



RBGTRIO

★★★★★
Jazzwise, All About Jazz,
Irish Times, Marlbank

RBG Trio is a collective of 3 of Ireland's top improvising musicians, **Meilana Gillard - Tenor Saxophone, Dave Redmond - Double Bass, and Kevin Brady - Drums**. Together they have been lauded for their exciting live performances and recordings, which feature deep ensemble interplay as well as lyrical and expansive compositions. They continue to express themselves over various styles of improvisation, groove and textures ranging from swing through free jazz and grunge - more recently adopting an electric treatment featuring effects and electric bass creating their own brand of experimental space funk.

"Rhythmically grooving and tightly tethered one moment, loose and exploratory the next, RBG Trio's aesthetic was both familiar in a rootsy way and thrillingly free-spirited."
All About Jazz

Meilana took the opportunity to call upon Ireland's top rhythm team (Redmond and Brady) in early 2019 for a Dublin show, and their first time playing together was a natural fit. The sax/bass/drums trio format can be tricky; however, there was an effortless flow about their collective sound which would make them all excited to keep performing as a trio. They continued to bond over shared influences and inspiration culminating in a performance at Mexico City's 'EuroJazz' festival just a few months later, solidifying their auspicious start.

RBG Trio initially released two singles: **'Black Hole Sun'** (2020) and **'Neither Here nor There'** (2022), the latter of which Stephen Graham (**Marlbank**) referred to as *"a calling card of rugged weight"* and *"quite the statement of intent"*. **'Neither Here nor There'** was released at the JPN Conference in Belfast during a showcase for Irish Jazz; *"The trio's tunes had catchy melodies opening out into full-blooded collective improvisation rooted by solid swinging grooves."* **Nigel Slee (Jazzwise)**

RBG Trio is fearless in their direction - equally at home playing bop, swing, and free jazz as they are embracing their grunge roots through Soundgarden and Nirvana covers. Always bringing pocket and groove to their R&B, soul, and space funk experiments. Their sound has a consistent undercurrent of the blues, paying homage to the sax/bass/drums trio canon and learning from the fearlessness of the masters who created it - instead of cosplaying it.

RBG Trio released their self-titled debut in September 2023, featuring 12 original tracks and 2 alternate takes. All but 2 of the compositions (penned by all Redmond, Brady and Gillard) were brand new at the recording session - a risk that really paid off. The compositions feature haunting ballads, free elements, swing, rhumba, gritty blues, tango, and odd meter grooves that are lyrical, melodic and full of interplay.

RBG Trio has attracted shining reviews from **Jazzwise, All About Jazz, The Irish Times**, and many other outlets featuring on **Jazz FM** and **RTE Lyric FM**. The album release was followed by a successful tour in Ireland and concluded with their debut at the **London Jazz Festival** with a performance at the Barbican earning them a shout-out in **Jazzwise Magazine** as a 2023 festival highlight.

Gillard composed a suite of 1980s SEGA chipset-inspired tunes for her **Ban Bam Composers Commissioning Award**, entitled **'Chasing Comets'**. Premiered by RBG Trio in January 2024, this music propelled the band into an exciting new electric direction. The movements, **'levels'** featured a saxophone sound played through a number of deeply expressive effects, with Redmond on electric bass and Brady's tight drum and bass groove. *"If Joe Zawinul and Bootsy Collins had a band, it might have sounded something like this[...]. Jazz Funk at its sexiest."* **Ian Patterson (All About Jazz)**

RBG Trio equally love performing acoustic contemporary jazz and exploring new sounds and textures with their electric configuration and are currently booking festivals and venues across the UK and Ireland with aims to book Europe and further abroad with a focus on the electric band. Their second album is currently underway.



Debut Album 'RBG Trio' (Sept.'23)
///auragami records///

1. Drip Dry	3:15	- Redmond
2. Chrysalis	4:02	- Gillard
3. Centro	5:22	- Redmond
4. Learn to Surf	5:49	- Gillard
5. Take your time	5:59	- Gillard
6. Après	6:37	- Redmond
7. Faultlines	4:21	- Redmond
8. Deep Blue	3:50	- RBG Trio
9. In the Dark	8:44	- Gillard
10. Drum Lullaby	3:16	- Gillard
11. A Dude Abides	3:38	- Brady
12. Bending Light	4:14	- Gillard
13. Take Your Time (alt)	6:02	- Gillard
14. Drip Dry (alt)	4:29	- Redmond

Recorded April 7&8, 2023 at Grouse Lodge Studios in Ireland by Alex Borwick
Mixed and Mastered by Dave Darlington at Bass Hit Recording, NYC

Meilana Gillard
Tenor Saxophone
& Effects

"...exquisite-toned Tenor/Alto..."

JAZZWISE



Kevin Brady
Drums & Sampler

"Brady is an impressive drummer with strong chops, impeccable taste, creative & most notably, terrific tone"
All About Jazz



Dave Redmond
Double Bass,
Electric Bass,
& Effects

"Redmond's earthy bass shines forth beautifully from the sparse arrangements."
All About Jazz



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