



BABEL ARTS
MANAGEMENT

SANTA DIVER BIO



Santa Diver was formed in 2006 by jazz violinist Luca Kézdy and multi-instrumentalist/composer David Szesztay, who plays the bass in this formation. The third member of the trio, David Szegő joined in 2015 on drums. The three instruments and personalities maintain a unique and original musical dimension, which is situated somewhere in the crossing of jazz, world and free music. Their sound is determined by the unconventional instrumentation of the trio. The unique style of Luca Kézdy, with her unmistakable narrative playing on the effected violin, the colourful and melodic bass lines, and the energetic drumming full of tiny and exciting happenings make their music a fascinating adventure. Their fourth album *Blue Horizon* came out in 2021 by NarRator Records.

Santa Diver has been performing since 2006, and since then they have given numerous concerts in venues and festivals like the Chelsea Music Festival (NYC), the European Jazz Conference (Budapest), Voll Damm Festival Jazz Vic (ES), Gaume Jazz Festival (BE), Südtirol Jazzfestival (IT) and other jazz festivals in Spain, Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia.

They released their debut album, *Sending Ovation* in 2009, followed by *Santa Diver* in 2013 and *Deep Diving* in 2017.

They love to play with guest musicians. In 2017 Santa Diver had the opportunity to play with Italian saxophonist Stefano Di Battista.



Luca KÉZDY was born in Győr, northwest Hungary, where she started her classical violin studies at the age of six. Later she studied aesthetics and philosophy at the ELTE University Liberal Arts Department. She was placed in the finals in the first national Jazz Violin Competition held by the Hungarian State Radio in 2006, where she won the Audience Prize. In the same year, she founded Santa Diver, bringing her own compositions to the audience. Since the beginning, the band has played at the most renowned festivals and jazz clubs of Hungary, various places around Europe, as well as at the Chelsea Music Festival in New York.

Kézdy is an active member of the Hungarian and European jazz scene. She works together with several bands and musicians and gives solo and duo concerts as well. In 2016 she had a duo performance with Chris Potter in New York.

Luca is one of the most frequently employed violin players in Hungary, an extraordinary talent, who has an incredibly special musical approach. Her unique and inventive playing is anything but conventional. After her classical music studies she further developed her technical skills by combining influences from jazz, European folk, blues and Balkan music. Using a multi-effect pedal, she brings the sound of the acoustic violin with added modern music effects into perfect harmony. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 one of Hungary's most respected jazz magazines chose Luca as "Violinist of The Year". In 2019 she won the Performer's Prize by Artisjus (Hungarian PRO).



Dávid SZESZTAY, the other founding member of Santa Diver is one of the most colourful personalities of the Hungarian music scene, being a songwriter as well as music composer for theater and film. Since 2016 he has been member of the widely popular Hungarian indie-rock band Kiscsillag, playing the guitar and keyboards and singing vocals. He also plays in several other Hungarian bands (e.g. Kamu, Budbudas, Ruttkai Bori and Specko Jedno, Dav). In 2018 he released his first solo album, all recorded by himself.



Dávid SZEGŐ is one of the most radical members of the young generation of Hungarian contemporary jazz drummers. He studied at the Béla Bartók Secondary School of Music and the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. Besides Santa Diver trio, he plays in many groups of Béla Ágoston (Frió, Kártett, Küntett, Ágoston–Szegő Duo), in MonKeys Trio, in the bands of Tamás Kettős, in Bélaműhely, Tanutuva and in contemporary theater productions with the Góbi Company and Andax. As the musicians of Andax Theater the Ágoston–Szegő Duo received Best Music award at the Atelier Festival in 2012. He has been showing himself more and more as a composer as well.