

PRESS RELEASE

# Programme

## 55<sup>th</sup> Montreux Jazz Festival

The Montreux Jazz Festival unveils the programme for its very special edition, which will be held from 2 to 17 July 2021. On the bill: up-and-coming talents, current trends and tailor-made concerts from major artists. Condensed onto four stages, two paying and two free of charge, the 55<sup>th</sup> edition will be able to accommodate between 1,200 and 1,500 people per day, depending on the capacity allowed by the authorities. Tickets go on sale on 8 June at midday.

The programme includes: Woodkid, Ibrahim Maalouf, Zucchero, Rag'n'Bone Man, Brandão Faber Hunger, Arlo Parks, Yseult, Altın Gün, Yussef Dayes Trio, Alfa Mist, Inhaler, Delgres, Raul Midón, Macha Gharibian, Robben Ford & Bill Evans, Isfar Sarabski, Nubya Garcia, Christian Sands, Fred Hersch, Nathy Peluso, Priya Ragu, Fatoumata Diawara, Sofiane Pamart, Kid Francescoli, Sam Fischer...

"Small is beautiful" could be the informal slogan of this 55<sup>th</sup> edition. The Montreux Jazz Festival wanted to prioritise the comfort and safety of festival-goers by preserving the format of the edition as announced on 31 March. An intimate edition, focused on the Festival's values of hospitality, musical excellence and breathtaking setting.

Each year, the identity of the Montreux Jazz Festival is reflected in its programming choices. This 55<sup>th</sup> edition is no exception to the rule, with a brilliantly condensed programme over two main stages. The Festival's jazz roots, its privileged relationship with the artists, its support for young Swiss and international talent and its constant exploration of the hottest trends of the moment are all there.

Set amidst the water and the Alps, the **Scène du Lac** will be the epicentre of European pop in all its forms for 16 nights, with some oriental, South American and African influences. The **Petit**

**Théâtre** will embody the jazz DNA of the Festival: the jazz of today, uninhibited, fresh and cosmopolitan. In total, this 55<sup>th</sup> edition brings together artists from 17 different countries, with the Swiss contingent representing a third of the paying programme.

The free part of the 55<sup>th</sup> edition will be concentrated in two main areas: **Les Jardins** and the **Grand Hall by MJAF**. The programme includes showcases, jam sessions, workshops and more. Access to the free activities and the restaurant spaces is subject to advance booking via the MindFul contact tracing app. Details will be announced closer to the Festival date.

In order to bring the Festival to a larger audience, several concerts on the Scène du Lac will be streamed live on the Qello Concerts by Stingray platform. They will be accessible free of charge over the duration of the Festival.

# PAYING PROGRAMME

## Scène du Lac

**For the first time in the Festival's history, a stage will be built on the lake, 25 metres from the shore. Surrounded by the stunning backdrop of the water and the Alps, the artists will play to a tiered terrace that can accommodate a seated audience of up to 500.**

After their memorable concerts at the Stravinski Auditorium, the performances of **Woodkid**, **Ibrahim Maalouf**, **Zucchero** and **Rag'n'Bone Man** in this exceptional setting are sure to be among the great thrills of this edition. Close to the Festival and accustomed to performing on the great stages of the world, they have greatly honoured us by accepting this challenge with enthusiasm. Each of them will adapt their performance in their own way: as a rock trio for Zucchero or as a trumpet-guitar duo for Ibrahim Maalouf, for example.

Zucchero will perform two nights in a row on 12 and 13 July. Woodkid (3 July), Ibrahim Maalouf (5 July) and Rag'n'Bone Man (11 July) will play two sets per night, at 6pm and 9pm. Two different natural lightings on Lake Geneva will bring a magical, unique atmosphere to each set. There will also be two concerts on 9 July by Switzerland's coolest "super trio" **Brandão Faber Hunger** (Dino Brandão, Faber and Sophie Hunger), who released the fantastic album *Ich Liebe Dich* in December 2020.

On 6 and 7 July, the waves of Lake Geneva will be caressed by two evenings of Francophone delicacies. **Yseult**, the emotional heiress of French song, will perform in a piano-voice duo, with the candid melodies and lo-fi beats of **Oscar Anton** as the opening act. The solo performance of **Sofiane Pamart**, a classical pianist who collaborates with French-speaking rap, will be preceded by the minimalist and ethereal pop of **Oklou**.

On 15 July, the Scène du Lac will welcome the London sensation **Arlo Parks**, whose poetic refinement saw her named "Best New Artist"

at the 2021 Brit Awards, at the age of just 20. Opening act: **Arma Jackson** from Lausanne and his hybrid universe between pop and hip-hop.

Psychedelic, bluesy or alternative, rock also has a place of choice on the Scène du Lac with the irresistible solar and hypnotic groove of **Altın Gün** (14 July), the French Creole blues-rock trio **Delgres** (4 July) and the young Dublin post-rock quartet **Inhaler** (2 July), whom the British media are already predicting will be selling out stadiums. Each of these evenings will be preceded by Swiss favourites **Yet No Yokai**, **Hermanos Gutiérrez** and **Annie Taylor**.

On 8 July, the MJF Spotlight evening brings together **Nathy Peluso**, the Argentinean shockwave who is revolutionising Latin music, and **Priya Ragu**, the Swiss sensation who fascinates beyond borders with her R&B infused with her Tamil roots. Earlier this year, the Festival selected the two singers in its "Top 20 Artists to Watch" as part of its MJF Spotlight project. This new digital brand dedicated to promoting emerging talent throughout the year.

The Malian singer **Fatoumata Diawara**, who has worked together with Herbie Hancock, Matthieu Chedid and Gorillaz, celebrates her return to Montreux on 16 July, two years after her concert at the Montreux Jazz Lab. She will be preceded on stage by the up-and-coming Senegalese singer **Lass**.

The IBIS Music Night on 10 July will be 100% pop, with two singer-songwriters with catchy tunes: **Dotan** from the Netherlands and **Sam Fischer** from New Zealand. Finally, the melancholic warmth of Marseille producer **Kid Francescoli** will bring the 55<sup>th</sup> edition to a close with a French electro-pop evening opened by the enigmatic **S+C+A+R+R**, protégé of Dan Levy (half of The Dø).

## Petit Théâtre

**On this stage, groove is king. Dedicated to jazz and soul music, the second ticketed stage for this year's Festival, with a seated capacity of 200, will be located in the sumptuous Salle des Fêtes at the Montreux Palace hotel.**

First of all, let's honour the American artists! Ten years after his concert in Montreux with Richard Bona, **Raul Midón** will open the festivities at the Petit Théâtre. A regular at the Village Vanguard in New York, **Fred Hersch** has been named pianist of the year several times by the specialist press and will be performing at the Festival for the first time. Musicians with equally phenomenal careers, guitarist **Robben Ford** and saxophonist **Bill Evans** will display their shared love for a jazz that flirts with blues, soul and rock. Still in the United States, there is the prodigious 32-year-old pianist **Christian Sands**, nominated for a 2021 Grammy Award, the very adventurous jazz fusion group **FORQ** and the dazzling singer and pianist **Sarah McCoy**, spotted by a certain Chilly Gonzales.

It's only a short step from the United States to the rest of the world. **Jowee Omicil**, a brilliant trumpeter whose sound is the synthesis of his wanderings between Haiti, Quebec, New York and Paris, is a jazz musician who soaks up all cultures. These mixes can also be found in the Afro-Cuban rhythms of pianist Roberto Fonseca and in the oriental influences of vocalist and pianist **Macha Gharibian** and **Isfar Sarabski**, winner of the Festival's Piano Competition in 2009.

Then it's on to the new London jazz scene. This young generation of musicians was born in the clubs of South London over the last decade, nurtured both by the schools of jazz and by its permeability with the rappers, DJs and poets who frequent the same trendy venues in the

city. This summer's line-up includes the ebullient **Steam Down** and **Nubiyan Twist** collectives; saxophonist **Nubya Garcia**, a key figure on the UK scene who is finally making her debut as a leader; keyboardist/rapper **Alfa Mist** and drummer **Yussef Dayes**, who recently released an album with Tom Misch. From elsewhere in Europe, with a more neo-soul register, the Belgians of **YellowStraps**, the French **Crystal Murray** and the Dutch **Gaidaa** are also part of this cosmopolitan groove movement.

The programme of the Petit Théâtre is full of beautiful encounters across genres and borders, as we like them at the Festival. The **Paradox** is the electro-jazz project of legendary Detroit techno pioneer **Jeff Mills** and Guyanese-born French keyboardist **Jean-Phi Dary**. **Afra Kane**, winner of the Montreux Jazz Talent Award 2019, and the young virtuoso pianist **Valentina Kaufman** will present the creation "Jazz Meets Classic", the result of a collaboration between the Lang Lang Foundation and the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation. The Petit Théâtre will also host the universal beauty born of the marriage of the kora and the cello with **Ballaké Sissoko & Vincent Segal**.

This world tour of jazz concludes with a series of favourites from the new Swiss scene, carefully selected according to the musical colour of each evening. From the neo-soul voices of **NNAVY**, **Alina Amuri** or **Imelda Gabs** to the sonic experimentation of **Kety Fusco**, **KALI Trio** or **Hely**, the Swiss programme of the Petit Théâtre reflects the diversity and audacity of a new generation, which is being increasingly exported abroad.

# FREE PROGRAMME

The free part of the 55<sup>th</sup> edition will be concentrated in two main areas: **Les Jardins and the Grand Hall by MJAF. In the programme: showcases, jam sessions, expositions, film projections, terrace restaurants, workshops and more. All activities are subject to booking.**

## Grand Hall by MJAF

After the Autumn of Music event last October, this time the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) is taking over the Montreux Palace as its host of its *summer of music*. The Grand Hall plays host to the performance of must-see musical discoveries, offered by the Foundation. On the programme: jam sessions, Montreux Jazz Talent Awards concerts and workshops. A hotspot for intimate encounters, creativity and unexpected meetings.

## Les Jardins

The atmosphere will be summery and festive in the Palace gardens with its relaxed musical programme, beer garden, cocktail bar and lounge chairs. A small stage will be dedicated to impromptu showcases between 17:30 and 20:00. Up-and-coming artists are scheduled to perform 20-minute acoustic, solo or reduced group sets. On Saturdays, the Jardins stage will be dedicated to the Super Bock Sessions with a special programme. Every evening after the showcases, specialist vinyl DJs will take over until 2am.

## Screenings

Films and documentaries will be screened at Cinéma Hollywood in Montreux. In collaboration with the Zurich Film Festival, screenings will include "Crock of Gold" about the story of Shane MacGowan, lead singer of the Pogues, and "Who You Gonna Call?" on the life of Ray Parker Jr.

## "Restart" Exhibition

Thirty posters from the "RESTART" competition will be displayed along the Quai Vernex during the Festival. A total of 1,935 artists from 54 different countries took part in the competition to offer their unique vision of a world starting up again. The ten finalist works, selected by a professional jury, are also on sale in the Festival webshop. In collaboration with Vaudoise Insurance, this initiative follows the success of the "Silent Shores" poster project, launched in 2020.

### TICKET OFFICE & EARLY BIRD INSIDER

The ticket office will be open to the public on Tuesday 8 June at midday. Subscribers to the Montreux Jazz Insider application will have access to a pre-sale from Monday 7 June at midday for a period of 24 hours. Pre-sale purchases are limited to two tickets per concert per subscriber.

### HEALTH PROTOCOL

The Montreux Jazz Festival will implement a strict health protocol in accordance with the local authority directives in force. This will be communicated as the Festival approaches and will be adapted as the situation develops. Access to the free activities and the restaurant spaces will be subject to booking via the Mindful contact tracing app. Schedules and details will be announced closer to the Festival date.

Visual assets & artists biogs

— ZIP



Press Kit

— PDF



*The press office is at your disposal for any information about the Festival. We will handle and coordinate your requests for interviews with the organizers and the artists of the edition, before and during the Festival.*

### PRESS CONTACT

Kevin Donnet, Communication & Media Relations  
+41 21 966 44 39, k.donnet@mjf.ch

Eduardo Mendez, Press Officer  
+41 21 966 45 16, presse@mjf.ch

### PRESS AREA

[www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/fr/presse](http://www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/fr/presse)