

- NIKKI ILES -

Biography

The Guardian (John Fordham)

"A formidable UK jazz presence rising to her full height."

"Iles is one of the most refreshing figures to have emerged in the UK scene in recent times, with a liquid sound and supple, obliquely resolved phrasing as an improviser".

Award winning jazz pianist and composer, Nikki Iles was a founder member of the innovative Creative Jazz Orchestra - working with Mike Gibbs, Vince Mendoza, Kenny Wheeler and Anthony Braxton. She has had a busy freelance career working with Art Farmer, Julian Arguelles, Claire Martin and Christine Jenson amongst others and also recording with Kenny Wheeler, Norma Winstone, Tina May, Rufus Reid, Stan Sulzmann and Dave Holland. With over 30 CDs recorded over 3 decades, she has been described as the "Heroine of British Jazz".

Although well known as a pianist, composition remains a major part of her musical life with most recent work and commissions from the HR Big Band in Frankfurt, The London Sinfonietta, Tim Garland's Underground Band, The International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers, Tommy Smith/ Kurt Elling, Helsinki's UMO Jazz Orchestra and the post as composer in residence 2023 with the NDR Big Band in Hamburg.

With a parallel career as a much loved and respected teacher, Nikki is Professor of Jazz Piano at the Royal Academy of Music and

The Guildhall Music and Drama and was this year was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's honours list for her work .

Winner of the Ivors Academy Gold Badge for exceptional contribution to the music (2019)

Winner of the Parliamentary Jazz Awards Best Ensemble (Jazz Orchestra 2021/22)

Winner of the Ivor Novellos Composition Award 2021