

# Meet the NICA artists 2022!

**Boost for the independent music scene: NICA artist development starts 3rd funding round in September with five new artists and a new management team.**

Press info 5th August 2022

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

The artists' support program, based at the European Center for Jazz and Contemporary Music at the Stadtgarten in Cologne and funded by the state with a budget of 420,000 euros annually, started as a pilot project in 2019. Since 2022 the program is institutionally funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

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

We are pleased to announce the following participants who will start this September as 3rd generation NICA artists:

- **Sophie Emilie Beha (Curation, \*1997)**
- **Fabian Dudek (Saxophone, \*1995)**
- **Kira Hummen (Voice, \*1994)**
- **Luise Volkmann (Saxophone, \*1992)**
- **Rebekka Salomea Ziegler (Voice, \*1991)**



## **Wie NICA artist development arbeitet:**

NICA artist development's special features are the funding period of up to three years and the individual adaptability of the funding program to the needs of the individual NICA artist for his or her establishment as an artistic personality. Through residencies, master classes, concert and rehearsal opportunities, the participants can further develop themselves in a focused way within the framework of the funding. International projects are also aimed at promoting and networking in the European music scene. Coaching and workshops offer assistance in entrepreneurial topics such as marketing, project management and production. At concerts within the series NICA live – an experimental field for new band constellations, solo formats, or specially curated programs – in the Stadtgarten Cologne or in the venues and festivals of cooperation partners, the participants also gain experience in the professional event context. NICA is developing! Together with the NICA artists of the 1st and 2nd funding year, a lot was explored, discussed, brought into form, or discarded. This process of the still young funding program allows for a novelty in 2022: For the first time, a curator will become a NICA artist. Through the additional support of program curators, NICA artist development would like to emphasize the relevance of this professional field and contribute to a sustainable development of the music scene by giving support and ensure visibility.

## **Die Jury:**

The jury members are music journalist Stefan Hentz, WDR 3 Open Sounds editor Markus Heuger, WDR jazz editor Tinka Koch, Prof. Anette von Eichel from the Cologne University of Music and Dance, former artistic director of Stadtgarten Cologne and the Monheim Triennale Reiner Michalke, and musician Ulla Oster. Chairman of the jury is Thomas Baerens, Head of the Music Department of the Ministry of Culture and Science.

## **Management-Team:**

Since spring this year, a new management team for NICA artist development has been formed: Esther Weickel (head of project) and Ella O'Brien-Coker (project coordination) have taken over the funding program from Kornelia Vossebein, who is the new artistic director of Stadtgarten Cologne since July 1st, 2022. For Weickel and O'Brien-Coker, communication and trust are key to ensuring that the needs of NICA artists for their professional development can be identified, articulated, and consequently realized.

They are excited to begin this process in 2022 with the 3rd funding round, working together with the new NICA artists and those who remain in the funding program to explore thoughtful ways to support them individually, while at the same time advancing the possibilities of NICA artist development.

Further information and press material about the NICA artists and the program itself can be found on the website [www.nica-artistdevelopment.de](http://www.nica-artistdevelopment.de).

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