



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

PROGRAMME OF THE 59<sup>TH</sup> MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL | 4-19 JULY 2025

# Final wave of emotion on the Lake Stage

The Montreux Jazz Festival announced today the programme for its 59<sup>th</sup> edition, which will light up the Lake Stage and the Casino one last time, from 4 to 19 July, before returning to the Convention Centre in 2026. Featuring legendary artists and major figures of the current scene, the lineup for the 59<sup>th</sup> edition brings together generations and musical genres in the true spirit of the Festival. A fascinating and rich musical journey, marked by major premieres, long-awaited returns and many exclusives. Tickets open tomorrow, Friday 11 April, at noon.

TICKET SALES  
OPENING  
**11 APRIL**  
**12 PM CET**

INSIDER PRE-SALE  
**10 APRIL**  
**2 PM CET**

*The programme includes, among others:*

**Neil Young and The Chrome Hearts, Santana, Alanis Morissette, Pulp, Chaka Khan, FKA twigs, Diana Ross, Lionel Richie, RAYE, Noah Kahan, Sam Fender, J Balvin, Laylow, Jorja Smith, Benson Boone, The Black Keys, London Grammar, RÜFÜS DU SOL, Jamie xx, Ezra Collective, Dianne Reeves, Beth Gibbons, Brandi Carlile, Leon Bridges, FINNEAS, Max Richter, James Blake, Nathy Peluso, Seu Jorge, Nubya Garcia, Samara Joy, Saint Levant, Shaboozey, Yoa...**

The Montreux Jazz Festival continues to embrace its uniqueness within the European festival landscape, offering each summer the unique opportunity to discover the greatest artists in an intimate setting. The lineup for the 59<sup>th</sup> edition features some of the rarest names in the live music industry, including **Neil Young** (not seen in Switzerland since MJF 2016), **FKA twigs** (a Swiss debut) and **Pulp** (returning to Switzerland for the first time since 2001). **Chaka Khan** will pay tribute to Quincy Jones during a world-exclusive concert, accompanied by several special guests.

True to its values, the 59<sup>th</sup> edition of the Montreux Jazz Festival blends generations and musical genres in a stunning balance. In addition to welcoming absolute legends of the 70s and 80s (**Neil Young, Santana, Chaka Khan, Lionel Richie, Diana Ross**) and some of the most cult figures of the 90s (**Alanis Morissette, Beth Gibbons, Pulp**), the programme offers an impressive musical synthesis of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, exploring all the richness of its contrasting aesthetics.

Established rock and folk artists (**The Black Keys, Bloc Party, Brandi Carlile**) rub shoulders with explorers of electronic blends (**FKA twigs, James Blake, Jamie xx, RÜFÜS DU SOL**) and new creators from the jazz, soul and R&B scenes (**Ezra Collective, Nubya Garcia, Jorja Smith, RAYE, Leon Bridges**). Global hip-hop opens up to different narrative and sonic horizons (**Saint Levant, Laylow, Shaboozey, CA7RIEL & Paco Amoroso**), while English-language pop-rock finds new unifying heroes (**Noah Kahan, Sam Fender, Benson Boone**). Finally, South America unfolds in all its diversity, between reggaeton, pop, samba and bossa (**J Balvin, Nathy Peluso, Seu Jorge, Natalia Lafourcade**).

# Final off-site edition

Last summer, the Montreux Jazz Festival delivered on its bold promise: to reinvent itself outside the walls of the Convention Centre, with a large stage built on the lake and an extended route along the quays. With a few adjustments, the 59<sup>th</sup> edition will continue in the same surroundings as the previous one, before the Festival's anticipated return to a transformed Convention Centre in 2026.

The **Lake Stage** will amaze audiences and artists one last time with its breathtaking setting and sound quality that exceeded all expectations. As for the **Casino**, it will once again host the Festival's second stage, with improvements in terms of comfort and visibility, allowing to fully enjoy this intimate setting steeped in musical history.

## The programme in detail

### Lake Stage

This summer's Festival couldn't have started any differently: the legacy of Quincy Jones, who passed away last November, will be celebrated in a unique show led by **Chaka Khan** and several special guests, including **Siedah Garrett**, who notably sang on Quincy Jones's album *Back on the Block* and co-wrote "Man in the Mirror." Last seen in Montreux 14 years ago, the "Queen of Funk" Chaka Khan will continue the evening by celebrating her 50-year career, marked by hits like "Ain't Nobody" and "I'm Every Woman."

Canadian legend **Neil Young** is honouring us with his presence, nearly ten years after an epic three-hour concert in Montreux. The "Godfather of Grunge" will perform at the Festival for the third time. He will be accompanied by the Chrome Hearts, including Micah Nelson (Willie Nelson's son) and Spooner Oldham, the organist for *Harvest Moon*. Another Canadian icon, **Alanis Morissette**, is celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of her seminal work, *Jagged Little Pill*, one of the fifteen best-selling albums of all time. The cult figure of the nineties returns to the Festival after her 2012 concert, immortalised on the album *Live at Montreux*.

Nine years have past without a **Santana** concert in Montreux. That hadn't happened since the 1980s! We couldn't have dreamed of a better venue than the Lake Stage for his big return: we can already picture the sun setting over Lake Geneva, lulled by the warm sound of his guitar and his Latin rhythms. Still on the legendary side, showman **Lionel Richie** (with **Celeste** as the opening act) and the supreme diva **Diana Ross**, two unstoppable hitmakers, true icons of African-American culture for more than five decades, will thrill the audience at the Lake Stage.

### MAJOR DEBUTS

A truly visionary and unclassifiable artist, **FKA twigs** will perform for the very first time in Switzerland in her ten-year career. Wowing fans and critics with each of her releases, she fuses electro, art pop and futuristic R&B into an immersive experience where body and sound become one. An exceptional evening with British artist **Jamie xx** as the opening act, making his grand return to the studio and Montreux after a ten-year absence.

A cult icon of English pop culture, **Pulp** has only played twice in Switzerland, the last time in 2001. The band from Sheffield will finally make its debut this summer at the Montreux Jazz Festival. Led by the eccentric charm of Jarvis Cocker, Pulp celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the masterpiece *Different Class*, ranked among the 10 best albums of all time by *NME*. They will be preceded by **Bloc Party**, not seen in Montreux since 2009, who are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first emblematic album, *Silent Alarm*.

New phenomena of pop-rock, **Benson Boone**, **Sam Fender** and **Noah Kahan**, will all perform for the first time in French-speaking Switzerland. **Sam Fender** has achieved the feat, increasingly rare in current rock, of combining critical and popular success. A triumph he owes to both the strength of his unifying anthems and his working-class hero status. **Benson Boone** will perform as the opening act, renowned for his acrobatic performances and his global hit "Beautiful Things", the most-streamed song around the world in 2024. As for **Noah Kahan**, he is today one of the major singer-songwriters on the American scene, with his pop-folk ballads sung in sold-out stadiums.

An undisputed global superstar for nearly twenty years, **J Balvin** will perform at the Festival for the first time. With his incomparable flair, the Colombian never stops reinventing himself through his hits and notable collaborations (Bad Bunny, Dua Lipa, Beyoncé, Rosalía, etc.). Singing almost exclusively in Spanish, he is one of the great architects of reggaeton's domination on the international scene.

We couldn't have dreamed of a better lineup for **The Black Keys'** Montreux debut: the Ohio duo will be playing the same night as **Hermanos Gutiérrez**. The latter participated in the MJF Spotlight Sessions in 2021, before being spotted by Dan Auerbach, one half of The Black Keys, who produced their latest albums. The evening of 16 July brings together the cream of contemporary blues-rock with American guitar heroes **Joe Bonamassa** and **Kenny Wayne Shepherd**. While both have already played in Montreux, it will be a first for Kenny Wayne Shepherd's special guest: **Bobby Rush**, a Louisiana blues legend who has collaborated with Muddy Waters and B.B. King.

## THEIR ASCENT CONTINUES IN MONTREUX

They both began their Montreux adventure at the Montreux Jazz Lab: the British trio **London Grammar** and the Australian trio **RÜFÜS DU SOL** will be performing on the same evening. A dizzying combination of soaring vocals and epic electronic anthems. After captivating the "small" Lake Stage in 2021, **Yseult** will perform in front of a much bigger audience this summer with a radically different project with punk energy. Thanks to the global hit "Alibi", she has become the most listened to French female artist in the world. She will perform before **Laylow**, who set the Montreux Jazz Lab alight in 2022. The anticipation for his next album is immense, with the certainty that it will surprise again.

It's rare for an artist to perform in Montreux two years in a row. But **RAYE**'s return, this time as the headliner, was a no-brainer, as her last performance was breathtaking. A magical evening immortalised on a live album released last autumn. Since then, the seven-time Brit Award winner has collaborated with Doja Cat and performed at the Oscars and Grammy Awards. **JADE**, who is entering the solo phase of her career after conquering the planet with the group Little Mix, will perform as the opening act.

## Casino Stage

The Casino's programming reflects the versatility of current sounds, blurring the lines between jazz, Latin music, R&B, pop and hip-hop. In this venue steeped in history, established artists also come to find proximity to the audience and an intimate atmosphere, perfectly in line with their musical universe. The Casino being the small venue of the edition, it nevertheless boasts an impressive list of artists: 40 Grammy Awards, 45 Latin Grammy Awards, 3 Oscars.

The Festival welcomes two of the most influential voices on the R&B scene over the past ten years: British artist **Jorja Smith** and Texan **Leon Bridges**. Critically acclaimed with each album release, both continue to pursue their careers with timeless class. Seeing them in the intimate setting of the Casino promises to be a truly memorable experience, seven years after their last concerts in Montreux.

Three evenings highlight the different facets of jazz, through sublime combinations. The evening of 7 July brings together two generations: **Dianne Reeves** and **Samara Joy**, two dazzling vocal jazz talents, each winners of five Grammy Awards. On 17 July, two pillars of the contemporary London scene will perform: saxophonist **Nubya Garcia** and the group **Ezra Collective**. The latter will play its first real concert in Montreux, seven years after a surprise appearance at Quincy Jones's birthday party. On the closing night, the eminent double bassist **Avishai Cohen** will perform in a quintet, preceded by the American pianist **Christian Sands**, collaborator of Gregory Porter, Esperanza Spalding and Christian McBride, among others.

Between rock, folk and alternative experimentation, three major figures will distil their melancholic nuances at the Casino. Portishead's magnetic singer, **Beth Gibbons**, reveals herself in her debut solo album, *Lives Outgrown*, named Album of the year by *Time Magazine*. British musician **James Blake**, invited to the Festival for the fifth time, will perform solo piano, something that he has dreamt of doing in Montreux for a long time. The winner of 11 Grammy Awards, **Brandi Carlile** has been exploring the boundaries of folk, rock and Americana for twenty years. On 4 April, she released the album *Who Believes in Angels?*, recorded as a duet with one of her idols and biggest fans: Elton John.

A multi-instrumentalist and visionary sound architect, **FINNEAS**, forms one of the most influential creative forces in pop music with her sister Billie Eilish. The 27-year-old Californian, the youngest winner of the Grammy Award for Producer of the Year, reveals his vulnerabilities on his solo album *For Cryin' Out Loud*. J-pop phenomenon **Fujii Kaze** will perform as the opening act.

Urban music is expressed in Montreux at the crossroads of languages, cultures and musical genres. With **Shaboozey**, a collaborator of Beyoncé, the codes of US hip-hop blend with country, as in the hit "A Bar Song (Tipsy)". With **Saint Levant**, rap reveals itself as polyglot poetry, combining R&B influences with oriental sounds. And with Argentinian sensations **Nathy Peluso** and **CA7RIEL & Paco Amoroso**, trap blends with salsa, electro and jazz in two delightfully avant-garde approaches.

From Uruguay to Mexico, via Brazil: South American music is in the spotlight this year at the Casino. On 5 July, the sunny melancholy of Seu Jorge will resonate for the third time in Montreux, preceded by the delicate harmonies of the duo **ANAVITORIA**. On 15 July, two major figures who have often played together, between tradition and modernity, will join forces: Oscar-winning musician **Jorge Drexler** and **Natalia Lafourcade**, the most awarded female artist at the Latin Grammy Awards.

Composer, producer and remixer **Max Richter** will present two works from his vast repertoire: *The Blue Notebooks*, released in 2004, and *In a Landscape*, exploring the polarities between classical and electronic music. The magnetic **Arooj Aftab** will open the evening, combining minimalism, jazz and South Asian inspirations. **Waxx**, a guitarist and frequent collaborator on the French-speaking scene, will offer a very special project, surrounded by exceptional surprise guests. He will be preceded by **Solann**, crowned *Révélation féminine* [Best New Female Artist] at the Victoires de la Musique this year, and recently invited by Waxx on his YouTube channel *Fanzine*.

## Free stages

The free programme will be announced on **4 June 2025**. Festival-goers will once again experience the excitement of an extended circuit along the quays, between 2m2c and the Place du Marché. Ten free stages will be available to discover, including the **Super Bock Stage** and its Biergarten; **Ipanema**, an open-air electronic club; **El Mundo**, a stronghold of Latin music; the **Nestlé Terrace** and its programme of Swiss artists; and **LiLo** and its house DJ sets.

Launched in 2021, the MJF Spotlight brand, dedicated to promoting emerging artists, continues its development: after its winter residency in Villars, it will now have its own stage at the Festival. A new outdoor offering, the **Spotlight Stage** will showcase current pop and urban trends. Performances will be filmed to enrich the content of the MJF Spotlight brand, supported by bank Julius Baer.

The highly anticipated **Audemars Piguet Parallel** experience will return to a new, secret location. The Festival is also renewing its **Lake House** across the three floors of the Petit Palais. This residency offers a multitude of experiences across its numerous venues: **The Memphis**, supported by bank Julius Baer, a jazz club devoted to new trends in the genre and the legendary jam sessions; **La Coupole**, a nightclub with funk, house, disco and urban vibes; **Le Cinéma**, a screening room for films, concerts and documentaries; and La Bibliothèque, which brings together vinyl and book collections, presented daily by a guest.

## Insider Presale

Tickets open tomorrow, Friday, 11 April, at midday. Those who have purchased a Montreux Jazz Insider subscription will have access to the "Early Bird" presale today, Thursday, 10 April, from 2 p.m., one day before the official ticket sales opening.

## Return to the Convention Centre in 2026

For its 60<sup>th</sup> edition, from 3 to 18 July 2026, the Montreux Jazz Festival will celebrate its return to the Convention Centre. The event will return to the legendary Stravinski Auditorium and will benefit from new facilities and redesigned spaces within the building. The installation of the facades will be completed by the end of spring, followed by the technical installations from July to the end of December 2025. The first tests necessary to bring the 2m2c back into operation will take place in the first half of 2026, ensuring that the Festival can be hosted on schedule.

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### PRESS AREA

[www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/press](http://www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/press)

### PRESS CONTACT

Eduardo Mendez  
Press officer  
[e.mendez@mjf.ch](mailto:e.mendez@mjf.ch)  
+41 21 966 45 16

Yasmin Rosario  
Press Assistant  
[mediacenter@mjf.ch](mailto:mediacenter@mjf.ch)  
+41 21 966 44 39