

PRESS RELEASE

The Montreux Jazz Festival unveils the programme for its 56th edition

The Montreux Jazz Festival today unveiled the line-up for its 56th edition, which will be held from 1 to 16 July 2022. Punctuated by special projects and encounters, the programme for the Auditorium Stravinski adds prestigious names to its hall of fame and marks the long-awaited return of the Festival's best-known friends. The Montreux Jazz Lab offers a series of flamboyant combinations between the best acts around and stars in the making. The ticket office opens tomorrow, 14 April, at noon.

The programme includes:

Diana Ross, Björk, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, Måneskin, a-ha, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, The Smile, Stormzy, Woodkid, John Legend, Paolo Nutini, Years & Years, Herbie Hancock, Jeff Beck, Juanes, Dutronc & Dutronc, Alan Parsons Live Project, Gregory Porter, Michael Kiwanuka, Van Morrison, Phoebe Bridgers, Celeste, Laylow, Marc Rebillet...

The programme of the 56th Montreux Jazz Festival, dense and bursting with colour, once again combines the timeless with the spirit of the times. Playing the leading roles in this edition: new pop icons and jazz legends, elite rappers and mythical rockers, an avant-garde genius and her orchestra, a father and son, two members of Radiohead, a supreme diva and many other extraordinary personalities. A dizzying panorama of sound to be discovered from 1 to 16 July at the Auditorium Stravinski and the Montreux Jazz Lab. After two editions of enforced silence, the two emblematic halls of the Festival will finally be able to give the public and the artists the thrill of live performance. Always with the same objective: to generate legendary stories and unforgettable moments of togetherness.

Auditorium Stravinski

The supreme diva **Diana Ross** is set to perform for the very first time at the Montreux Jazz Festival! From “Baby Love” to “Upside Down”, from her early days with the Supremes to disco hits made for the dancefloor, the Detroit icon embodies a whole section of African-American music.

We’ve been waiting 24 years for her return to Montreux: **Björk** will make full use of the Auditorium Stravinski’s acoustics with the **Sinfonietta de Lausanne**. The Icelandic star is preparing the release of her 10th album, which will undoubtedly set new decisive paths in pop and electronic music.

Reunited for the first time on tour, the manouche virtuoso **Thomas Dutronc** will introduce the Festival to his father, **Jacques Dutronc**, a revered figure who is a first-timer at Montreux. “Et moi, et moi et moi”, “J’aime les filles”, “Il est cinq heures, Paris s’éveille”: the French rocker’s classics will finally resound at the Festival. And an encounter awaited with as much anticipation, if not more, is that of former Led Zeppelin singer **Robert Plant** and bluegrass queen **Alison Krauss**. Fifteen years after the tidal wave caused by the album *Raising Sand* (5 Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year), the duo are back with their blend of graceful folk, mystical blues and pastoral Americana. A subtle, unparalleled combination of the voice of an immaculate angel and that of an untamed lion.

The Norwegian synth-pop trio **a-ha**, a cult phenomenon in the eighties, will perform at the Festival for the very first time. Released in 1984, their timeless hit “Take on Me” has recently entered the exclusive club of videos exceeding one billion views on YouTube. Only five songs in the 20th century have achieved this feat.

Rock music will ensure plenty of decibels shake the Auditorium Stravinski. A masterful poet and wild performer, **Nick Cave** is back with his faithful noise makers **The Bad Seeds**, four years after a monumental show that will forever remain in the annals of the Festival. Also renowned for their live performances, the androgynous quartet **Måneskin**, winners of Eurovision in 2021, are single-handedly bringing rock back to the top the charts. The ultimate recognition: the great Iggy Pop collaborated with the Italian group of friends. The evening of 15 July features two British legends of the sixties, **Van Morrison** and **Jeff Beck**, whose phenomenal careers have far surpassed the fame of their original bands – Them and the Yardbirds respectively. Collaborator of the all-time greats (Mick Jagger, Stevie Wonder, Jimmy Page, etc.), Jeff Beck promises the presence of a special guest. Watch this space!

Jazz is back in the spotlight at the Auditorium Stravinski with a stellar line-up of musicians who are no strangers to the Festival. To close the edition, the unmissable **Herbie Hancock** and **Jamie Cullum** will be brought together on the same evening for the first time at Montreux. 6 July will be dedicated to the great voices of modern-day American jazz with **Melody Gardot** and **Gregory Porter**. A dialogue between jazz and pop music, the evenings of 11 and 14 July stand out for their hybrid nature. The first will combine the delicate melodies of **Ibrahim Maalouf**’s prodigious trumpet with the androgynous voice of **Asaf Avidan**. The second spotlights two legends of the seventies, **John McLaughlin** and **Alan Parsons** for an encounter at the crossroads of jazz fusion and prog rock. The latter will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the mythical *Eye in the Sky* for his first concert at Montreux.

They are part of a new generation of Festival regulars: Scottish crooner **Paolo Nutini** is back on tour for the first time in seven years, **Woodkid** will return to the Auditorium Stravinski six years after transforming it into a futuristic space setting and **John Legend** will thrill the Montreux audience for the third time.

Last but not least, 7 July will be dedicated to Latin music with the first appearance of Colombian star **Juanes** – the second most awarded artist in the history of the Latin Grammy Awards – and Mexican guitar duo **Rodrigo Y Gabriela**.

Montreux Jazz Lab

Spotting new trends, finding tomorrow's big stars and constantly reaching out to new audiences – these are the challenges that the Montreux Jazz Lab's two programmers take on every year. An explosive and colourful programme, concocted with urban notes, pop flavours, indie touches and a dash of electro.

Fans still remember Radiohead's legendary performance at the Auditorium Stravinski. Nineteen years later, Thom Yorke and Johnny Greenwood, accompanied by Sons of Kemet drummer Tom Skinner, return to Montreux to present their new, mysterious project: **The Smile**. Indie rock, in all its folk and pop shades, will also be embodied at the Lab by the dark and lyrical **Phoebe Bridgers**, the benevolent and electrifying **girl in red**, the tragic healer **Mitski** and the melancholic **Claire**. Four assertive personalities who remind us that indie rock is now more than ever a genre dominated by women.

This is one of the hallmarks of the Montreux Jazz Lab: bringing together artists whose universes complement each other perfectly on the same bill. On 6 July, **Michael Kiwanuka**, **Black Pumas** and **Gabriels** will offer the Lab audience an anthology of neo-soul, with a sensuality and groove that will make the amps sweat. The evening of 7 July will feature improvised music with **Nubya Garcia**, the most sought-after saxophonist on the London jazz scene, **Marc Rebillet**, the house-trap extra-terrestrial in his dressing gown, and **Lady Blackbird**, nicknamed the "Grace Jones of jazz". On 11 July, all the vitality of the British scene will be represented with **Celeste**, worthy heiress of Anglo-Saxon soul, and **Stormzy**, the king of UK hip hop, a true symbol of a socially conscious youth. After captivating the audience at the Lake Stage last summer, **Sophie Hunger**, **Dino Brandão** and **Faber** will be back to open the Festival, this time to present their solo projects.

The Lab continues to be a trailblazer in French language rap, with new faces causing a buzz in the digital crowds long before they are recognised by the general public. Already a French rap heavyweight, **Laylow** stands out for his unique, science-fiction universe. He will be preceded on stage by **Luidji**, who challenges the codes of the genre by daring to perform a capella, for instance. The evening of 13 July promises to be intense with no less than five artists lined up: **La Fève**, **Guy2Bezbar**, **Lala & ce**, **Ziak** and **OBOY**. Still unknown to the general public, they have accumulated millions of streams and collaborations with the big names on the French rap scene.

Last but not least: British superstar, all-round artist and LGBTQI+ icon **Years & Years** will be belting out his synth-pop anthems for the first time at the Festival.

MJF SPOTLIGHT

The Festival continues to develop MJF Spotlight, a new digital brand dedicated to the promotion of emerging talent throughout the year. Last January, MJF Spotlight presented its list of 20 artists to watch in 2022. Six of them will play at the Montreux Jazz Lab this summer.

The rising stars of the Brussels scene **Pierre de Maere** and **Iliona** will perform before Years & Years. There is also the American vocal sensation **Lady Blackbird**, the timeless groove of **Gabriels**, the comforting bedroom pop of **November Ultra** and the bittersweet electronic tales of producer **Fred again..**, coveted by greats like Ed Sheeran. **Ashnikko**, a rapper and singer with a pop and manga universe, was already included on the MJF Spotlight list for 2021.

The free Lisztomania stage will also host three special MJF Spotlight nights from 7 to 9 July, which will be broadcast on TikTok.

FREE STAGES

The Montreux waterfront will once again come to life with food stands, terraces and bars by the lake. The 56th edition will feature seven free stages, including new venues such as the Ipanema, an open-air nightclub, and the Lake House, a three-storey residence offering a multitude of musical, festive, technological and visual experiences.

The free programme will be announced on 1 June 2022.

PRESS AREA

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