

## Jazz Pianist and Composer Tomáš Sýkora Releases a New Album with his Trio, Featuring Aid Kid



Jazz pianist and composer **Tomáš Sýkora** releases a new album of his own music that mixes traditional jazz trio sound with electronics. On the latter aspect, the trio has collaborated with the distinguished producer **Aid Kid**. Together, they have created a dynamic and highly original fusion of jazz and electronic music that has enthused concert audiences as well. The current line-up of the band – **Tomáš Sýkora, Aid Kid, Tomáš Liška** and **Roman Vícha** – is Sýkora’s dream come true, since it brings together, as he explains, not only excellent musicians but some of his favourite people as well. *“I’m really happy that we have managed to use the classical format of a jazz piano trio as the basis of a colourful and very versatile form which changes with each performance. Not only do we have good chemistry in the band, but we have created ‘alchemy’!”* says Tomáš Sýkora about his new project, making a reference to its title, **Alchemy**.

The present album, however, is not the first occasion on which these four musicians and sought-after studio players would have met. They are all members of several other formations across different genres: Roman Vícha is permanent drummer in Ewa Farná’s band, among others, the double-bass player Tomáš Liška regularly collaborates with the renowned bluegrass band Robert Křestán & Druhá tráva, and Aid Kid is a respected electronic producer, author of film and scenic music and, together with Pjoni, the recipient of the Czech Lion film award for their music to the movie Arvéd. The collaboration of Tomáš Sýkora, Roman Vícha and Tomáš Liška dates back to the occasion of a concert organized in honour of Karel Růžička and prepared together with the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra. The live recording of the performance was later released as the album *Songs for Orchestra* (Animal Music, 2021) featuring Sýkora’s own compositions and arrangements of Růžička’s music. Recently, Sýkora and Aid Kid have also collaborated with the Radio Big Band of Gustav Brom on a project celebrating a centenary of the Czech Radio.

The album **Alchemy** is released on **9 June 2023** as part of the Animal Music Edition and has been supported by a grant from the City of Prague. The publishing activities of Animal Music in 2023 are sponsored by the PPF Foundation and Prague Gas, Inc. The album will be available on CD and digitally (stream & download) from the usual distribution outlets of Supraphon, as well as from the Animal Music e-shop. The album itself is preceded by the release of the single **“Cermak Road”** that will be available digitally from **26 May 2023** and available on all streaming platforms.

**The album will be launched on 9 June 2023** as part of a concert performance at the [Jazz Dock](#) club in Prague, starting at 9 p.m.

### Additional Performances:

25 June – Slavnosti synkop / Brno

7 July – Boskovice Festival pro židovskou čtvrť

### Information on the Album:

Producers: Tomáš Sýkora & Aid Kid

Recording: Milan Cimfe & Aid Kid (Sono Doupě Records, Golden Hive)

Mix: Milan Cimfe, Aid Kid, Tomáš Sýkora & Petr Ostrouchov

Mastering: Adam Karlík

### Line-Up:

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Tomáš Sýkora – piano, synthesizers, samples

Aid Kid – electronics, samples

Tomáš Liška – bass guitar

Roman Vícha – drums

host: Ocze – samples (track No. 1)

## Tracks:

1. Druid
2. Start Up
3. Cermak Road
4. Red Faces
5. Avishai & Shai
6. Alchemy
7. West in Blue
8. Soidgh
9. That's Life



*left to right: Aid Kid, Tomáš Liška, Roman Vícha, Tomáš Sýkora (photo Vít Šimánek)*

**Tomáš Sýkora** (\*1979) is a composer, pianist and arranger with three albums of his own music under his belt (Songs and Old Forms/2017, Songs for Orchestra/2021, Alchemy/2023). As co-author and arranger he has taken part in many other projects as well, among them recordings of the big band Concept Art Orchestra, as member of a free association of composers called The Prague Six. He has been the founder and bandleader of several projects with which he successfully toured in the Czech Republic and abroad. During his 2019 tour of the USA and Canada and his visit of Chicago he was inspired, among others, to write “Cermak Road”, one of the songs included on his album **Alchemy** and released as a single as well. Tomáš Sýkora has also been teaching at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory where he heads the department of composition. As curator of a programme series of the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra called the New

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Horizons, he has been mixing jazz with symphonic music. He is a sought-after arranger, and has currently been collaborating with Jaromír Honzák on his upcoming album of jazz and symphonic music.

The pseudonym **Aid Kid** (\*1993) belongs to the musician, composer, producer and DJ Ondřej Mikula. In April 2015 he released his eponymous debut album to high critical acclaim (including the Vinyla Prize for the Music Discovery of the Year), followed by Cinematographer's Journal (2019, BiggBoss) and Collection (2021, Addict Sound). Currently, he has been member of the audio-visual collective Lunchmeat and has been dedicating himself to film and scenic music (together with Pjoni, he received the Czech Lion film award for their music to the movie Arvéd). As producer, he has participated on albums Řeka by Lenka Dusilová (2020, Animal Music), Za vodou by Dunaj (2021, Animal Music) or Září by Zvíře jménem Podzim (2019, Indies). His regular collaborations include those with Pjoni, Katarzia, Oliver Torr and Petr Ostrouchov. On stage, he has been collaborating with Kittchen and Tomáš Sýkora Trio and has also appeared in projects by Lenka Dusilová or Katarzia.

**Tomáš Liška** (\*1979) is a bassist and composer working and collaborating on many projects across genres. For more than eleven years he has been collaborating with Robert Křesťan & Druhá tráva, and has been long-term member of bands of Beata Hlavenková, Lenka Dusilová, Luboš Malina and Michal Nejtěk. For his debut solo album Invisible World from 2009 he received a Tais Awards and a nomination for an Anděl Award. His subsequent albums, Milokraj (2013), Bercheros Odyssey (2015), Fragile Bliss (2016) and Invisible Faces (2017) also met with high critical acclaim and Hope from 2020 brought him an Anděl Award. His band Invisible World met with international success at the world-music showcase Womex, followed by a tour of Japan.

**Roman Vícha** (\*1979) is one of the most sought-after drummers performing in different genres from pop music and rock to jazz. Since 2013 he has been one of the permanent members of Ewa Farná's band. He's a frequent guest in diverse studio projects and has participated in dozens of album recordings. He has collaborated, for example, with Lenka Dusilová, Jana Kirschner, Richard Müller, Ivan Král, Karel Gott and a number of others. In the sphere of jazz he has recently been participating in projects by Jaromír Honzák, Martin Brunner, Vít Křišťan or Tomáš Sýkora.

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