

Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation reveals the program for its autumn residency

OCTOBER 15 – 18, 2025 | PETIT PALAIS, FAIRMONT LE MONTREUX PALACE



RESIDENCY

The Montreux Jazz Festival Residency brings together young talents and established figures from the jazz scene from October 15 to 18, 2025, at the Petit Palais in the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace. Every evening from 6 PM, the Residency opens its doors to the public for a fully free program of concerts, showcases, workshops, jam sessions, and DJ sets. Artists invited this year include Lizz Wright, Christian Sands, Faraj Suleiman, Islandman, Mádé Kuti, Jas Kayser, and Tim Garcia.

Organized for the sixth consecutive year, the MJAF's autumn festival revolves around a unique artistic residency. Eight emerging bands – four Swiss and four international – will take part in an intensive and enriching programme. Over four days, they will get the chance to perform on stage, connect with renowned mentors, play with fellow musicians, and take part in themed workshops designed to support their emerging careers.

Each evening from 6 PM, the Residency opens to the public. This four-night festival is entirely free and offers a dense program of workshops, showcases, concerts, and jam sessions, culminating in a closing party on the final night. The intimate setting of the Petit Palais encourages exchanges and offers the audience a rare closeness with the resident musicians.

The mentors

Eight mentors, renowned artists in the world of jazz and beyond, will guide the young talents of the Residency: the acclaimed American vocalist **Lizz Wright**, who notably left her mark on MJF history during a tribute to Nina Simone alongside Angélique Kidjo, Dianne Reeves, and Lisa Simone in 2009; the American pianist **Christian Sands**, a two-time Grammy nominee; the Danish bassist **Ida Nielsen**, who toured with Prince on his final tours; and the Nigerian multi-instrumentalist **Mádé Kuti**, who carries forward the afrobeat legacy of his legendary grandfather, Fela Kuti.

The British scene is represented by four mentors: the drummer **Jas Kayser**, who has toured with Lenny Kravitz and Jorja Smith; the saxophonist **Binker Golding**, one half of the acclaimed duo Binker & Moses; the singer and composer **Cherise**, equally at ease in jazz and soul; and the multi-instrumentalist, producer, and educator **Orphy Robinson**, the first British musician to sign with Blue Note in the 1990s and now active in defending musicians' copyright.

Resident bands

Eight young bands — four Swiss and four international — have been selected by the MJAF to participate in the Residency and perform for the public.

International artists: the Chilean sextet **Antonio Monasterio Ensemble** is renowned for its cosmopolitan jazz explorations and dynamic live performances; the Somali-Ethiopian artist **Bananasoverdose** redefines East African music, funk, and jazz with a retro-futuristic approach; the French quintet **Wet Enough!?** condenses the most danceable sounds of funk, electronic music, and hip-hop; Dutch bassist and producer **ISHA** is making her mark on the London scene and has recently collaborated with Tom Misch.

Swiss artists: the Zurich-based instrumental quintet **Den Dala** captivates with inventive guitar melodies and ethereal sounds; singer **Rania Yasmine**, with Tunisian and Dominican roots, blends soul, R&B, jazz, and afrobeat with socially conscious lyrics; **Aino Salto** is the solo project of Bern-based Sonia Leone, combining bittersweet pop and jazz touches; Swiss-Palestinian drummer and composer **Ramzi Hammad** leads a Zurich collective bridging jazz and Levantine music.

Together, about forty musicians will benefit from the Residency's activities, including **ensemble sessions led by mentors, thematic workshops**, and **roundtables with industry experts** on economic, media, and technological issues. The MJAF also supports each band in **developing digital and audiovisual content**, providing a series of portraits by photographer Anoush Abrar and a video recording of their concert, which will be published on the Montreux Jazz Festival YouTube channel. These assets give the artists the chance to showcase themselves at their best—not only to the public, but crucially to agents and programmers.

Public programme

→ 6 PM • WORKSHOPS

A cornerstone of the MJAF programme, public workshops allow artists to share their knowledge and express themselves—often through music—on a topic of their choice. Four Residency mentors will take part: **Lizz Wright**, **Christian Sands**, and **Jas Kayser** will discuss their primary instruments—voice, piano, and drums, respectively. **Mádé Kuti** will talk about his rich family heritage and the evolution of afrobeat.

→ 7 PM • SHOWCASES

Showcases are short but intense performances held in the intimate setting of La Coupole. The programme features artists supported by the MJAF: Palestinian pianist **Faraj Suleiman**, who released his 2018 Montreux concert as a live album; Turkish psychedelic band **Islandman**, winner of a Montreux Jazz Talent Award in 2018; and Italian guitarist **Federico Casagrande**, winner of the Montreux Jazz Guitar Competition in 2007. On October 17, the **Montreux Songwriting Camp listening session** (*see below*) will replace the usual showcase.

→ 8 & 9 PM • CONCERTS

The Residency concerts present the projects of the eight emerging bands selected by the Foundation. Each evening, one Swiss and one international band will perform. The audience can vote for their favorite band as part of the Coup de Cœur Prize, sponsored by Julius Baer Bank.

→ FROM 10:15 PM – JAM SESSIONS & CLOSING PARTY

Each evening, mentors, resident musicians, and Foundation guests will come together for the jam sessions. These will be led by a trio—**Daisy George** (bass), **Leandro Irarragorri** (keys), and **Zoe Pascal** (drums)—all members of the Montreux Jazz Festival in-house jam band.

On Saturday, the jam session will turn into a special performance bringing together the mentors and resident bands. From midnight, the traditional closing party begins with British DJ **Tim Garcia**, founder of the Musica Macondo label, known for his eclectic selections spanning jazz, electronic music, and hip-hop.

NEW SYNERGIES WITH THE MONTREUX SONGWRITING CAMP

Running alongside the MJF Residency, the Montreux Songwriting Camp takes place from October 15–17 at Villa Sylvia Waddilove in Villeneuve. SUIA and Pro Helvetia invited the MJAF to join this initiative, organized for the first time in French-speaking Switzerland. The Camp gives musicians and songwriters the opportunity to refine their writing and create songs together with the potential to reach a wide audience.

Participants—selected by SUIA, Pro Helvetia, and the MJAF programming team—will benefit from some educational activities of the MJF Residency and share evening meals there, fostering interaction between artists from both residencies. A public listening session will take place as part of the Residency on Friday, where songs created during the Camp will be presented to the public and music industry professionals to support their distribution.

ABOUT THE MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION

Recognized as a public utility, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) supports emerging talent and fosters exchange through a universal language: music. Founded in 2007, the Foundation has two main objectives: to discover and nurture young talent at the start of their careers, and to provide access to music for all. Throughout the year, the MJAF generates discoveries and meaningful encounters through artistic residencies, outreach activities, and talent development programs. These projects are fully funded by private donations and public grants.

[Programme grid](#)[Press Kit](#)[Visual kit](#)

PRESS AREA

www.montreuxjazzfestival.com/en/press

PRESS CONTACT

Eduardo Mendez | Press officer
e.mendez@mjf.ch | +41 21 966 45 16