

These are the NICA artists 2023!

NICA artist development starts 4th funding round in September with four musicians.

Press release: 11 August 2023

NICA artist development offers outstanding musicians from North Rhine-Westphalia who work in the field of jazz and contemporary music a platform for artistic profiling and professionalisation of their careers. The funding is initially for one year and can be extended to a maximum of three years.

The artist support programme, which is based at the European Centre for Jazz and Contemporary Music at the Stadtgarten in Cologne and funded by the state with 420,000 euros annually, started in 2019 as a pilot project and has been in the institutional support of the Ministry for Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia since 2022.

After being nominated by selected North Rhine-Westphalian event organisers, music journalists and other cultural professionals, the artists living in NRW were selected by a jury of experts.

We are pleased to announce the following participants who will start as 4th generation NICA artists in September this year:

- **Marlies Debacker (pianist, *1992)**
- **Ray Lozano (Singer-Songwriter, *1989)**
- **Theresia Philipp (saxophonist, *1991)**
- **Stefan Schöneegg (Bassist, *1986)**

All those supported since 2022 - **Sophie Emilie Beha** (curation), **Fabian Dudek** (saxophone), **Kira Hummen** (vocals), **Luise Volkmann** (saxophone) and **Rebekka Salomea Ziegler** (vocals) remain part of the programme. So does **Laura Totenhagen** (vocals), part of the second supported generation of 2020. NICA artist development enters the new funding year with a total of ten NICA artists. NICA artist development wishes all the musicians who will be leaving in autumn - after completing their full funding period - **Heidi Bayer** (trumpet), **Janning Trumann** (trombone), **Philip Zoubek** (piano), **Pablo Gīw** (trumpet) and **Tamara Lukasheva** (voice) - all the best for their future careers.

How NICA artist development works:

Special features of NICA artist development are the funding period of up to three years and the individual adaptability of the funding programme to the needs of the respective NICA artist to establish him or herself as an artist. Through residencies, master classes, concert and rehearsal opportunities, the participants can further develop themselves in a targeted manner within the framework of the funding. International projects are also designed to promote networking in the European music scene. Coaching and workshops offer support in entrepreneurial topics such as marketing, project management and production. At concerts within the NICA live series - a field of experimentation for new band constellations, solo formats, or specially curated programmes - in the Stadtgarten Cologne or in the venues and festivals of cooperation partners, the participants also gain experience in the professional event context.

The Jury:

The jury members are music journalist Stefan Hentz, music journalist and WDR Cosmo presenter Uh-Young Kim, Prof.:in Anette von Eichel from the Cologne University of Music and Dance, author, sound artist and performer Prof.:in Dr.:in Swantje Lichtenstein, double bass player and chairperson of the Initiative Kölner Jazz Haus e. V. Ulla Oster, artistic director of Stadtgarten Cologne Kornelia Vossebein and music journalist Christian Werthschulte. The jury is chaired by Thomas Baerens, Head of the Music Department of the Ministry of Culture and Science.

Further information and press material on the NICA artists and the programme itself can be found on the website www.nica-artistdevelopment.de.

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