

Origin

Tolyqyn are three virtuosic musicians based in Berlin blending rock, jazz and grooves from around the world. The trio draws on a spectrum of genres like blues, psychedelic rock, West African kora music and techno to deliver an outstanding live show which has seen the band invited time and time again to stages across Berlin, England and Switzerland.

The three musicians were on three totally distinct musical journeys before their paths converged at an improvisational music night in Neukölln: the beating heart of Berlin's jazz scene and a rapidly changing migrant neighbourhood.

Roland Satterwhite

Roland Satterwhite is a violinist, poet and singer. At age 22, Roland was living in New York, pursuing a career as an emo folk rock singer/songwriter before being musically adopted by a group of Cuban musicians in Harlem who completely altered Roland's musical trajectory. Revelling in the authenticity, sadness and joy offered by improvisation, and Afro-Cuban music, Roland quickly found himself completely transfixed by the new rhythms he had stumbled into. Later, Roland's love and feel for groove and rhythm would become a defining cornerstone of the Tolyqyn sound.

Pursuing his love of improvisation and craving a blank creative slate, Roland abandoned New York and relocated to Berlin in 2008, where he quickly gained a reputation as an outstanding performer and violinist in gypsy jazz circles. He continued to expand his encyclopaedic knowledge of global grooves and also performed his improvisational pieces with string quartets and orchestras across Europe.

In 2016, Roland began organising a night of improvisational music in Neukölln. Inspired by a blues singer and guitarist who passed through the collective, Roland scurried home and picked up a borrowed viola lying in his studio. Finding himself free of the expectations he associated with the violin, Roland turned the viola sideways like a guitar, and plucking the grooves which he loved, he started writing the songs which would subsequently become Tolyqyn's foundational repertoire.

Kuba Gudz

At the improvisational night, Roland continued to meet potential collaborators and musicians including Kuba Gudz, the young jazz drummer who recently completed his studies in jazz drums at the prestigious Jazz-Institute Berlin. Kuba knew he would be a musician from the earliest age when he was gifted a set of toy drums at age 3. After learning how to play piano and guitar, Kuba enrolled himself in a highly regarded music high school in Poznan, in order to obtain the musical education that he craved.

After graduating with a Jazz Bachelor, Kuba carved out a name for himself in Berlin's jazz scene, travelling the world with a slew of highly regarded jazz musicians, whilst keeping his toes wet and musical appetite alive, with multiple international tours with two psychedelic desert rock projects.

Capturing Roland's attention with his technical mastery and musical sensitivity, Kuba was invited in 2017 to experiment and improvise on Roland's plucked viola songs in a live and improvised format. Searching for an intuitive way to guide the development of his songs, Roland insisted on performing the songs live with Kuba in public for the first time without any rehearsal.

Tal Arditi

The night before this public 'rehearsal' (which would subsequently be Tolyqyn's first live show ever), Roland walked past another jam night in Neukölln, Pipi Royale, where jazz guitar prodigy and then 18 year old Tal Arditi, was playing.

Tal had recently arrived in Berlin from Israel. Already a gifted guitarist by 14 influenced by Jimmy Page and John Frusciante, Tal was inspired by his guitar teacher to dive into jazz and continue to expand his guitar technique. By 16, he was accepted to the prestigious Rimon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music, where he completed his studies in Jazz. After moving to Berlin, the 'wonder-kid' (as labelled by *Jazz Podium*) released a critically acclaimed album and was heralded as 'an important new voice in European guitar jazz' by the *London Jazz News*.

Recognising him from other jam sessions, Roland walked in to the Neukölln session and invited Tal to improvise with Roland and Kuba the next evening, where Tolyqyn would be born.

Tolyqyn's journey so far...

Since the first spontaneous encounter, the trio's natural momentum continues to lead to organic and exciting opportunities. They have quickly gained a reputation as one of Berlin's most exciting live acts and have been invited time and time again to perform for audiences and festivals in Germany, Switzerland and in England.

They successfully raised funding for their debut album via Kickstarter and released the first single, *Autobiography*, on 25 October 2019, together with a videoclip self-produced and directed by the band.

Tolyqyn celebrated the release with a sold out concert the day after their release at their favourite Neukölln venue, Artistania. The band was quickly snapped up by German booking agency, Soul-Fire Artists, who were at the show by lucky coincidence. The band is currently booking its album release tour across Europe and is set for a huge 2020.

The band's phonographic debut is a carefully crafted, ambitious production created with the help of master visual artists, mixing and mastering engineers and features some of the finest guest musicians that the trio could imagine to collaborate with.

The album will be released on April 24th 2020 on all streaming platforms and will be available as a limited release double vinyl and CD.