

SANTA DIVER

Blue Horizon



The three members of Santa Diver are jazz violinist Luca Kézdy, multi-instrumentalist and composer David Szesztay, who plays the bass in the band, and David Szegő on drums. The soloist of this unconventional jazz trio is Luca Kézdy, with her original and unmistakable sound of elemental yet sensitive playing on the violin. Kézdy is a very active member of the jazz scene. Besides Santa Diver she also plays in various other bands as soloist or guest performer. She is a member of an international jazz group and frequently performs solo concerts, too. She and David Szesztay founded the band in 2006, mainly to play their own compositions. Szesztay, who is mostly known in Hungary for playing in the popular band Kiscsillag and as a solo artist, contributes to the repertoire of Santa Diver by composing and doing arrangements. The drummer of the trio, David Szegő joined in 2015, and since then has become an essential part of the Santa Diver sound with his own adventurous and multi-coloured playing style.

In the past 13 years the band has performed in the most renowned jazz clubs and festivals of Hungary, and also some illustrious venues abroad, including the Chelsea Music Festival in New York, the Gaume Jazz Festival in Belgium and the Südtirol Jazzfestival in Italy. Unfortunately, the global pandemic disrupted their most internationally booked year so far. However, these invitations – by clubs in the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Italy – are still valid, which is very good news regarding the coming international release of their new album.

The band recorded their 4th album, *Blue Horizon* in November 2019 in the L.A. Gardens studio, with sound engineer Robert Mackó. For the first time in the series of Santa Diver albums, the recorded material was mixed by David Szesztay. Like in the previous albums, most of the tunes were written by Kézdy, but this time she composed them on the piano.

“The piano inspires me in a different way than the violin. It brings out different harmonies, grooves and themes. Perhaps, on the whole, they are more harmonious, and this is the direction that I’ve been interested in lately.”

The arrangement was mostly easy, but sometimes we would spend a lot of time trying to bring out that particular effect from the three instruments which was given on the piano.” – says Kézdy.

Out of the six compositions on the album, one is written by Szesztay (*Izland*), and one co-written with Kézdy (68).

The debut concert took place on 6 March 2020 at the Opus Jazz Club in Budapest and was recorded by the Hungarian National Television. The album has since received favourable critical acclaim in Hungary.

Blue Horizon will be released internationally in December 2021.



You can get a glimpse of the Blue Horizon atmosphere through the composition [Izland here](#).

The live recording was made during the band's album launch concert at the Opus Jazz Club in Budapest during the pandemic lockdown.

See detailed album info below!

Further informations:

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You can listen the Blue Horizon [here](#).



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Blue Horizon

This is one of the first compositions from the album, which Luca Kézdy, unlike her previous songs, did not compose on the violin but on the piano, thus presenting the orchestra with a new challenge of transposing a piano piece into trio arrangement. The serene and powerful theme of *Blue Horizon* sums up the moods that permeate the whole album, which is why they decided to make it the album's title track.

68

The starting point of the track is a 6/8 pizzicato groove written on violin, with a slightly African pulse. This is complemented by Dávid Szesztay's bass solo and the computer-modelled drum groove he invented, which was developed further by Dávid Szegő's creative playing, always looking for new ways to play. The song has a very special sound with its Hungarian folk song-like violin melody.

Izland (Iceland)

Originally composed by Dávid Szesztay for a theatre piece, the main theme of *Izland* was later rewritten for a trio. The title of the composition refers to the endless roads of the Icelandic landscape, as well as the song's affinity with the Scandinavian jazz scene.

Wintersong

Probably the most meditative and atmospheric composition by Santa Diver to date. It is like a frozen winter moment, yet its stillness is imbued with life, tension and calmness.

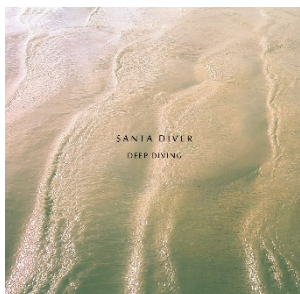
E.S.D.

Luca started improvising on piano on the theme of E.S.T.'s *Elevation of Love*. The process started as a cover, but so many things were added to it that it finally became a separate track, only containing the original theme as a gesture. It is basically the most complex composition on the album with its three movement-like structure.

Seed and Stone

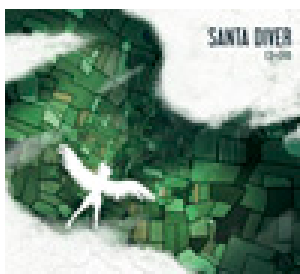
In this brief conclusion we can hear Luca's piano playing, giving the listener an insight into how most of the album songs were born. The mood of the track is inspired by the mountains and the forest at night.

Previous albums



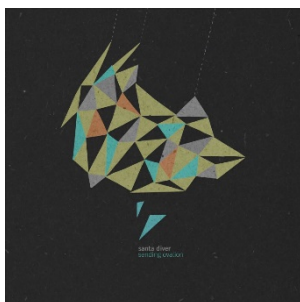
Deep Diving 2017. NarRator Records

The trio's third, and perhaps deepest and darkest album, features five extended compositions. By now the band has found their real drummer, Dávid Szegő, who has been working with them ever since. Deep Diving unfolds in contemplative, hushed solos, which take their time to evolve and to tell their stories.



Santa Diver 2013. NarRator Records

It's no coincidence that the trio's second album is called Santa Diver. The title suggests that the band has found its own way, its own sound, its own internal functions. Zsolt Sárvári Kovács is behind the drums now, and his playing is a welcome shift in the band's style from indie/underground to jazz. The album is a concert recording, because at that time Luca felt that the interaction between the band and the audience was very important for the final result. The release includes both a CD, which has the feeling of a studio recording, and a DVD, where we can feel and see the real atmosphere of the concert.



Sending Ovation 2009. NarRator Records

The debut album was recorded by the trio (András Halmos on drums) with two guest artists (Áron Koós Hutás – trumpet, András Szőnyi - keyboards) at L.V. Hang Studio. The album contains nine tracks, which are basically characterized by interesting grooves, interlocking musical fabrics, a fresh contemporary sound and an eclectic search for new paths.

