



NINA FELDGRILL

ADVENTUROUS AND ELEMENTAL

Bassist Nina Feldgrill cuts a commanding figure: diminutive woman, six-string electric, big sound. She makes an impression.

Exhibit “A,” her audition for the annual Radio Ö1 scholarship at JAM MUSIC LAB University, a joint partnership that routinely launches jazz careers. On this day, Nina threw down with confidence, exhibiting a nimble (if not muscular) attack that showcased two sides of her personality - adventurous and elemental. Needless to say, she got the jury’s attention.

In the process, she joined an exclusive list of predecessors; winning musicians whose post-grad trajectories evince the power of JML’s educational outreach in Jazz & Pop: Robert Unterköfler, Lukas Aichinger, Alan Bartuš, Constanze Friedel, Andreas Varady and Madeleine Kaindl. Future stars, all.

On Jazz Cats of Tomorrow Vol 3, the latest entry in Quinton Records’ series of scholarship alumni, Nina presents a pastiche of her talents as player, composer, bandleader. She showcases three separate groups, each with a nuanced approach to

music making - different configurations, steadied by her foundational presence.

Though steeped in the jazz tradition, one hears her special affinity for stylistic strains prominently heard in Weather Report - electric keys, vamps, grooves, meter shifts, assertive blowing. She owes much to Jaco Pastorius, seamlessly transitioning between front and back, artfully improvising, stamping her personality with interpretive flair. Jaco’s compositional know-how is not lost on her. Five band members contribute here as writers.

It’s a take-charge presentation, evincing that Nina is mature beyond her years. This comes as no surprise, really, given the surround sound of her youth. Her father is noted Austrian bassist Werner Feldgrill, who appears on the record. Their choreography as bass partners adds layers of richness, yet also reveals the presence of shared DNA. It’s a fabled tale of acorns, trees, mentors, protégés, bloodlines.

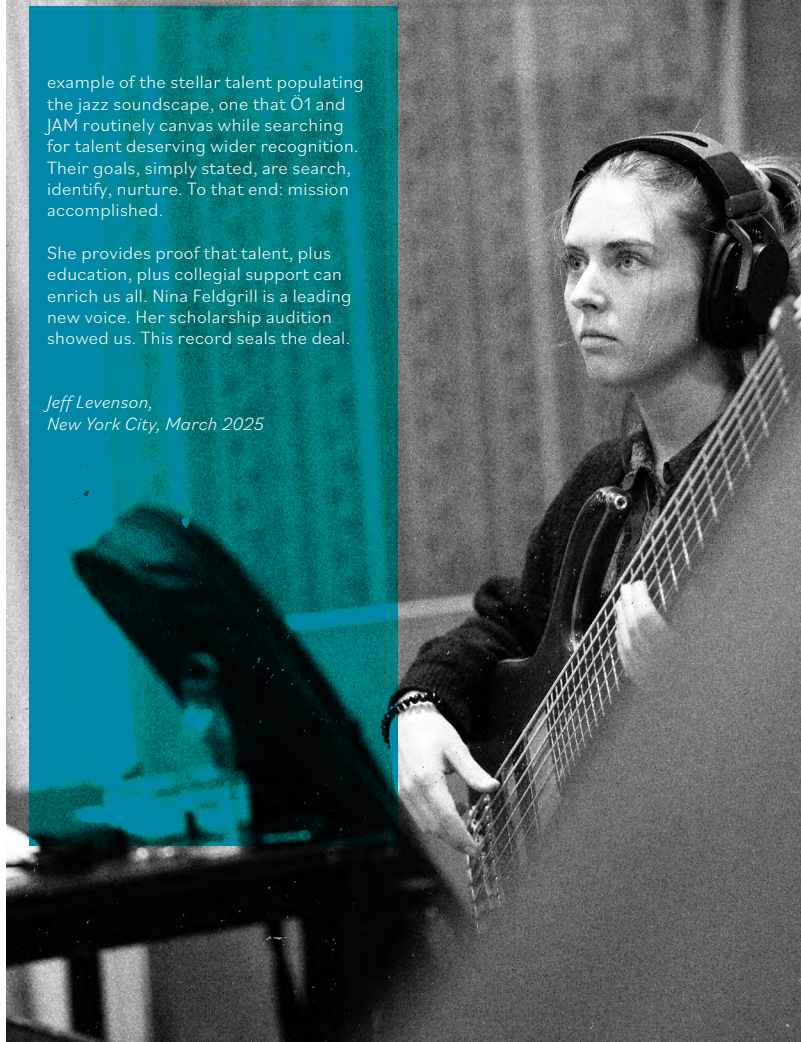
As a creative thinker, Nina is unbound by jazz category. She freely explores moods from dulcet to propulsive, playful to dexterous. She handles serpentine lines effortlessly, and loves navigating tricky rhythmic turns. Her sympathetic support behind vocals is a welcomed surprise.

Perhaps most impressive is Nina’s sure-handed authority. She is a clear

example of the stellar talent populating the jazz soundscape, one that Ö1 and JAM routinely canvas while searching for talent deserving wider recognition. Their goals, simply stated, are search, identify, nurture. To that end: mission accomplished.

She provides proof that talent, plus education, plus collegial support can enrich us all. Nina Feldgrill is a leading new voice. Her scholarship audition showed us. This record seals the deal.

*Jeff Levenson,
New York City, March 2025*



NINA FELDGRILL ABOUT THIS ALBUM

This album features three distinct line-ups, each with its own stylistic nuances. It's a rich and diverse collection, reflecting the different aspects of my musical interests.

It features musicians who have been part of my musical journey for many years now, as well as musicians I'm collaborating with for the first time on this album. For me, what unites them all is their exceptional musicianship, which is inspiring every time we play together. I'm especially happy and proud to release two songs written by and performed with my dad, Werner Feldgrill, who introduced me to the whole idea of playing the electric bass. All of the music on this album is original, showcasing compositions by Werner Feldgrill, Robert Unterköfler, Saba Robotjazy, Erik Asatryan and myself.

The biggest thank you for your musicianship, kindness and effort to:
Robert Unterköfler, my dad Werner Feldgrill, Erik Asatryan, Simon Springer, Saba Robotjazy, Matheus Jardim, Eugen Vizvary and Nelson Williams Herrera.

At this point, I would also like to thank the entire team of the Ö1 Jazz Scholarship for their support, and especially Andreas Rathammer, for making this album production possible.

Nina Feldgrill
Vienna, March 2025



RIVER

Robert Unterköfler (A) – saxophones, comp.

Erik Asatrian (A/ARM) – keys, comp.

Nina Feldgrill (A) – bass, comp.

Simon Springer (A) – drums

river was founded by Robert Unterköfler and Nina Feldgrill in 2022. Together with their band colleagues Erik Asatrian on keys and Simon Springer on drums, they present original music, usually by all band members. Compositions by Asatrian, Unterköfler and Feldgrill can be heard on this album, complementing one another in reference to style while also presenting the individual musical personality of each member. In their music, they combine improvisational and demanding rhythmical elements as well as electronic



Website: www.roteweltrecords.com/river
Instagram: @riverquartet

sounds, leading to an overall distinctive band sound.

The formation has been performing at renowned locations and festivals like Porgy & Bess, ORF Radiokulturhaus, Outreach Festival, Herbstgold Festival etc. and gained particular attention with their album “Chameleon Circuit”, which was released in 2024 by the Canadian-New Zealand Label SkyDeck Music and has been receiving positive feedback in various European jazz magazines and newspapers.

[1] Turn Left | Nina Feldgrill

“This composition shows the structure of a minor blues with a bridge that brings some “turns” along: While the bassline acts as the main theme in the beginning, a new melody enters in the B section. The change of the meter as well as of the harmonies from minor to major brings a whole new atmosphere.”

[2] Nobody Wins For Long |

Robert Unterköfler

“The main core of this song is the repeated switch of two main parts; a very busy quintuplet groove-oriented part with a fast piano-saxophone melody, and a calm lyrical section that also features the bass as a melody instrument.”

[7] Hope In Despair | Erik Asatrian

“The song is inspired by the world as it is today – full of conflict, war, death, and suffering, but despite all that, also full of moments of unexpected beauty. A kind of hope in times of despair.”

[8] Dear Master | Nina Feldgrill

“This piece is a ballad composed as part of my university studies on the topic of pedal point. The objective was to establish a calm atmosphere in the A section, which is contrasted by the pedal point and the symmetrically-structured chord progression in the B section.”

WIND'S WHISPERS

This formation was founded by the Iranian singer and composer Saba Robotjazy. It brings together musicians who combine different musical traditions and styles such as modern jazz, influences from eastern folk music and pop. Unable to pursue her passion in her home country Iran due to various national prohibitions, Saba emigrated to Vienna, where she now enjoys the freedom of pursuing her musical goals. The Austrian pianist, composer, and producer Erik Asatrian enriches the ensemble with his expressive style and innovative approach, seamlessly blending jazz, classical elements, and global musical traditions. In addition to Robotjazy, Nina Feldgrill also composes for this line-up, with the two musicians' pieces complementing each other in their sound aesthetics: the compositions are based on improvisation, electronic elements, grooves, and dreamy as well as meaningful texts. With the Brazilian drummer Matheus Jardim, who brings another facet to the band with his energetic playing style, the quartet is complemented in its versatility.



Saba Robotjazy (IRN) – vocals, comp., lyrics
Erik Asatrian (A/ARM) – keys, production
Nina Feldgrill (A) – bass, comp.
Matheus Jardim (BRA) – drums

[5] Shadows | Nina Feldgrill, lyrics: Saba Robotjazy

“Shadows is the first of my compositions that features vocals. It was written especially for this line-up, having in mind Saba’s voice, Erik’s synths and Matheus’ playing style. The lyrics by Saba are a reflection of the quiet, hidden spaces in one’s mind where you retreat when everything feels overwhelming. It’s about finding solace in the shadows, closing the eyes, and allowing myself to stay in that place of stillness for a while.”

[6] Blue | Nina Feldgrill, lyrics: Saba Robotjazy

“This song reflects on how the sky feels endless yet is constantly changing, just like life. It’s about how time moves—carrying stories of what once was and what’s still to come—while reminding me of how fleeting and fragile these moments really are. The composition therefore shifts through different parts, featuring voice, bass and keys.”

[9] One Day | Saba Robotjazy

“One Day is a song I wrote and dedicated to the memory of my dad. I lost him when I was 14, and ever since, writing has been my way of mending the pain. I hold onto the hope that “one day, when the sky is clear, I’ll be smiling at you.”

FELDGRILL²

Werner Feldgrill, the father of Nina Feldgrill, is regarded as one of Austria's most influential electric bass players, having collaborated with notable artists and formations such as Harri Stojka, the Vienna Art Orchestra, and many more. This album features two of his original compositions, which consist of technically demanding passages as well as lyrical melodies and harmonies. One is performed by a trio consisting of Werner Feldgrill, Nina Feldgrill, and the Slovakian pianist Eugen Vizvary, while the other is presented by a sextet, expanding the trio with Robert Unterköfler on saxophone, Simon Springer on drums and Nelson Williams Herrera on percussion. The unique combination of two electric bassists in the ensemble results in a distinctive sound.

Werner Feldgrill (A) - bass, fretless bass, comp.
Nina Feldgrill (A) - bass
Eugen Vizvary (SVK) - keys
Robert Unterköfler (A) - saxophone
Simon Springer (A) - drums
Nelson Williams Herrera (CUB) - percussions

[3] Four Views | Werner Feldgrill

"This ballad has a minimal melody but lots of harmonies. We wanted two different tunes, where on the one hand the technique on the bass is the most important thing, and on the other hand the ballad where the melody is in the foreground!"

[4] Young And Old | Werner Feldgrill

"I wrote this tune for Nina ten years ago. The theme, based on Jaco's Teen Town, is in the foreground without any significant chord progressions."





THE JAZZ SCHOLARSHIP

Radio Ö1, the public culture radio channel of ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation), JAM MUSIC LAB Private University Vienna, and QUINTON RECORDS are supporting the young and promising generation of Austrian jazz musicians in their quest for more visibility and audibility. The Ö1 Jazzstipendium (Ö1 jazz scholarship) is intended to give one of their representatives an important impulse for a perhaps even international career.

Every year, the Ö1 Jazzstipendium supports an outstanding young artist in contemporary jazz and offers a full scholarship at the JAM MUSIC LAB Private University.

As the first winner, the scholarship certificate was presented to the Carinthian saxophonist Robert Unterköfler on April 30, 2018 - the Ö1 Jazz Day as well as International Jazz Day, declared by UNESCO. In 2019, the scholarship went to Upper Austrian drummer Lukas Aichinger. In 2020 it was the violinist Constanze Friedel, who comes from Ilmenau in the German state of Thuringia. As the second woman, the 2021 winner was saxophone player and singer Madeleine Kaindl. 21-year-old pianist Alan Bartuš was the fifth winner of the scholarship in 2022, followed by guitar virtuoso Andreas Varady in 2023. In 2024, we are delighted to feature Nina Feldgrill.

Andreas Felber, Head of Jazz, Radio Ö1/ORF

Marcus Ratka, Head of JAM Music Lab Private University, Vienna

Andreas Rathhammer, producer of Quinton Records

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ORF WIE WIR.

Produced by Andreas Rathhammer

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QUINTON



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