directness, and the notion of music's unmediated, instant humanity.



**Live: Saturday 21 April 21:30-22:00  
Kulturzentrum Schlachthof**

-Even though jazz can be intellectual and modern, there is a great deal of untamed force in it; there has to be. I need to feel that things are on fire, and that is the point with simple expressions; even the most basic of artistic idioms can be on the verge breaking asunder due to its own innate force and intensity: When Jackson Pollock splashes a wall with paint, I don't think he does that with a kind of distant and blasé mind frame, I think he is on fire. And that is the way I need to feel when I sing and make music. However, this intense emotional aspect naturally has to be balanced with a more cool-headed and professional assessment of the material.

So is it even conceivable for her to be doing something else, we wonder. Would Solveig Slettahjell be an altogether different person without music?

-I did consider becoming a gardener. At one point I got really tired of working with music and wanted out, but then I realised that it was being an instrument for others that was tiring,

not the musical vocation as such. So I had to discontinue some of the projects I was working with and just focus on my own things. Singing in itself is never tiring; on the contrary it is always empowering.

Solveig relates that inspiration comes to her in the most unpredictable and mundane ways, not as clear ideas or concepts, but more like simple epiphanies without particular content.

-Again, I feel that it is a question of being visited, and all I can do is work hard within a set framework and wait and see. I am very conscious that don't pretend to invoke inspiration. The actual musical work is extremely concrete, but the thing is that when you stick to a framework and stay patient, things will happen, maybe even magic.

Jazz is normally associated with improvisation and "the moment". Solveig readily acknowledges this aspect, at the same time she says that there is a dimension of conscience at play, which depends on thinking and planning.

-I want my music to reach out and communicate, which requires a certain amount of thinking. You have to be clever to combine the preconceived with the flow of things. That is what singing is about for me; it is a vital thing that takes place as a sort of oscillation between the concrete and controlled and the unpredictable and the transcendent.

Already established internationally as one of the finest female jazz voices of our time, Solveig Slettahjell is ready to let the rest of the world in on the magnificent song writing that Norway has fallen in love with.

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**Line-up:  
Solveig Slettahjell (voc)  
Morten Qvenild (p)**

**Saturday 21 April  
21:30-22:00  
Kulturzentrum Schlachthof**

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Live: Saturday 21 April 20:45-21:15  
Kulturzentrum Schlachthof



Marius Neset photo by Lisbeth Holten



# Marius Neset

## Golden Xplosion

In April 2011 Marius Neset released *Golden Xplosion*, an album that led to the saxophonist and composer becoming one of the most talked about newcomers on the European jazz scene in recent years. At just 25 years old, he was described by Terje Mosnes in Norwegian daily *Dagbladet* as “the most talented Norwegian saxophonist since Jan Garbarek in the 1960s”, but it is the maturity in both his writing and playing, combined with the extraordinary energy and commitment he puts into every performance which really impresses.

Released on the British label Edition Records, and featuring a stellar lineup of Django Bates (keyboards), Jasper Høiby (bass) and Anton Eger (drums), *Golden Xplosion* won 5-star reviews from the *Guardian*, *Telegraph* and *Irish Times* in addition to rave reviews in *Danish Magazine*, *Jazz Special* and Norway's *Jazznytt*, praising both the virtuosity and musicianship of the compositions and performance.

*“Marius Neset combines Brecker’s power and Jan Garbarek’s tonal delicacy, but has a vision that makes all 11 originals on this sensational album feel indispensable, and indispensably connected to each other. Neset is on his way to being one of the biggest new draws on the circuit”* – John Fordham (*Guardian*)

Born in Bergen, Norway, Neset moved to Copenhagen in 2003 to study at the Rhythmic Music Conservatory where he met British musician Django Bates, who became a hugely important figure in the early part of Neset’s career. Bates was quick to notice his talent, asking him to join his *stoRMChaser* big band and, later on, his small group *Human Chain*. Neset’s main project since 2005 has been *JazzKamikaze*. With its eclectic mix of jazz, rock, elec-

tronica and classical music, the group has had great international success playing concerts in Europe, Asia, North and South America and Africa.

July 2011 saw Neset winning the prestigious *JazZtipendiat Prize*, awarded to a musician of outstanding capabilities. This substantial monetary award will be used to create new music with the *Trondheim Jazz Orchestra* to be performed at *Molde Jazz Festival* in 2012.

Throughout 2011 Neset toured extensively throughout Europe, including performances at *Molde*, *Copenhagen*, *Cork* and *Manchester Jazz Festivals* as well as a hugely successful 8-date UK tour. His debut London concert at *Pizza Express Jazz Club*, *Soho* in September, was recorded for national broadcast on *BBC Radio 3*, and saw most major UK jazz journalist attend to see him perform to a sell-out crowd.

*“Twenty-five-year-old saxophonist Marius Neset is a marvel. He makes his instrument dance like a gazelle and soar like an eagle, and he’s an ingenious composer too”* – Ivan Hewitt (*Telegraph*)

With a nomination for best newcomer at the *Danish Music Awards* in November, a run of 30 European performance dates and the German release of *Golden Xplosion* planned for 2012, in less than a year Marius Neset has developed into one of the leading new names in European Jazz.

*“Mark the name. At 25, this Norwegian saxophonist will surely be a major figure on the European jazz scene if this astonishing – and astonishingly personal – album is any indication”*. (Ray Comiskey – *Irish Times*)

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### Line-up:

**Anton Eger (dr)**  
**Jasper Høiby (db)**  
**Ivo Neame (keys)**  
**Marius Neset (sax)**

**Saturday 21 April**

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# SOME OF THE BEST JAZZ EDUCATION IN EUROPE

The music education programme offers promising young musicians a degree-level education. Norway is the only country in the world that has a legal requirement for every municipality to have its own music schools.

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## Trondheim Conservatory of Music

[www.ntnu.no/music](http://www.ntnu.no/music)

The Trondheim Conservatory of Music was established as a private music school in 1911, with a jazz course added in 1979. Jazz classes at the University enjoy a unique position in Norwegian music. Norway's jazz scene has been dominated by students from this institution over the last 30 years.

*Erling Aksdal, musician and head of the Jazz Department at the Trondheim Conservatory of Music, is quoted in Stuart Nicholson's book 'Is Jazz Dead? (Or Has It Moved To A New Address)' where he brings up the topic of individuality. Mr Aksdal believes that in Norway there is not much respect for authorities and a strong belief in individual uniqueness and self-containedness, which Norwegians call the 'Peer Gynt Syndrome'.*

*"The strong self-confidence this implies may sometimes result in something new. It does so as a paradoxical implication since it encourages people to pursue their inclinations believing that they are unique – although they most often aren't! It's a kind of innovation by accident. We also have an expression, 'inventing the gun powder again' – making fun of launching old ideas as new. I think this mentality has made much of what Norwegian jazz has become renowned for," he said.*

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## Stavanger University

[www.uis.no](http://www.uis.no)

Stavanger University offers an undergraduate degree in jazz that includes teacher-training classes, giving students a degree in jazz studies as well as teaching skills.

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## The Norwegian Academy of Music

[www.nmh.no](http://www.nmh.no)

The Norwegian Academy of Music is a specialised university that offers education for performers, composers, teachers and music therapists at a variety of levels. The Academy is Oslo's biggest concert producer and is also the principal institution for music education at the highest level in Norway.

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## Kristiansand Conservatory of Music

[www.uia.no/en](http://www.uia.no/en)

Offers undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in jazz.

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## The University of Bergen

[www.uib.no/en](http://www.uib.no/en)

Undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses in jazz.

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## Music and art schools in Norway (Culture schools)

[www.kulturskoleradet.no](http://www.kulturskoleradet.no)

The first public Norwegian music schools were established in the 1950s. Today, Norway has 430 municipal music and arts schools, and 17% of children in primary and secondary school are pupils at these "culture schools". The Norwegian Parliament has, however, defined a goal of 30%.





# 99 Minutes



Launched in spring 2010, '99 Minutes' is MIC Norway's eclectic webcast series that features one of Norway's most respected music journalists and DJs; Guttorm Andreassen aka DJ99 and a carefully selected playlist offering some of the country's finest talents.

In celebration of one of the Norwegian music scene's strongest traits; its diversity and cross-pollination between genres and styles; Guttorm Andreassen puts together a veritable smorgasbord of tracks on a frequent basis that range from cutting-edge electronica to traditional acoustic folk music, jazz and indie.

Fans of Norwegian jazz will enjoy programme #10 which was devoted to the UK's Cheltenham Jazz Festival 2011 and #12 which is a special feature that celebrated the launch of MIC's 'Listen to Norway' Jazz Focus edition last year.



Tune in at [www.listento.no](http://www.listento.no)

# Live At The Office



MIC launched in 2011 a new concert series broadcasted from the institution's Oslo offices. Broadcasted live on national radio and with video streamed directly on the web the concert series has proved to be a huge domestic success.

'Live At the Office' as the project has been dubbed is a live concert series that is presented by the Music Information Centre Norway in partnership with NRK, the national Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation. For a series of intimate concerts, MIC invites musicians to perform on an unlikely stage for a live concert; the office. Watch intimate video performances of your favorite Norwegian artist, recorded live at MIC's Oslo office or in selected locations throughout the country.

Through MIC's 'Listen to Norway' concert series, the monotonous office ambience is broken by a series of intimate concerts in which the artist sets up shop in between cubicles, photocopiers and stacks of paper and performs in front of a crowd of office workers that has their daily routine pleasantly interrupted by minimalist and stripped-down sets performed by some of Norway's finest artists and performers.

Jazz fans better not miss out on Mathias Eick's fantastic gig played in between MIC's office desks. Fantastic sound and strong performances throughout makes this one of the concert series true highlights.



Check out full-length videos of the office gigs at [listento.no](http://listento.no)

# Norwegian Jazz Festivals 2012

Norway is blessed with a huge number of festivals covering a wide variety of genres and settings ranging from intimate affairs to major capacity open-air events. Choosing the main jazz events from this long list of festivals is no easy task but MIC has given it a try. Below are the events that we feel represent the main spring, summer and autumn jazz festivals:

## Vossa Jazz

When: 22-24 March 2012  
More: [www.vossajazz.no](http://www.vossajazz.no)

The year's jazz festival season is kick-started by the Vossa Jazz festival held prior to the Easter each year. With a varied line-up and a much-coveted commissioned work to be premiered, the festival represents innovation set in an idyllic and vibrant setting in picturesque Voss. In addition to the main programme, off-shoots such as events Badnajazz, youth programme UNGjaJAZZja, Eldrejazz and Ekstremjazz represent vital additions to a not-to-be-missed event.

The 2012 version of the festival featured an applauded work penned by composer and performer Karl Seglem.

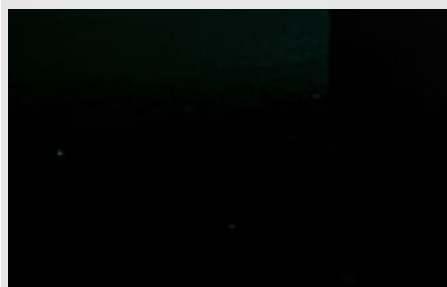
## MaiJazz

When: 8-13 May 2012  
More: [www.maijazz.no](http://www.maijazz.no)

Stavanger's longest-running festival, MaiJazz has since its inception in 1989, developed into one of Norway's leading jazz festivals presenting international acts and the best of national and local jazz each spring. Around 150 volunteers gather to stage some 40 concerts on 20 stages in and around Stavanger that can accommodate from 80 to 1800 people.

Previous MaiJazz headliners include Pat Metheny, Jan Garbarek Group, Gotan Project, Nils Petter Molvær, St Germain, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Youssou N'Dour, Joshua Redman, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock and Bobby McFerrin.

The 2012 programme is strong featuring such acts as Al di Meola & Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Marcus Miller, Roy Hargrove Quintet, Farmers Market, Allan Holdsworth band, Mats Eilertsen "SkyDive", Arena "w/Per Zanussi, Hilde Louise Asbjørnsen and Hoff / Mazur/ Jormin / Henriksen.



## Trondheim Jazz Festival

When: 09-13 May 2012  
More: [www.jazzfest.no](http://www.jazzfest.no)

Trondheim Jazz Festival has existed since 1979 and has grown annually since the reestablishment in 1994. The festival features mainly contemporary Scandinavian and European jazz and focuses particularly on the interaction between the performers and the audience by means of the event's popular Focus lectures. The Trondheim Jazz Festival also presents a vibrant festival for aspiring jazz musicians and a young audience - the Jazzfest Ung.

The Trondheim Jazz Festival is intrinsically linked to the Jazz Department at the university in Trondheim (NTNU) which has served as a greenhouse for Norwegian jazz talent for 30 years. Through celebrated artists like Nils Petter Molvær, Arve Henriksen, Stian Carstensen, Kristin Asbjørnsen, Tord Gustavsen, Ståle Storløkken and Trondheim Jazz Orchestra, Jazzfest is a connection point for EJM into this highly flourishing jazz environment. Trondheim represents an outer edge of the European jazz arena, but the city's cutting edge Nordic sound reach fans all over Europe and the rest of the world.

This year's festival features a strong programme with such acts as Petter Wettre Next Generation, Bernhoft, Bugge Wesseltoft, Mari Kvien Brunvoll, Trondheim Jazz Orchestra and Splashgirl.

## Nattjazz

When: 23 May - 2 June 2012  
More: [www.nattjazz.no](http://www.nattjazz.no)

Nattjazz (Nightjazz) is one of the major jazz festivals in Northern Europe and is staged annually in late May /early June in Bergen, Norway. Nattjazz was founded in 1972 and is despite its age now stronger than ever.

Nattjazz swings into action in late May every year, and over the course of 11 nights more than 80 concerts are presented. Since its 1973 début, Nattjazz has brought to Bergen many of the world's greatest artists; from Stan Getz, Herbie Hancock, James Brown, Van Morrison, The Band, Pharoah Sanders, Art Blakey, Dexter Gordon and Al di Meola, to St Germain, Gipsy Kings, Macy Gray and Gotan Project. But Nattjazz is not merely a festival about great names, it's about who we don't know and who we should know. Since its inception, Nattjazz has been committed to getting unusual combinations of musicians playing together, and to exploring the potential of new collaborations. Thus, both Bugge Wesseltoft's New Concep-



tion of Jazz and Supersilent were premiered at Nattjazz.

Nattjazz is an essential meeting point for jazz curiosity seekers and professionals who endeavour to keep apace with the current state of contemporary jazz. In the course of the last 10 years Nattjazz has achieved recognition both nationally and internationally as one of the most important festivals and showrooms for contemporary jazz in Europe. Thanks to a consistent billing and an attractive atmosphere, Nattjazz is happy to recognize the growing interest from national and international media, and is confident that this trend continues in 2007 and in the years to come.

2012 highlights include acts Esperanza Spalding, Bugge n' Friends, Trespass Trio w/Joe McPhee, Silje Nergaard, Håkon Kornstad Tenor Battle, Tord Gustavsen Quartet, Cassandra Wilson, Arve Henriksen and Motorpsycho w/ Ståle Storløkken.

## Kongsberg Jazz Festival

When: 4-7 July 2012  
More: [www.kongsberg-jazzfestival.no](http://www.kongsberg-jazzfestival.no)

Of Scandinavian jazz festivals Kongsberg is the second oldest and one of the largest sporting a wide range of artists and styles. The music was invariably of the highest quality, played in venues of exceptional attractiveness (including a refurbished silver smelting factory and a quaint local tea-room), appealing to an audience as diverse as the fare. Add to this the accompaniment of immaculate weather and you have the recipe for a stellar festival experience! Indeed, walking between the 18 different sites is frequently a pleasure, not the least due to their separation by 70 metre bridge across a raging torrent of Grade 5 white water. The air shimmers with positive ions and one's ears sing with the roar of the water.

The festival's varied programme proves that Kongsberg Jazz is one of the places globally to witness this edge of modern jazz slowly move forward, whether you measure it in inches or in centimetres. 2012 highlights include Solveig Slettahjell and Morten Qvenild, Elephant9, Jon Balke Magnetic Book, Per Jørgensen and Friends, Atomic, Arve Henriksen/Audun Kleive/Helge Nordbakken plus The Thing w/ Agustí Fernández & Peter Evans.





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## Molde International Jazz Festival

When: 16 – 21 July 2012

More: [www.moldejazz.no](http://www.moldejazz.no)

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Established in 1961, the Molde International Jazz Festival is without doubt one of the nation's leading festivals, both in terms of size, historical significance and international standing. Over the years the festival has given key exposure for Norwegian jazz acts as the event has a long history of attracting international media and music industry reps.

The festival has also long been host to special projects and, as one of five festivals—Molde being the only jazz event—receiving additional government funding, Molde has been able to commission new works that have been recorded and ultimately released commercially. The festival has also been a part of the Intro Jazz: Årets Unge Jazzmusikere program, where eight groups are selected each year, from a larger collection of applicants, to compete for a prize of several hundred thousand Norwegian Kroners that can be used to help further their careers.

Highlights this year include Lovano/Douglas/Baron Quintet, Nils Petter Molvær, Wayne Shorter Quartet featuring Danilo Perez, John Patitucci and Jorge Rossy, The John Scofield Hollowbody Band, Bjørn Alterhaug Quintet, The Real Thing, Giovanna Pessi | Susanna Wallumrød, and Ane Brun.

Jon Balke is the 2012 Artist in Residence.

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## Sildajazz

When: 08-12 August 2012

More: [www.sildajazz.no](http://www.sildajazz.no)

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Haugesund's Sildajazz festival attracts major crowds each August with its mix of traditional jazz and major contemporary pop and rock acts. Held in a marine setting in a truly charming Western city, Sildajazz represents a jazz destination quite out of the ordinary.

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## Oslo Jazz Festival

When: 13-18 August 2012

More: [www.oslojazz.no](http://www.oslojazz.no)

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2011 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oslo Jazz Festival, an anniversary that is celebrated with a grand anniversary full-night concert at the Norwegian Opera featuring a reunited Come Shine backed by the Norwegian Radio Orchestra.



2012 highlights at the festival include Tord Gustavsen Quartet w/Susanna Wallumrød, Trondheim Jazzorkester & Stian Westerhus performing composer Eirik Hegdal's "Ripples, raptures and disbelief", Karin Krog & Bengt Hallberg as well as a Oslo Opera House Opening Concert featuring Tony Bennett w/guest Antonia Bennett.

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## Punkt Festival

When: 6-8 September 2012

More: [www.punktfestival.no](http://www.punktfestival.no)

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Founded in 2005, Kristiansand's Punkt Festival's governing principle is to contribute to further development of modern electronic music. Since the birth of the event, the festival has commissioned great international and Norwegian artists, like Arve Henriksen, Nils Petter Molvær, Supersilent, Sidsel Endresen, Maja Ratkje, Jon Hassel, Alain Johannes and many more, put them together and thus created both new concepts, new music and lasting artistic partnerships.

The festival is run and curated by veteran musicians and producers Jan Bang and Erik Honoré, and at the heart of the festival roster is the large network of fellow artists they have worked with around the world. The live remixing is a recurrent and central element of the Punkt festival, and this year's edition will again see artists doing live and immediate reworkings of concerts as they are being performed

Legendary artist and producer Brian Eno is confirmed as Artistic Director of this year's Punkt Festival held at the new Kilden Performing Arts Centre in Kristiansand, where he will present some of his current favourite artists and remixers. He will curate all nine concerts during the three day festival and, as with past editions, the artists' performances will be remixed live after the concerts.

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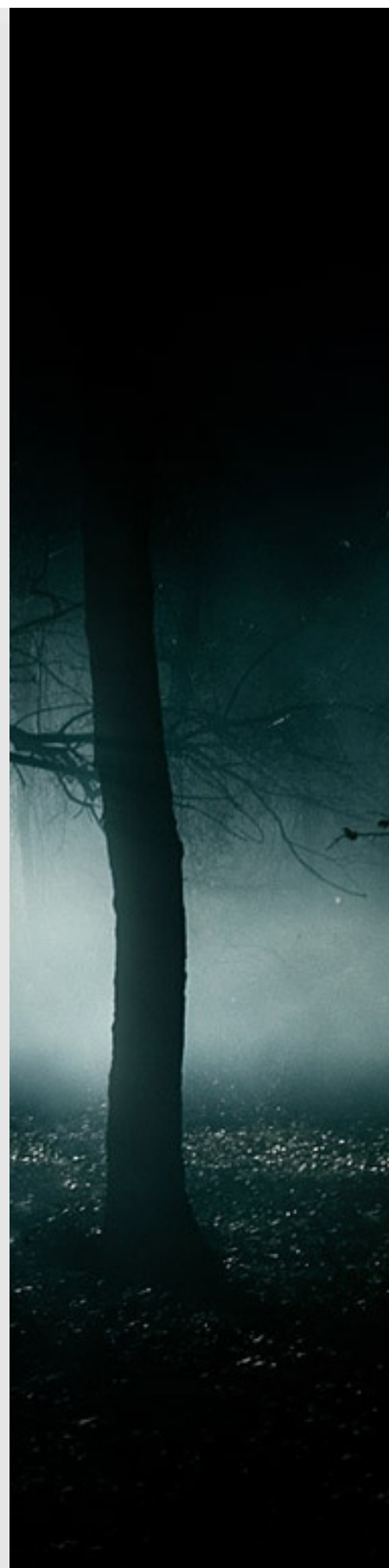
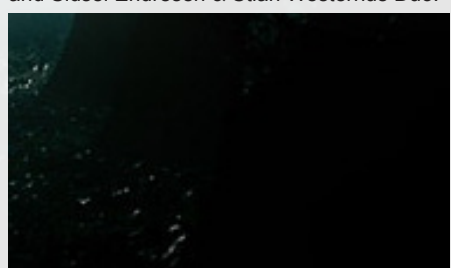
## Døljazz

When: 18-21 October 2012

More: [www.dolajazz.no](http://www.dolajazz.no)

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Lillehammer's Døljazz concludes the jazz festival season with four October days of top-notch Norwegian and international jazz acts in this cozy central-eastern city. The 2011 version of the festival featured acts such as Mathias Eick Quintet, Zanussi Five, Solveig Slettahjell & Morten Qvenild, Nils Petter Molvær Group and Sidsel Endresen & Stian Westerhus Duo.



The publication you're now holding in your hand has been prepared by the Music Information Centre Norway. Funded primarily by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture, MIC supports and promotes Norwegian music of all genres ranging from post-classical contemporary to black metal and virtually everything in between those extremes. The centre's domestically oriented ballade.no site is one of the nation's most important music news and debate sites while the English-language listento.no is one of the web's few sites solely dedicated to news updates and interviews with artists and players on the Norwegian music scene.



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