

Arina Tikhonova Biography

From my earliest memories in a small-town choir, music has been more than just sound to me - it has been a profound connection. As a child, I discovered the magic of voices blending into one unified whole, something greater than any individual. This early experience laid the foundation for my musical development: it taught me discipline, control of intonation, active listening, and a deep appreciation for the structure of classical music.

My first formal music education included choir, piano, and classical training. This background disciplined my ear, developed my musicality, and allowed me to read music fluently while understanding harmonic structures. The choir, in particular, taught me the essence of ensemble work - listening, blending, and responding - skills that later became essential in my journey as a jazz musician.

My world expanded dramatically at the age of fourteen when I discovered jazz. After hearing a Doris Day album, I became captivated by the swing, freedom, and sophistication of the genre. With my mother's support, I began a four-year course at a jazz and music school in Saint Petersburg. This experience transformed my perspective on music completely. Performing with live musicians - listening closely to piano, drums, and double bass - and becoming part of a shared musical flow was unforgettable and deeply inspiring.

During this time, I studied jazz vocal techniques with Russian tutors as well as international artists such as JD Walter and David Post. Understanding the sacrifices my family made to support my education, I approached every lesson with focus and dedication, practicing extensively and striving to fully absorb every piece of knowledge.

At eighteen, I began performing in small clubs in Saint Petersburg, taking my first steps into the professional music world. I also had the opportunity to perform in Jazz Philharmonic Hall jam sessions alongside some of the best local musicians. These experiences became an essential part of my development: I actively engaged with more

experienced performers, asking questions about chord progressions, harmony, and improvisation, and applying this knowledge through long, focused hours of practice. This hands-on learning environment significantly deepened my understanding of jazz language and strengthened my confidence on stage.

During this period, I also began composing original music and collaborating with other musicians in recording projects. I was awarded a grant from the Russian Management Academy to develop my personal music brand and study music management in Moscow. This experience broadened my understanding of the music industry, highlighting the importance of networking, collaboration, and creative exchange. I also took courses in jazz arrangement, harmony, and improvisation with leading professionals.

While in Moscow, I also founded my own band, performing regularly at private and corporate events. This experience allowed me to develop not only as an artist, but also as a bandleader, organizing musicians, shaping programs, and adapting performances to different audiences and settings.

After graduation, I continued to grow through travel and international experience, participating in jazz jam sessions in cities such as Madrid, Dubai, and Paris. These experiences showed me how jazz transcends language and cultural boundaries, uniting people across the world. They strengthened my desire to become part of the global jazz community.

Over more than seven years of performing, I have developed a strong artistic identity and a deep understanding of the importance of audience connection. I have learned how to shape the mood of a performance, engage listeners, and create meaningful musical experiences.

I am currently studying a Master of Performance at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, immersing myself in London's vibrant music scene while deepening my knowledge of jazz, expanding my musical horizons, and developing my own artistic identity. This experience represents an important step in my journey as a musician and my ambition to establish myself on the international stage.

One of my main goals is to become an active part of London's jazz scene by performing with my band at jazz clubs, live music venues, and cultural events. I am passionate about creating meaningful musical connections, collaborating with other artists, and sharing my music with diverse audiences. I see live performance as an essential part of my artistic journey and an opportunity to bring my musical vision to life on stage.

Looking ahead, I aspire to develop my own original projects, perform internationally, and record an English-language album accompanied by a classic big band. Above all, I want to share my musical identity and passion with the world, using jazz as a universal language that connects people, evokes emotions, and brings different cultures together