

BIOGRAPHIES OF 2016 EURORADIO JAZZ COMPETITION FINALISTS

Kristina Barta Trio (CR)

Born in 1987, the pianist **Kristina Barta** (<http://www.kristinabarta.com>) has performed in public since the age of seven. She studied piano with Jirí Ruzicka and composition with Milan Svoboda at the Jaroslav Jezek Conservatory in Prague. Since 2015, she has been studying jazz piano at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts under Karel Ruzicka. Awards: 1st Prize, Young Jazz Tunes with her jazz/fusion project Kikina; 1st Prize, 2015 Jazz Prix Competition.

Born in 1990, the double bassist **Jan Feco** studied at the Jaroslav Jezek Conservatory in Prague. He plays alto saxophone and bass with such top Czech jazz groups as the Gustav Brom Czech Radio Big Band. Awards: Best Soloist, 2011 Czech Jazz Contest; 1st Prize with his Jan Feco Trio at the 2012 Czech Jazz Contest.

Born in 1992, the drummer **Marek Urbánek** studied with Kamil Slezák and then at the Jaroslav Jezek Conservatory in Prague. He is currently studying at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. He has toured, recorded and collaborated with such jazz figures as Bob Montgomery, Al Herman, Eric Wyatt and Karel Ruzicka Jr.

Súp (RTÉ)

Born in Cork, **Cormac McCarthy** began studying piano and composition at a very early age. He completed a Masters in Jazz Studies at DePaul University in Chicago, and his compositions and arrangements have been recorded by such jazz icons as Phil Woods and Jeff Hamilton. He has performed as a pianist throughout Europe and the US, and recorded with Peter Washington, Billy Drummond and many others. He has worked regularly with the trio Súp since 2013. Awards: 2010 Bill Whelan International Music Bursary for young Irish composers studying abroad.

Eoin Walsh took up the bass in his late teens and played with such musicians as Dónal Lunny and John Spillane, while recording with artists like Mick Flannery and David Lyttle. He holds a music degree from the Cork School of Music and received a scholarship to Berklee College in Boston in 2013. This year, he is featured on the *InConcept* album by the contemporary Irish ensemble, Notify.

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Davie Ryan graduated in music from UCC and the Cork School of Music, and has toured and recorded in a wide range of genres. In 2015, he undertook four weeks of intensive master classes in New York with renowned drummers and educators. A member of Súp since 2013, he has worked with many different Irish acts and has wide expertise as a recording artist, including on this year's *InConcept* album by the contemporary Irish ensemble, Notify.

Félix Rossy and Marco Mezquida Duo (ESCAT)

Born in Barcelona in 1994, the trumpeter **Félix Rossy** began playing music at the age of seven, influenced notably by his father Jorge, the acclaimed drummer. He played his first public concert at age eight and opened the Terrassa Jazz festival with his quintet in 2008. He has toured throughout Europe and the US and has played with musicians like Ben Street and Mark Turner. He enjoys playing any style of music but focuses on improvisation.

The 28-year-old pianist **Marco Mezquida** is known for his enormous technical and expressive skills, as well as his ability to assimilate new influences, from classical music to progressive rock. Named Musician of the Year three times in Catalonia, he has toured to over 20 countries and recorded ten CDs as leader (two as solo piano) and 25 more as a sideman.

Sisters of Invention (SR)

The drummer **Malin Almgren** and the saxophonist and vocalist **Karolina Almgren** have made music together since a very early age. Their live sisters' duo, based on improvisation and instrumental craftsmanship, has performed widely throughout their native Sweden. They have released two albums, *Om&Om Igen* and *Navigating*. Their music can be described as colourful and groovy, but also poetic and vulnerable. They focus on strong melodies and rhythms, and present a surprising variety of sounds. In 2015, the sisters toured Germany and Sweden alongside the band Nils Landgren and friends (Rigmor Gustafsson, Ida Sand and Eva Kruse).