



## TIIT KALLUSTE

As an accordionist, Tiit Kalluste can be considered a true modern pioneer of Estonian jazz music.

His activities as an improviser and a jazz musician with a unique musical vernacular have opened up a completely new facet in the Estonian accordion history. He has introduced accordion into ensembles playing improvisational music and jazz, and is a sought-after guest musician in groups specializing in these types of music both in Estonia and abroad.

Starting out with classical jazz at the 1982 student festival *Tudengijazz*, Tiit has over the years found his own musical handwriting, in tune with the Nordic state of mind. He is one of the initiators and the author of the music of the projects *Nordic Sounds* and *Tango Nuevo/Jazz'n'Tango*. As an accordionist specialized in improvisational music and jazz, Tiit has been invited to perform at all major festivals and concerts in Estonia as well as in other Baltic and Scandinavian countries, European cities, North and South America, Asia, and Russia. His original music has been released on several albums. He has composed music for TV shows and feature films both home and abroad.

In 1997–2007, Tiit was a lecturer at the Viljandi Culture Academy, since 1998 an accordion and improvisation lecturer at the Georg Ots Tallinn Music College, and since 2002 he teaches in the jazz department of the Tallinn College of Music and Ballet.

He is a long-time president, and since 2014, an Emeritus Member of the Estonian Accordion Society.

In 2019, the International Confederation of Accordionists awarded him its highest recognition, the Merit Award for supporting the international accordion movement.

## SUSANNA ALEKSANDRA

Susanna Aleksandra is an internationally active Estonian singer, songwriter, and lyricist known for her vocal versatility and storytelling.

Susanna studied jazz singing at prestigious schools: the Sibelius Academy in Finland (Bachelor's and Master's degrees), and the USC Thornton School of Music in America, where she perfected her skills under the guidance of Grammy nominees.

Her second album *The Siren* (Eclipse Music, 2021) received international acclaim, being nominated for Jazz Album of the Year at the Estonian Music Awards, and was selected as one of the best albums of 2021 by *Jazzwise* magazine.

Susanna performs regularly in Europe, having appeared at festivals and concert stages in Finland, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and elsewhere.



## AIN VARTS

Born in Estonia on October 13, 1959, Ain is a self-taught guitarist. He has been working as a professional musician since 1975 and has also worked as a sound producer in the Estonian Television.

As a versatile musician, Ain's projects include working with several rock, pop, jazz groups (Propeller, Kaseke, Avicenna, Urmas Lattikas quintet, Tõnu Naissoo Hammond project, Jeff Lorber, Nicko McBrain, Gary Brooker, Paul Young, In Spe, Radar, Psalm 102), but also with NYYD Ensemble, and the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. He has recorded over one hundred albums, several theatre and TV productions, performances, soundtracks.

He has performed in Germany, Poland, Russia, the USA, Canada, Finland, Sweden, Latvia, and the UK.

Ain is currently working as a freelance guitar tutor and musician.



## KASPAR KALLUSTE

A renowned drummer and composer, Kaspar Kalluste has been playing for years with the top names in the Estonian jazz and pop scene. Kalluste was awarded the *Elion Young Jazz Talent* prize in 2012, and was chosen to be a member of the Estonian Dream Pop Group in 2013.

Kalluste began his music studies at the age of 7 and his first instrument was the piano.

A few years later he started playing drums and formed his first punk-rock group. Kalluste studied jazz drums at the Georg Ots Tallinn Music College as well as at the Malmö Academy of Music. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre.

Kaspar Kalluste has recorded many jazz and pop albums and has performed in various TV shows. Kalluste has also produced and written music for several Estonian pop artists.

## TAAVO REMMEL

Taavo Remmel is an Estonian double bass player active in several fields: he teaches at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and at the Jaseps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music; he is a member of the Hortus Musicus ensemble, and participates in various jazz formations.

His regular concert activities include solo performances, participation in chamber music ensembles, large-scale symphonic works, and also projects "beyond borders". He has created music for theatre and ballet shows, including in live performance. On numerous occasions and in various formations he has been on stage in Israel, Russia, the USA, Switzerland, Italy, Japan, and elsewhere. He has contributed to about 50 recordings. In 2013, he was named the Estonian Jazz Musician of the Year.



# Tiit Kalluste Quintet



# Let's swing

A

Throughout my musical career, swing music has been my undisputed favorite, alongside Nordic jazz and the temperamental southern tango. Playing this kind of music always brings a smile to my face, especially when doing it with my long-time stage partners, good friends and great musicians Taavo Remmel and Ain Varts.

It is a special pleasure to play on this album with my son, Kaspar Kalluste, top drummer of the younger generation, and the amazing singer Susanna Aleksandra, who is gaining recognition on the international scene.

All the material on the album is recorded in an authentic, unprocessed form, just as it was done during the golden age of swing music.

Keep swinging!

Tiit Kalluste



**Jive At Five** Count Basie / Harry Edison 3.49

**Bluesette** Toots Thielemans 3.51

**Wave** Antonio Carlos Jobim 4.26

**There Will Never Be Another You** Harry Warren / Mack Gordon 2.56

**Läbi saju** Raimond Valgre / Albert Vennola 4.04

**Smile** Charles Chaplin / John Turner / Geoffrey Parsons 3.55

B

**Ain't Misbehavin'** Thomas "Fats" Waller / Harry Brooks / Andy Razaf 4.05

**Lucky To Be Me** Leonard Bernstein / Betty Comden / Adolph Green 3.33

**I Get A Kick Out Of You** Cole Porter 2.57

**My Future Just Past** Richard Whiting / George Marion Jr. 4.04

**They Say It's Spring** Marty Clarke & Bob Haymes 3.58

**TIIT KALLUSTE** – accordion • **SUSANNA ALEKSANDRA** – vocals

**AIN VARTS** – acoustic guitar • **TAAVO REMMEL** – double bass • **KASPAR KALLUSTE** – drums

Live recording at Tubin Hall in Tartu on July 22, 2025 • The recording has not been cut or edited.

Microphones: Accordion – Sonodore MPM 81 • Vocals – Sonodore MPM 81 • Guitar – Sonodore CMA16, Josephson C700A

Double bass – Josephson C700A, Sonodore MPM-81 • Drums – Sonodore CMA16, Josephson C715, e22S

Preamps: Rens Heijnis 8 MS • Grace Design MK II • AD converter: Merging Horus • Recording format: DSD 256

Recording engineer: Aular Soon • Photos: Endel Apsalon • Design: Lemmi Kuulberg

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