

Wednesday 13 November 2024  
7.30pm  
Milton Court Concert Hall



# Guildhall Jazz Orchestra with Billy Childs

**Nikki Iles** director

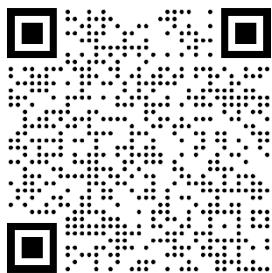
**Billy Childs** composer & pianist

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## Digital Programme

Scan the QR code to access our digital programme:

[www.guildhall-programmes.co.uk/guildhall-jazz-orchestra-with-billy-childs](http://www.guildhall-programmes.co.uk/guildhall-jazz-orchestra-with-billy-childs)



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## Milton Court

Please make sure that digital devices and mobile phones are silenced during the performance.

Eating is not permitted in the auditorium. Drinks are allowed inside the auditorium in polycarbonates.

Filming or recording of the performance is not permitted.

Latecomers will be able to enter the auditorium at a suitable break in the performance.

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## Programme

*Maybe Later*  
by Billy Childs  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

*Dreams*  
by Billy Childs

*The Confession*  
by Laura Nyro  
arranged by Billy Childs  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

*Been on a Train*  
by Laura Nyro  
arranged by Billy Childs  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

*And When I Die*  
by Laura Nyro  
arranged by Billy Childs  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

### Interval (20 minutes)

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## Donate

We hope you have thoroughly enjoyed today's performance at Guildhall School. If you felt inspired by our students and would like to support world-class training for these talented performers and production artists, we would be grateful for a voluntary donation.

Join the Guildhall Circle to access priority booking, exclusive events and more while providing vital support to our students. Join us at [gsmd.ac.uk/circle](http://gsmd.ac.uk/circle).

Alternatively, you can make your gift using our contactless GoodBox devices located at the Box Office and foyer bars. Thank you.

*Rejoice*  
by Billy Childs

*Gibson Street*  
by Laura Nyro  
arranged by Billy Childs  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

*New York Tendaberry*  
by Laura Nyro  
arranged by Billy Childs  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

*Stoned Soul Picnic*  
by Laura Nyro  
arranged by Billy Childs,  
orchestrated by Jim McNeely

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# Guildhall Jazz Orchestra

## Voice

Angel Wong  
Erin Bradley  
Tiger-Lily Jonathan

## Alto Saxophone

Sophus Bech (soprano saxophone, flute,  
B-flat clarinet)  
Tom Townsend (flute, B-flat clarinet)

## Tenor Saxophone

Max Barnard (B-flat clarinet, alto flute)  
Tommy Lynch (flute, B-flat clarinet)

## Baritone Saxophone

Alex Wardill (bass clarinet)

## Trumpet

Luke Lane  
Carmen Llana Perez  
Sidney Moon  
Benny Tayler  
Louis Gascoyne

## Trombone

Cat Eden  
Helena Kieser  
Matt Cooper  
Alex Froggatt (bass trombone)

## Guitar

Maddy Salter

## Piano

Lior Solomons-Wise  
Martina Petrova

## Bass

Ed Le Feuvre  
James Leaver-Whitfield

## Drums

Lester Ridout

## Vibraphone

Finn Genockey

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## Billy Childs composer & piano

Billy Childs has emerged as one of the foremost American composers of his era, perhaps the most distinctly American composer since Aaron Copland – for like Copland, he has successfully married the musical products of his heritage with the Western neoclassical traditions of the twentieth century in a powerful symbiosis of style, range, and dynamism.

Childs has received orchestral and chamber commissions from, among others: Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the National Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Orpheus Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Kronos Quartet, the Dorian Wind Quintet, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, the Isidore Quartet, the American Brass Quintet, the Ying Quartet, the Lyris Quartet, Anne Akiko Meyers, Rachel Barton Pine, and Inna Faliks. His works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and Disney Concert Hall.

He has also garnered seventeen GRAMMY nominations and six awards: two for Best Instrumental Composition ('Into the Light' from *Lyric* and 'The Path Among The Trees' from *Autumn: In Moving Pictures*), two for Best Arrangement Accompanying a Vocalist (including 'New York Tendaberry' from *Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro*, featuring Renee Fleming and Yo-Yo Ma), and two for Best Instrumental Jazz Album: *Rebirth* (2018) and *The Winds of Change* (2024). In 2006, Chamber Music America awarded Childs a New Jazz Works Award and in 2019 a Classical Commissioning Award – making him the first artist to receive awards in both genres. In 2009 Childs was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 2013 was awarded the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. He has also been awarded a Composers Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2015). In 2018, Childs was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Thornton School of Music (sharing that honour with, among others: Morton Lauridsen, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Marilyn Horne). Childs has also served as president of Chamber Music America (2016–2022).

Childs' jazz career began in 1977, when he joined the band of trombonist JJ Johnson. Soon thereafter trumpet legend Freddie Hubbard recognized the 21-year-old's prodigious talents, and invited Childs to join his star-studded ensemble. Over a six-year internship that followed, Hubbard became Childs' mentor in mastering the art of small ensemble improvisation. Childs launched his recording career as a jazz solo artist in 1988, when he released four critically acclaimed albums on the Windham Hill Jazz label. He has also recorded two volumes of "jazz/chamber music" (an amalgam of jazz and classical music) – *Lyric, Vol. 1* (2006) and *Autumn: In Moving Pictures, Vol. 2* (2010); both recordings have collectively been nominated for five GRAMMY awards (winning twice). In 2014, Childs recorded a collection of re-imagined Laura Nyro compositions for Sony Masterworks. *Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro* was produced by Larry Klein, and features guest artists Renee Fleming, Yo-Yo Ma, Wayne Shorter, Alison Kraus, Dianne Reeves, Chris Botti, Esperanza Spalding, and Lisa Fischer. In 2017, Childs released the first of his Mack Avenue recordings, *Rebirth*, which won the 2018 GRAMMY award for Best Instrumental Jazz Album. The second, *Acceptance*, was released in 2020, and the third, *The Winds of Change*, was released in March, 2023, winning the 2024 GRAMMY Award for Best Instrumental Jazz Album.

As a pianist Childs has performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Sting, Renee Fleming, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Detroit Symphony, Rachel Barton Pine, Anne Akiko Meyers, Chick Corea, the Kronos Quartet, Wynton Marsalis, Jack DeJohnette, the Dorian Wind Quintet, Ying Quartet, the American Brass Quintet, and Dave Holland.

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## Nikki Iles director

As a founder member of the hugely innovative Creative Jazz Orchestra in the early 90s, Nikki Iles came to prominence working with musicians such as Anthony Braxton, Vince Mendoza, Mark Anthony Turnage, Kenny Wheeler and Mike Gibbs.

Mike subsequently booked her for one of her first recording dates with great American musicians, Steve Swallow and Bob Moses on the CD *By The Way* on AH HUM records. For many years, Nikki served a lengthy apprenticeship in the North of England playing with the cream of British and American jazz such as Peter King, Iain Ballamy, Art Farmer, Peter King, Tina May, Tim Garland and Jim Mullen.

Many of these relationships were re-kindled later, when after a car accident, Nikki finally decided to make the move to London in 1998. Here she joined the groups and toured and recorded with musicians such as Steve Arguelles, Mick Hutton, Martin Speake, Stan Sulzmann and Julian Arguelles and Norma Winstone.

Several awards followed with the BT British Jazz Award and an IAJE Award in America for services to Jazz. Although well known as a pianist, composition still remains a major part of her musical life.

The breadth of Nikki's artistic vision has led her to disregard the arbitrary boundaries of the jazz scene and most notably, commissions have included a collaboration with American dancer Mimi Cichanowicz, the UMO Jazz Orchestra in Finland, *A Gentle Prayer* (London Sinfonietta), *Red Ellen* (Tim Garland's Northern Underground Band), *Carillion* (LPO Renga Ensemble) and this year *The Caged Bird* from the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers.

Nikki was honoured to have her piece *HUSH* commissioned by the National Youth Jazz Orchestra featured at the 2012 Proms (BBC TV) and more recently write for the great American singer, Kurt Elling and The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra.

Recently she has been particularly busy – she was awarded the prestigious Ivors Academy Gold Badge and the Ivor Novello Award - winning the best large ensemble composition in 2021. Thorough lockdown, she won The Seattle jazz composition prize and was a recipient of both The British Jazz and Parliamentary Jazz Awards and in the Queens New Years Honours list 2022, a British Empire Medal for services to music.

An inspirational teacher, she was also awarded an Honorary RAM from The Royal Academy of Music and a Fellow of Birmingham Conservatoire for outstanding contributions to the music. As a player she remains much in demand with over 35 recordings to her name.

Recent work has taken her across the world as a member of the Julian Arguelles Octet, The Kenny Wheeler Big Band, Claire Martin and 'The North', a Scandinavian/Anglo/Canadian collaboration featuring Percy Pursglove and Anders Morgensen. Her most recent recordings are - *Hush* with Americans, Rufus Reid and Jeff Williams, *Mirrors* with Kenny Wheeler and Norma Winstone, *Lush Life* with Stan Sulzmann and Dave Holland and with her own group, The Printmakers *Westerly*. The last few years also marks a new chapter in her long and distinguished career with writing for larger forces.

This new music will be taking her across the world directing bands in Hungary, Germany, Prague, Ireland and Colorado, which has culminated in a post as artist in residence with the great NDR radio big band in Hamburg for 2023.

With a parallel career as a widely respected teacher in composition and arranging, Nikki is a Professor at Guildhall School and the Royal Academy of Music. She also gives masterclasses around the world and has been a driving force behind the innovative Jazz syllabus at the ABRSM and continues to publish extensively with Oxford University Press and EVC Music.