

RĪGAS RITMI

2013 Artist sheet



JOJO MAYER & Latvian Radio Big Band

Location: Switzerland/Latvia
Genre: jazz, jungle, fusion

**Concert at April 26th, 2013
Riga's Congress Center**

Latvian Radio Big Band



Line up: **Kārlis Vanags** - conductor , **Renārs Lācis** – alto sax, **Dāvis Jurka** - alto sax, **Gints Pabērzs** – tenor sax, **Māris Jēkabsons** - tenor sax, **Kristaps Lubovs** – bariton sax; **Lasse Lindgren, Oskars Ozoliņš, Jānis Šīmanis, Gints Stepanovs, Sandis Skeranskis** – trumpets; **Laura Rozenberga, Intars Busulis, Uldis Ziediņš, Artūrs Bērziņš** – trombones; **Ritvars Garoza** – piano, keys, **Mārcis Auziņš** – guitar, **Toms Poišs** – bass, **Artis Orubs** - drums

After the 16 years of a break, Latvian Radio Big Band is revived! And it is full of fresh ideas and forces. The collective will work on a project basis, involving the most talented Latvian musicians, and also the performers from other countries. Maris Briezkalns takes the management of the Big Band, the conductor

and the tutor will be Karlis Vanags, while the patron of big band will be remarkable Latvian composer and pianist - Maestro Raimonds Pauls.

The first time, the collective under a name of the Latvian radio has been created in 1966. At that time, the big-band was called «The Orchestra of Television and Radio of the Latvian SSR». Into 1992 it has been renamed and became «The Variety Orchestra of the Latvian Television and Radio», which people named - Radio Big Band.

The first leader and the composer of the band was Ringolds Ore, but from 1968 till 1991 - violinist and arranger Alnis Zakis. The leaders of the Radio Big Band were also Raimonds Pauls and Gunars Rozenbergs.

By the time Latvia has got independence, in 1996 a unique professional jazz orchestra of Latvia – Radio Big Band was liquidated.

After the liquidation, the festival „Rīgas Ritmi” went on with jazz promotion in Latvia, regularly organizing concerts with big band participation, where collective has performed together with a great deal of leading Latvian jazz and pop singers and soloists as well as foreign artists: Frank Foster, Denis Rowland, James Morrison, Deodato and other outstanding foreign performers.

The revived Latvian Radio Big Bands first performances was with an outstanding jazz vocalist – Kurt Elling and Italian jazz diva – Roberta Gambarini. Now Latvian Radio Big Band is collaborating with great Swedish trumpeter – Lasse Lindgren.

“Latvian radio big band is great. It deserves very strong and bright future,” – Grammy-winner Kurt Elling.

“While we working together, big band was very open minded about making music very animated and wonderful. It is something that not all big bands can do,” - Laurence Hobgood.

Jojo Mayer

„A feast for ears AND eyes.”- Jazz 'N' More

Jojo Mayer, a drummer based in New York, is known for his creative and innovative drumming techniques, which make him one of the best solo drummers in the world. Mayer was born on January 18, 1963 in Zurich, Switzerland. He grew with a lot of music influence around him. His father, Vali Mayer, was a bass player. When he was a child, he traveled extensively with his father, going as far as the Far East and throughout Europe. He got his first drum set at the age of 2, a set he made use of to perform for the public in Hong Kong when he was only 3 years old.

Mayer joined a professional band when he was eighteen. The Band was the Monty Alexander's group which embarked on a European tour soon after he joined. The band performed in all the major jazz-festivals including the North-Sea-Jazz Festival, Montreux, Nice, Antibes, Athens etc. While on these tours, Mayer got to meet jazz-greats like Dizzy Gillespie and Nina Simone who introduced him to the international arena.

Mayer's reputation as a performer and instructor has soared, not only among his fans, but among his fellow musicians too. He has performed in some of the biggest and most famous drum festivals which include the Modern Drummer Festival (1998 and 2005), the Buddy Rich Memorial Scholarship NYC (95), the International Drummer-Meeting in Koblenz (89, 91, 95), PASIC (96), the Montreal Drum- Fest (96), the NAMM-Show's "Drums along the Hilton"(96), int. Slagwerkkrant Dag (96), int. Budapest Dob-Gala (94, 95), Manny's Drum-Mania NYC (98) and the "int. Musik Messe Frankfurt"(93, 97), where he played alongside world renowned drummers including Dave Weck, Terry Bozzio, Jack de Johnette and Billy Cobham, among others.

[Jojo Mayer](#) has established a weekly party event in New York called Prohibited Beatz. The event is one of the most famous events in the city. Though the event is doing well and the attendance is at the top, Mayer takes time to venture into various avenues to promote it. Mayer has recently produced his first solo project called Nerve. He has adopted some the new styles, most of which of which have been created by him, in his new project. The styles include "Drum n' Bass", "Nu-Skool Breaks", "Speed Garage" and employment of disc jockeys to remix the music. His two projects, Nerver and Prohibited Beatz have gained popularity, not only in New York, but beyond New York and are slowly forming as a new music culture across the world.