



MONTREUX JAZZ
ARTISTS FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreux, 13 September 2023

PRESS RELEASE

MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS:

MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL RESIDENCY FROM 4 TO 7 OCTOBER 2023



The Montreux Jazz Festival Residency welcomes young talent and big names from the international jazz and soul scenes, from 4 to 7 October 2023 at the Petit Palais in Montreux. Every evening from 6pm, the residency opens its doors to the public for an free programme of concerts, showcases, workshops, jam sessions and DJ sets. Headliners include **Billy Cobham**, **Jacob Lusk (Gabriels)**, **Trilok Gurtu**, **Rich Medina**, **Roni Kaspi** and many more.

The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation's autumn festival is changing its name and visual identity. Previously known as Autumn of Music since 2020, the event has now become Montreux Jazz Festival Residency. This update will better reflect the unique spirit of this festival, which is built around an artistic residency, and more clearly identify it as part of the Montreux Jazz Festival brand.

Eight emerging groups will have the opportunity to take part in a unique residency. Starting each morning at 10am and finishing late at night with a lively jam session, the MJF Residency gives these young musicians the chance to exchange and play with renowned mentors such as **Billy Cobham**, as well as taking part in practical workshops and round tables to develop their careers and address crucial issues in the music industry. Each group will also play a concert filmed by the Montreux Jazz Festival's audio-visual production team.

Every evening from 6pm, the residence will open its doors to the public. They'll be able to soak up the unique musical atmosphere, fuelled by hours of exchanges and musical encounters. The public programme is designed as a four-day festival, in collaboration with the artists in residence: workshops and showcases given by the mentors, concerts by emerging groups, jam sessions bringing everyone together and a Closing Party on the final evening with **Rich Medina** on the decks.

THE MENTORS

Renowned artists from the world of jazz and beyond will be accompanying the young talents in residence. Three percussion virtuosos will be taking part: **Billy Cobham**, one of the most influential drummers of his time, who played a part in the birth of jazz fusion by collaborating with Miles Davis and the Mahavishnu Orchestra; **Trilok Gurtu**, the Indian percussionist who has fused East and West alongside John McLaughlin and Joe Zawinul; and the impressive **Roni Kaspi**, a new drumming sensation who has won unanimous acclaim at just 23 years of age.

A gospel singer from an early age and former backing vocalist for Diana Ross, Beck and Gladys Knight, **Jacob Lusk** wowed audiences at the Montreux Jazz Lab this summer with his trio Gabriels.

The 77-year-old pianist **Ray Lema** is no stranger to musical and geographical boundaries, having fled his native Congo for Washington and then Paris, the cities in which he has nurtured his prolific discography of multiple influences.

Originally from Rome, the versatile pianist **Maria Chiara Argirò** is now based in London, where she moves between jazz, classical and, above all, electronic music.

Saxophonist, composer and orchestra conductor **Mette Henriette** from Sámi, Norway, has been lining up artistic projects and collaborations around the world for ten years, renowned for her sophisticated, cinematic music.

THE RESIDENTS

Eight young bands - four international and four Swiss - have been selected by the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation to benefit from the residency programme and perform in front of a live audience.

On the Swiss side, the residency will welcome **muralim**, a progressive jazz quintet from Zürich; **Mira Lora**, a young Swiss-German singer-songwriter discovered on an SRF programme; **Oblicht**, a group playing indie folk tinged with Appenzell hackbrett; and **Nayana**, a neo-soul singer from Lausanne on the cusp of a successful career.

On the international front, the British scene will be in the spotlight with **Maya Delilah**, a guitarist and singer already signed to Blue Note at the age of 22; **Jasmine Myra**, a saxophonist with atmospheric compositions praised by Jamie Cullum; **Yoni Mayraz**, an Israeli keyboardist based in London with hip-hop and electro influences; and **Sheila Maurice-Grey**, a trumpet player who is launching a solo project alongside her well-known band Kokoroko.

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

18H WORKSHOPS

One of the MJAF's key activities, the workshops give artists the chance to share their knowledge and express themselves - often through music - on a theme of their choice. Mentors **Billy Cobham**, **Jacob Lusk** and **Maria Chiara Argirò** will be discussing Miles Davis' legendary *Bitches Brew*, the voices of Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone and Tina Turner, and electronic music in jazz. Journalists and DJs **Debra Richards** and **Beatrice Venturini** will be talking about the origins of soul music and its influence on today's music.

19H SHOWCASES

The showcases are short - but intense - performances held in the intimate setting of the Coupole of the Petit Palais. Mentors **Ray Lema** and **Trilok Gurtu** will each be performing solo, while **Billy Cobham** and **Roni Kaspi** will be offering an exclusive drum duo that promises to be exceptional. Pianist **Amaro Freitas** will also be performing a solo showcase. The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation has been supporting this young virtuoso since 2019, the year in which he took part in the Academy with Christian Scott.

20H AND 21H CONCERTS

The Montreux Jazz Festival Residency concerts showcase the projects of eight emerging bands selected by the Foundation. Each evening, one Swiss and one international artist will take to the stage in succession. The line-up presents different facets of today's jazz, R'n'B and soul, with a few touches of pop music. The audience will be able to vote for their favourite band as part of the **Prix Coup de Cœur donated by bank Julius Baer**.

FROM 22H15 JAM SESSIONS & CLOSING PARTY

Mentors, guests and the young residents will all be joining in the jam sessions. These will be kicked off on Wednesday and Thursday by Lausanne collective **Chic Astral**, and on Friday and Saturday by **Amaro Freitas** and his band.

From midnight on Saturday, the jam session will give way to the groove of **Rich Medina**, one of the most renowned DJs and producers on the American East Coast, for a Closing Party lasting until 4am. A collector of 50,000 vinyl records, Rich Medina made a name for himself in the early 2000s by mixing at one of New York's trendiest and most secretive clubs, which featured the likes of Puff Daddy, Mos Def and Prince.

ABOUT THE MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION

The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) is a recognized non-profit that supports the next generation of artists and encourages exchanges through the universal language of music. Founded in 2007, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation pursues two core objectives: discovering and nurturing talented musicians in the early stages of their careers and making music accessible to one and all. Year-round, the MJAF generates powerful discoveries and encounters through its artistic residencies, its cultural activities, and its talent development programs. These projects are financed by private donations and public subsidies.

Programme grid



Press kit



Visual kit



PRESS AREA

www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/press

PRESS CONTACT

Eduardo Mendez
Press officer
e.mendez@mjf.ch +4121 966 45 16