

MONTREUX JAZZ  
ARTISTS FOUNDATION  
presents

# Montreux Jazz Festival

# RESIDENCY

15 – 18.10.25 MONTREUX

## Press Kit

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## Impressum

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# Editorial



## Viviane Rychner Raouf

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION**

As the festival season comes to an end, the MJF Residency is getting ready to write its sixth chapter this autumn.

This event, which combines a residency and a festival, continues to pursue the same goals: bringing people together through music and supporting young talents in developing their careers. This desire to exchange and share resonates even more strongly in today's bleak international context, marked by division and exclusion.

It is often said that music brings people together. Now more than ever, it's worth remembering that beyond our differences, we all need creativity and emotions. By bringing together musicians from diverse cultures and backgrounds, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation celebrates contrasts and upholds the belief that encounters between different experiences can only enrich the exchange.

The MJF Residency strives for excellence, both in the quality of its musical offerings and in its educational program, introducing concepts designed to help the eight groups build long-lasting careers. To tackle complex topics in the most relevant way, experts will cover areas such as intellectual property, artificial intelligence, and the economics of music.

Finally, during a public listening session, Swiss musicians will present pieces composed over four days at the Montreux Songwriting Camp, a new joint initiative by SUISA, Pro Helvetia, and our Foundation.

So be curious: step inside the Residency and embrace the richness of music in all its diversity.



## Stéphanie-Aloysia Moretti

**CURATOR AND BOOKER FOR THE MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION**

The Montreux Jazz Residency 2025 opens with the same ambition that has driven us from the start: to offer a unique space where creation, learning, and sharing shape the future of music. Over the course of these intense days, we propose a demanding yet inspiring journey, alternating instrumental practice, roundtables, workshops, concerts, and jam sessions—while also allowing moments of breathing space—so that each participant can find their voice, their energy, and forge decisive encounters.

Each morning, the combo sessions delve into the art of collective playing, that fragile yet powerful space where a group's identity is born. In the afternoons, themed discussions address the artist's role in the media, the economics of music, the challenges of artificial intelligence, and intellectual property. Enriched by the contributions of experts, journalists, musicians, and industry players, these exchanges provide concrete tools to navigate a rapidly changing world.

From 6 pm onwards, the Petit Palais opens its doors to the public: mentors and artists from our programs present workshops and showcases, sharing the evolution of their journey. At 8 pm, two concerts by emerging Swiss and international bands present their vision of jazz today, before the evenings culminate in jam sessions.

The Residency is a suspended moment in time, a human and artistic experience that sharpens one's practice, a creative interlude where the horizons of tomorrow take shape. Here, jazz returns to its essence: a vibrant encounter between audacity and virtuosity.



# PUBLIC PROGRAMME

The Montreux Jazz Festival Residency brings together young talents and established figures of the jazz scene from October 15 to 18, 2025, at the Petit Palais of the Fairmont Le Montreux Palace.

Each evening from 6 pm, the Residency opens its doors to the public. Completely free, this four-night festival offers a rich 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 interaction and gives the audience a rare closeness to the musicians participating in the Residency.

WEDNESDAY 15.10	THURSDAY 16.10
<b>WORKSHOP</b> 18:00 · COUPOLE (LANG: EN) <b>Lizz Wright</b> <i>US</i> Vocals	<b>WORKSHOP</b> 18:00 · COUPOLE (LANG: EN) <b>Mádé Kuti</b> <i>NG</i> The Kuti Dynasty: Exploring Afrobeat's Musical Heritage
<b>SHOWCASE</b> 19:15 · COUPOLE <b>Faraj Suleiman</b> <i>PS</i> Solo Piano	<b>SHOWCASE</b> 19:15 · COUPOLE <b>Islandman</b> <i>TR</i> Turkish Psychedelic electronica
<b>CONCERT</b> 20:00 · LÉMAN <b>Rania Yasmine</b> <i>CH</i> Soul, R&B, Afrobeat, Jazz	<b>CONCERT</b> 20:00 · LÉMAN <b>Isha</b> <i>NL</i> Jazz-electronica, Soul, Disco
<b>CONCERT</b> 21:15 · LÉMAN <b>Antonio Monasterio Ensemble</b> <i>CL</i> World Music, Jazz	<b>CONCERT</b> 21:15 · LÉMAN <b>Den Dala</b> <i>CH</i> Indie, Jazz, Psychedelic Rock
<b>JAM SESSION</b> 22:15 - 01:00 · COUPOLE <i>Rhythm Section</i> : Daisy George <i>UK</i> (Bass), Leandro Irarragorri <i>CH/CU</i> (Piano) & Zoe Pascal <i>PT</i> (Drums)	<b>JAM SESSION</b> 22:15 - 01:00 · COUPOLE <i>Rhythm Section</i> : Daisy George <i>UK</i> (Bass), Leandro Irarragorri <i>CH/CU</i> (Piano) & Zoe Pascal <i>PT</i> (Drums)

FRIDAY 17.10	SATURDAY 18.10
<b>WORKSHOP</b> 18:00 · COUPOLE (LANG: EN) <b>Jas Kayser</b> <i>UK</i> Drums	<b>WORKSHOP</b> 18:00 · COUPOLE (LANG: EN) <b>Christian Sands</b> <i>US</i> Piano
<b>LISTENING SESSION</b> 19:15 · COUPOLE <b>Montreux Songwriting Camp</b> in collaboration with SUISA & Pro Helvetia	<b>SHOWCASE</b> 19:15 · COUPOLE <b>Federico Casagrande</b> <i>IT</i> Solo Guitar
<b>CONCERT</b> 20:00 · LÉMAN <b>Aino Salto</b> <i>CH</i> Indie Jazz	<b>CONCERT</b> 20:00 · LÉMAN <b>Ramzi Hammad &amp; Collective</b> <i>CH</i> Nu Jazz, Levantine Fusion
<b>CONCERT</b> 21:15 · LÉMAN <b>Wet Enough!?</b> <i>FR</i> Hyperfunk	<b>CONCERT</b> 21:15 · LÉMAN <b>wordsOfAzia</b> <i>FR/CI</i> Bhété Jazz
<b>JAM SESSION</b> 22:15 - 03:00 · COUPOLE <i>Rhythm Section</i> : Daisy George <i>UK</i> (Bass), Leandro Irarragorri <i>CH/CU</i> (Piano) & Zoe Pascal <i>PT</i> (Drums)	<b>THE RESIDENCY JAM SESSION</b> 22:15 - 00:00 · COUPOLE <b>Closing performance</b> by mentors and musicians in residence
	<b>CLOSING PARTY</b> 00:00 - 04:00 · COUPOLE <b>Tim Garcia</b> <i>UK</i> <b>DJ set</b> Groove-led soulful music from across the globe



# RESIDENTS PROGRAMME

MERCREDI 15.10	JEUDI 16.10
<div>10:00 · ROOMS LÉMAN, PLÉIADES, COUPOLE</div> <div>Practical Session: Combo Playing</div> <div>13:00 · BACKSTAGE · LUNCH</div> <div>14:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Roundtable: How to present oneself as a band with Ammar Kalia (The Guardian), Christian Sands, Ruth Fisher (Jazz FM-One Jazz) &amp; Tim Garcia (Rinse FM/re:sonate)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>16:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Practical Session: How to deal with an interview Ammar Kalia (The Guardian), Ida Nielsen, Ruth Fisher (Jazz FM-One Jazz) &amp; Tim Garcia (Musica Macondo)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>WORKSHOP</div> <div>18:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Lizz Wright <i>US</i> Vocals</div> <div>SHOWCASE</div> <div>19:15 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Faraj Suleiman <i>PS</i> Solo Piano</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>20:00 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Rania Yasmine <i>CH</i> Soul, R&amp;B, Afrobeat, Jazz</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>21:15 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Antonio Monasterio Ensemble <i>CL</i> World Music, Jazz</div> <div>JAM SESSION</div> <div>22:15 - 01:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Rhythm Section: Daisy George <i>UK</i> (Bass), Leandro Irarragorri <i>CH/CU</i> (Piano) &amp; Zoe Pascal <i>PT</i> (Drums)</div>	<div>10:00 · ROOMS LÉMAN, PLÉIADES, COUPOLE</div> <div>Practical Session: Combo Playing</div> <div>13:00 · BACKSTAGE · LUNCH</div> <div>14:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Roundtable: Music Economy with Luigi Vignola (Julius Baer) &amp; Chris Payne (WME) Chair: Mathieu Jatton (CEO MJF &amp; MJAF)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>16:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Roundtable: Record labels: Major and Indie with Lizz Wright (Blues and Greens Records) &amp; Tim Garcia (Musica Macondo) Chair: Federico Bolza (New Soil)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>WORKSHOP</div> <div>18:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Mádé Kuti <i>NG</i> The Kuti Dynasty: Exploring Afrobeat’s Musical Heritage</div> <div>SHOWCASE</div> <div>19:15 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Islandman <i>TR</i> Turkish Psychedelic electronica</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>20:00 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Isha <i>NL</i> Jazz-electronica, Soul, Disco</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>21:15 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Den Dala <i>CH</i> Indie, Jazz, Psychedelic Rock</div> <div>JAM SESSION</div> <div>22:15 - 01:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Rhythm Section: Daisy George <i>UK</i> (Bass), Leandro Irarragorri <i>CH/CU</i> (Piano) &amp; Zoe Pascal <i>PT</i> (Drums)</div>

Dear journalists,

Are you interested in immersing yourself in the day-to-day life of the young talents and mentors at the Montreux Jazz Festival Residency? Don’t hesitate to contact us to attend some of their behind-the-scenes activities: combo playing sessions, practical workshops with music industry professionals, round-table discussions, etc.

VENDREDI 17.10	SAMEDI 18.10
<div>10:00 · ROOMS LÉMAN, PLÉIADES, COUPOLE</div> <div>Practical Session: Combo Playing</div> <div>13:00 · BACKSTAGE · LUNCH</div> <div>14:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Roundtable: Applied music: in films, publicity, video games... with Christian Sands, Daisy George (musician), Federico Bolza (New Soil) &amp; Shwan Askari (Composer &amp; Producer) Chair: Orphy Robinson (Deputy Chair Ivors Academy)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>16:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Roundtable: Music-communities in the era of A.I with Christian Sands, Marie Sellier (Human Artistry Campaign), Orphy Robinson (Deputy Chair Ivors Academy), Set Hallström (basspistol.com) &amp; Xavier Oberson (Attorney-at-Law, President MJAF). Chair: Vincent Favrat (O<sup>n</sup> - The Symbiotic Venture Studio)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>WORKSHOP</div> <div>18:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Jas Kayser <i>UK</i> Drums</div> <div>LISTENING SESSION</div> <div>19:15 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Montreux Songwriting Camp in collaboration with SUIISA &amp; Pro Helvetia</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>20:00 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Aino Salto <i>CH</i> Indie Jazz</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>21:15 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Wet Enough!? <i>FR</i> Hyperfunk</div> <div>JAM SESSION</div> <div>22:15 - 03:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Rhythm Section: Daisy George <i>UK</i> (Bass), Leandro Irarragorri <i>CH/CU</i> (Piano) &amp; Zoe Pascal <i>PT</i> (Drums)</div>	<div>10:00 · ROOMS LÉMAN, PLÉIADES, COUPOLE</div> <div>Practical Session: Combo Playing</div> <div>13:00 · BACKSTAGE · LUNCH</div> <div>14:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Practical Session: Health &amp; Wellbeing for Jazz Musicians &amp; Be your voice by Ruth Fisher &amp; Marine Doliveux (Voxov)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>16:00 · ROOM ROCHERS DE NAYE</div> <div>Roundtable: Intellectual property in music with Garrett Levin (World Intellectual Property Organization), Pete Mehravari (International Intellectual Property Alliance) &amp; Michael Wohlgemuth (Swiss cooperative society for composers, lyricists and music publishers). Chair: Orphy Robinson (European Composers and Songwriters Alliance)</div> <div>15:30 · BACKSTAGE · BREAK</div> <div>WORKSHOP</div> <div>18:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Christian Sands <i>US</i> Piano</div> <div>SHOWCASE</div> <div>19:15 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Federico Casagrande <i>IT</i> Solo Guitar</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>20:00 · LÉMAN</div> <div>Ramzi Hammad &amp; Collective <i>CH</i> Nu Jazz, Levantine Fusion</div> <div>CONCERT</div> <div>21:15 · LÉMAN</div> <div>wordsOfAzia <i>FR/CI</i> Bhété Jazz</div> <div>THE RESIDENCY’S JAM SESSION</div> <div>22:15 - 00:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Closing performance by mentors and musicians in residence</div> <div>CLOSING PARTY</div> <div>00:00 - 04:00 · COUPOLE</div> <div>Tim Garcia <i>UK</i> DJ Set Groove-led soulful music from across the globe</div>



# Mentors

Renowned artists from the jazz world and beyond mentor the young talents in the Residency. The public has the opportunity to discover them during workshops and jam sessions.

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## Binker Golding

Saxophonist and composer Binker Golding is one of the most prominent figures on the London jazz scene. A 2007 graduate of Middlesex University, he trained with the collective Tomorrow's Warriors, a true breeding ground that also nurtured Nubya Garcia, Shabaka Hutchings, Soweto Kinch, and Ezra Collective. He later formed the explosive duo Binker & Moses with drummer Moses Boyd (last year's Residency mentor), releasing five critically acclaimed albums. His discography also includes two solo albums and a collaboration with trumpeter Charles Tolliver. Golding was named Jazz FM Instrumentalist of the Year in 2020 and won the MOBO Award for Best Jazz Act in 2015.



## Cherise

Singer, guitarist, and composer, Cherise is described by *Clash* magazine as "one of the women driving jazz and soul forward in the UK." A graduate of the prestigious Trinity Laban Conservatoire, she received the Jazz FM Singer of the Year Award in 2019. Her albums reveal a strong storytelling ability, weaving intimate vignettes around family, love, and resilience. In addition to collaborations with London collectives Steam Down and Nubiyan Twist, she has performed alongside Gregory Porter and opened for Jamie Cullum and Michael Kiwanuka. She also appears on *Blue Note Re:imagined II*, covering Norah Jones. Cherise performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2022.

## Christian Sands

American pianist with prodigious swing, Christian Sands is a leading artist on today's jazz scene. Over his career, he has collaborated with Gregory Porter, Esperanza Spalding, Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, and Grégoire Maret, among others. In 2020, Sands received a Grammy nomination for Best Instrumental Composition. On his latest album, *Embracing Dawn*, the 36-year-old pianist continues to explore agile post-bop, bluesy touches, and orchestrations inspired by his love of cinema. This summer, he performed for the third time at the Montreux Jazz Festival.



## Ida Nielsen

Renowned for her funk virtuosity, bassist Ida Nielsen toured with Prince in his backing bands New Power Generation and 3rdeyegirl. A graduate of the Royal Danish Academy of Music and ex-member of Zap Mama, she was discovered in 2010 by the Minneapolis legend via MySpace. After an audition at Paisley Park, she spent six years touring with Prince, including three iconic Montreux Jazz Festival performances in 2013, and recorded the album *PlectrumElectrum* with him. Since his passing, Ida Nielsen has pursued a brilliant solo career as a bassist, singer, and composer. Her sixth album, *More Sauce Please!*, was released in 2023.

## MENTORS

## Jas Kayser

Highly sought-after drummer and percussionist, British musician Jas Kayser has collaborated with Jorja Smith, Alfa Mist, Nubya Garcia, and Lenny Kravitz—performing with the latter at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2024. She also leads her own project, Jas Kayser & Chums, a versatile band exploring jazz, afrobeat, and Latin rhythms. Her early career was enriched by formative experiences abroad, first in Boston, where she graduated from the prestigious Berklee College of Music, and then in Panama, immersing herself in the local scene. Back in London, she has received numerous awards, including the Jazz FM Breakthrough Act Award.



## Lizz Wright

Singer and songwriter Lizz Wright is one of the great American voices of this century. Originally from a small town in Georgia, she began singing in her church gospel choir, where her father served as pastor. At 22, she gained recognition while touring the country in a Billie Holiday tribute and signed her first record deal the following year. Now heading her own label, Blues & Greens Records, Wright asserts her artistic independence more than ever. Her eight studio albums explore all facets of American music, from jazz to gospel, folk, and soul. A three-time Montreux Jazz Festival guest, she notably paid tribute to Nina Simone in 2009, alongside Angélique Kidjo, Dianne Reeves, and Lisa Simone.

## Mádé Kuti

Multi-instrumentalist and composer Mádé Kuti carries forward his family's afrobeat legacy while forging his own path. Son of Femi Kuti and grandson of the legendary Fela Kuti, he grew up in Lagos, immersed in the rhythms, resistance, and power of the local music scene. He began playing the saxophone at age five and joined his father's band at a young age, touring worldwide. He continued his studies at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London—where Fela also studied—and masters up to six instruments. In 2021, he played all instruments on his debut album *For(e)ward*, a manifesto denouncing corruption and inequality. Mádé returns this year with his new album *Chapter 1: Where Does Happiness Come From?*.



## Orphy Robinson

Multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, and outstanding educator, Orphy Robinson is a major figure on the British scene. First recognized as a vibraphonist, he became the first UK musician to record for Blue Note in 1990. He has since collaborated with Robert Plant, Neneh Cherry, Marshall Allen, and Nigel Kennedy, appearing on over a hundred recordings. A recipient of numerous awards, Robinson was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2018 for services to music and education. Active in copyright advocacy, he is Vice-President of the Ivors Academy and has served on the board of the European Composer and Songwriter Alliance.



# Residents

Eight emerging artists – four international and four Swiss – have been selected by the MJAF to participate in the Residency program and perform in public. Over four days as intense as they are enriching, they will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with renowned mentors, develop their playing alongside other musicians, and take part in thematic workshops aimed at advancing their early careers. The public can vote for their favorite band as part of the **Coup de Cœur Prize, sponsored by Julius Baer Bank.**

## Aino Salto

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER AT 8PM

Born in France, raised in Leipzig, and now a Bern resident, singer and musician Sonia Loenne brings her solo project Aino Salto to life. With *Imagine People as Adolescent Birds*, a bold conceptual debut album blending bittersweet pop and jazz touches, Sonia Loenne tackles difficult themes with dark humor. She offers a universe that is at once fragile and combative, where irony and tenderness intertwine over complex and energetic arrangements. On stage, she is joined by Paul Butscher (flugelhorn), Luzius Schuler (keys), Tabea Kind (double bass) and Eddy Sonnenschein (drums).



## Antonio Monasterio Ensemble

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER AT 9:15PM

Formed in Chile in 2016, the sextet Antonio Monasterio Ensemble embarks this year on its first world tour. Featuring guitar, oud, flugelhorn, drums, piano, and bass, the band is known for its distinctive timbres, intricate arrangements, and dynamic live performances. At the crossroads of jazz and global sounds, the sextet navigates effortlessly between highly rhythmic passages and atmospheric moods. Their second album, *Las Furias y el Mar* (2023), won the Pulsar Prize for Best Jazz Fusion Artist.



## Den Dala

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER AT 9:15PM

This Zurich-based quintet captivates with inventive guitar melodies, a keen sense of groove, and soaring soundscapes. Formed in 2021 from the meeting of former jazz students, Den Dala began as guitarist Andrin Stettler's solo project before becoming a full band. Their meticulously crafted and catchy melodies are enhanced by collective chemistry and remarkable improvisational skills. Their second studio album, *Say Hi To The Storks*, will be released in 2025 and represents the band's most ambitious work to date.

## ISHA

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER AT 8PM

Based between Amsterdam and London, ISHA is a producer, bassist, multi-instrumentalist, and composer. She recently collaborated with Tom Misch and Jordan Rakei, key figures in London's jazz-pop scene, as part of the Wildflower Artists Project. In 2024, the 24-year-old artist released her second EP, *What You're Seeing*, featuring her voice for the first time on the track "Undone." Evolving from a solo project to a duo with drummer Maxie Cheer, ISHA has performed at the Great Escape, Brick Lane Jazz Festival, and Isle of Wight, while working on her first album, scheduled for 2026.





## RESIDENTS

**Ramzi Hammad & Collective**

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER AT 8PM

Swiss-Palestinian drummer and composer Ramzi Hammad, 25, based in Zurich, weaves Middle Eastern rhythms with contemporary jazz grooves. In 2022, he founded the RH-Collective, inspired in part by the London jazz scene. Nominated for the Moods "ZKB Jazz Prize" and winner of the m4music "New Jazz Showcase", the band is known for its electric energy and tight sound. Following the single *Cross Rhythms* (winter 2024), Ramzi released his first EP, *Melting Pot*, in spring 2025—a manifesto celebrating Zurich's diversity and his bicultural journey. His vibrant and danceable music is driven by precise, narrative-driven drumming.

**Rania Yasmine**

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER AT 8PM

Swiss singer with Tunisian and Dominican roots, Rania Yasmine blends soul, R&B, afrobeat, and jazz. In June 2025, she released her first self-produced EP, featuring collaborations with local artists. The title track, *Ubuntu*, references an African philosophy celebrating unity in diversity—a concept that perfectly reflects her ability to combine multiple influences into a cohesive and unique work. Sung with elegance and nuance, her socially conscious lyrics explore resilience and injustice, suffering, and love.

**Wet Enough!?**

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER AT 9:15PM

Formed in 2019 in Besançon, Wet Enough!? brings together five musician friends determined to make their audience dance. Influenced by funk, rap, disco, and electronic music, they create a hybrid sound inspired by Ghost-Note and Butcher Brown. Their debut album, *DANCING PEOPLE DON'T DRY*, released in February 2025 and produced by Malcolm Catto (The Heliocentrics), condenses five years of musical exploration and live experience. With contagious grooves and sharp rap, Wet Enough!? aims to turn every concert into an open, high-energy collective celebration.

**wordsOfAzia**

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER AT 9:15PM

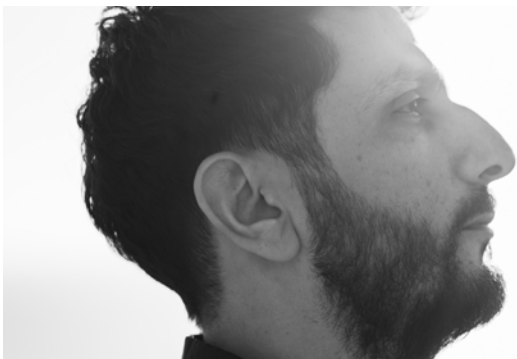
French artist of Ivorian descent, wordsOfAzia introduces herself as the founder of Bhété Jazz, blending soul melodies, jazz textures, and traditional Bhété rhythms. Inspired by her musician mother, she channels her passion for writing, poetry, and spirituality into a sound that bridges cultures and eras. Sung in both Bhété and English, Azia's music conveys a dimension that is at once deeply personal and universal. After a series of singles paired with striking visuals, she released her debut EP *Modern Wihegou* in July 2025, a powerful work exploring heritage, identity, and hope.



# Showcases & Workshops

## SHOWCASES

Showcases are short but intense performances held in the intimate setting of the Petit Palais Coupole. The program highlights artists who have benefited from the support of the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation: Palestinian pianist **Faraj Suleiman**, who released his 2018 Montreux concert as a live album; Turkish psychedelic music band **Islandman**, winner of a Montreux Jazz Talent Award in 2018; and Italian guitarist **Federico Casagrande**, winner of the Montreux Jazz Festival Guitar Competition in 2007.



## WORKSHOPS

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

## JAM SESSIONS AND 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 in-house band for the Montreux Jazz Festival jam sessions. On Saturday, the jam session will turn into a special performance bringing together the mentors and resident bands.

From midnight on Saturday, the traditional closing party kicks off with British DJ **Tim Garcia**, founder of the Musica Macondo label, known for his versatile selections spanning jazz, electronic music, and hip-hop. Active on London's underground scene for many years, Tim is also a radio host and programmer, having helped launch the careers of numerous emerging artists.



# Montreux Songwriting Camp

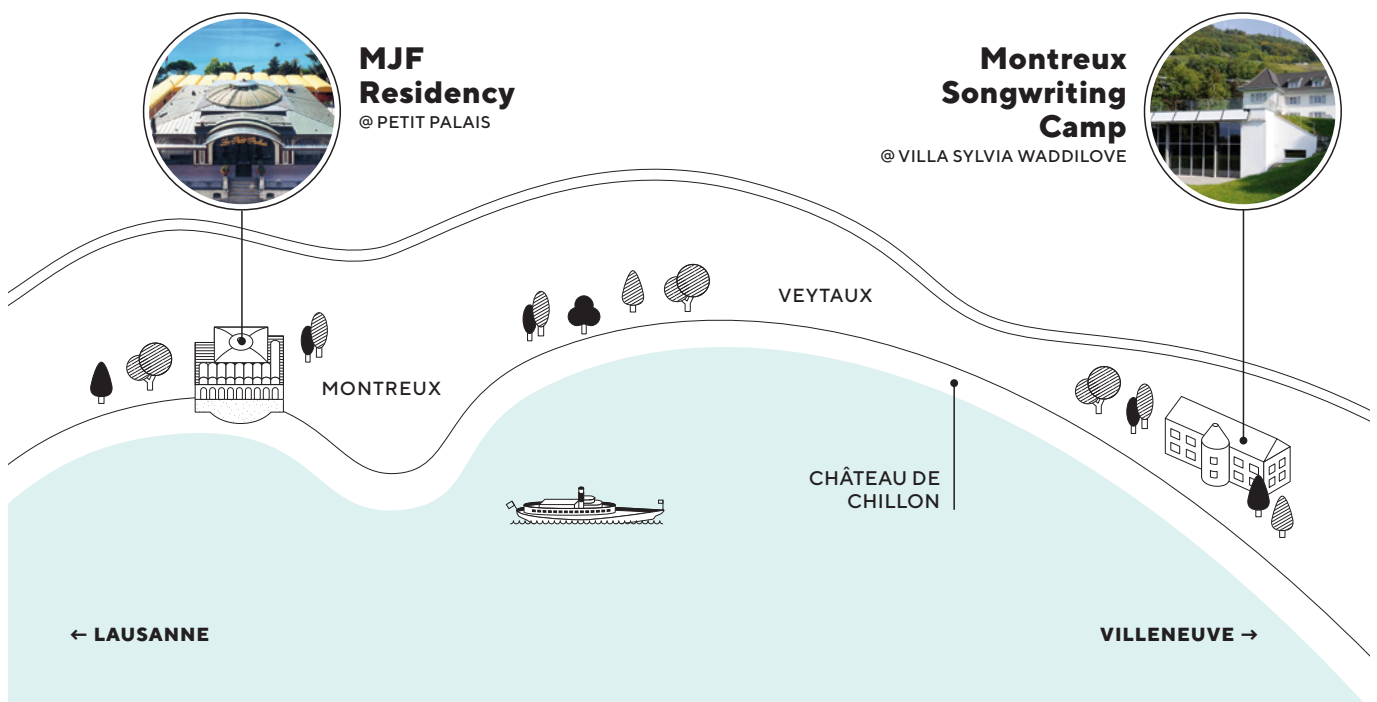
The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation was approached by SUISA and Pro Helvetia to collaborate on the Montreux Songwriting Camp. The Camp will take place alongside the MJF Residency, from October 15 to 17, at Villa Sylvia Wadilove in Villeneuve.

Organized for the first time in French-speaking Switzerland, this initiative gives musicians and songwriters the opportunity to refine their craft and create songs together with the potential to reach a wide audience.

## New Synergies

Participants in the Songwriting Camp – selected by SUISA, Pro Helvetia, and the Montreux Jazz Festival programming team – will benefit from some of the MJF Residency activities and share evening meals there, fostering interaction between artists from both residencies.

A **public listening session** will be held as part of the MJF Residency on Friday. The songs written and composed during the Songwriting Camp will be presented to the public and to music industry and media professionals to support their distribution.







# Speakers

The roundtables and practical sessions for the residents will be led by experts from various sectors of the music industry, as well as from the fields of law and AI.

**Ammar Kalia** *THE GUARDIAN*

15.10 | ROUNDTABLE: HOW TO PRESENT ONESELF AS A BAND

15.10 | PRACTICAL SESSION: HOW TO DEAL WITH AN INTERVIEW

Ammar Kalia is a writer and musician. He is the Guardian’s Global Music Critic and regularly writes for other publications including the Observer, Downbeat, Crack Magazine, Jazzwise, Resident Advisor and Apple Music. His debut novel, *A Person Is A Prayer*, was released in 2024, while his poetry collection and accompanying album, *Kintsugi: Jazz Poems for Musicians Alive and Dead*, was released in 2020. He is currently working on a second novel and a non-fiction book on music.

**Chris Payne** *WME*

16.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC ECONOMY

Chris Payne is a leading music agent at WME, representing artists including Olivia Rodrigo, Loyle Carner, Max Richter, and Mahalia. After nearly a decade at ITB, he joined WME in 2019 and quickly established himself as a key figure in the live music industry. His work was recognized with the Agent of the Year award at the International Live Music Conference’s Arthur Awards, one of the sector’s highest honors.

**Daisy George** *MUSICIA*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: APPLIED MUSIC: IN FILMS, PUBLICITY, VIDEO GAMES...

Daisy George melds her love of jazz and pop rock, creating a unique sound reminiscent of both Thundercat and Squeeze. She honed her skills in the London jazz scene for many years, and has performed as a bassist and backing vocalist for established artists such as Amaarae, Mark Owen and Jas Kayser. Her debut EP *See Me Now*, released November 2022, featured collaborations with SANITY and Mohan Evans, and the title track was described as an ‘emotive rock masterclass’ in The Line of Best Fit.

**Federico Bolza** *NEW SOIL*

16.10 | ROUNDTABLE: RECORD LABELS: MAJOR AND INDIE

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: APPLIED MUSIC: IN FILMS, PUBLICITY, VIDEO GAMES...

Fred Bolza founded and launched New Soil in the Summer of 2020. The founding principle was to consider each artist as unique and to offer each a bespoke blend of strategy, management and label services with a view to constructing the foundations for a sustainable career. Since then the label has seen successful campaigns for Theon Cross, Ill Considered, corto.alto, Balimaya Project and forged innovative partnerships with other independent labels rapidly positioning itself as a key player in the UK’s jazz scene. Most recently corto.alto’s album *Bad With Names* was shortlisted for the 2024 Mercury Music Prize.

**Garrett Levin**

*WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION*

18.10 | ROUNDTABLE: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN MUSIC

Garrett Levin is Senior Legal & Policy Officer in the IP & Frontier Technologies Division at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), where he helps lead WIPO’s efforts at the intersection of IP law and policy and bleeding-edge technologies, such as AI. Garrett previously served as the President and CEO of the Digital Media Association (DiMA), representing the world’s leading music streaming services. He also worked for the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, and in private legal practice. Before pursuing a legal career, Garrett edited award-winning documentaries for television.

**Luigi Vignola** *JULIUS BÄR*

16.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC ECONOMY

Luigi Vignola is Co-Head of Global Products & Solutions and a member of the Global Wealth Management Committee. Previously, he was Head of the Markets unit for six years. Since joining Julius Baer in 2009, he has performed various senior roles, including serving as Head Structured Products from 2017 to 2019, Head Markets and Advisory Solutions Asia from 2014 to 2017, and Head Markets Asia from 2012 to 2014.

**Marie Sellier** *HUMAN ARTISTRY CAMPAIGN*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC-COMMUNITIES IN THE ERA OF A.I

Marrie Sellier is a Senior Advisor at Geradin Partners. She served for nearly 10 years as Director of Public Affairs at Vivendi Group, where she actively contributed to numerous European negotiations on major digital policy frameworks, including the Digital Services Act (DSA), Digital Markets Act (DMA), and AI Act. She earned her Master’s degree from Sciences Po Paris in 1999 and completed an Executive MBA at TRIUM in 2016.

**Marine Doliveux** *VOXOV*

18.10 | PRACTICAL SESSION: HEALTH & WELLBEING

Marine Doliveux is a voice specialist with solid experience in the medical field, complemented by extensive specialized training. She works closely with ENT specialists and phoniatricians, supporting a wide range of patients and developing a holistic approach that combines scientific expertise with sensitivity to the uniqueness of each voice.

**Mathieu Jaton** *CEO MJF & MJAF*

16.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC ECONOMY

Mathieu Jaton joined the Montreux Jazz Festival as Marketing and Sponsorship Manager and became Secretary General in 2001. After Claude Nobs’ passing in 2013, he took over the management of the Montreux Jazz Festival Foundation (FFJM), the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) and Montreux Jazz International SA (MJJI). In 2019, he founded Montreux Media Ventures (MMV), a subsidiary of the Festival in charge of content production and distribution.

**Michael Wohlgemuth**

*SWISS COOPERATIVE SOCIETY FOR COMPOSERS, LYRICISTS AND MUSIC PUBLISHERS*

18.10 | ROUNDTABLE: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN MUSIC

Michael Wohlgemuth works as a Legal Counsel and Licensing Manager for SUISA, where he is predominantly involved in Licensing of audio- and video-on-demand services and legal consulting for members. Before his position at SUISA, he studied law at the University of Basel and gained experience in private practice, a court of first instance as well as in the insurance sector.

**Orphy Robinson** *DEPUTY CHAIR IVORS ACADEMY*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: APPLIED MUSIC: IN FILMS, PUBLICITY, VIDEO GAMES...

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC-COMMUNITIES IN THE ERA OF A.I

18.10 | ROUNDTABLE: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN MUSIC

Orphy Robinson is an award-winning multi-Instrumentalist & Composer, he is one of the few UK musicians to have been signed to the legendary Jazz Record label Blue Note. In a career spanning more than 40 years, he has played or been featured on over 100 recordings. Orphy has also composed for Film/Television and Documentaries. He is an ambassador for the UK music charity Music for all. Robinson sits on the Ivor’s Academy board where he is both a Trustee and Chair of the Jazz genre committee. He is Vice-Chair of the UK National Youth Jazz Orchestra and Vice-Chair of the Jazz Promotion Network.

**Pete Mehravari**

*(INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ALLIANCE)*

18.10 | ROUNDTABLE: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN MUSIC

Pete Mehravari is responsible for directing the policy and legal activities of the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), a private sector coalition of trade associations representing U.S. industries working to improve enforcement of copyrighted materials and open up foreign markets closed by piracy and other market access barriers. Mr. Mehravari joined the IIPA after leading the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Global Intellectual Property Academy and served overseas as the U.S. Intellectual Property Attaché, a senior U.S. diplomatic role, for the Middle East and North Africa.

**Ruth Fisher** *JAZZ FM-ONE JAZZ*

15.10 | ROUNDTABLE: HOW TO PRESENT ONESELF AS A BAND

15.10 | PRACTICAL SESSION: HOW TO DEAL WITH AN INTERVIEW

18.10 | PRACTICAL SESSION: HEALTH & WELLBEING

Ruth Fisher is one of the UK’s leading jazz radio voices, with over 20 years of experience at home and abroad. Since joining JazzFM in 2016, she has hosted acclaimed shows such as *Full Circle and The Performance Series*, and now presents Future Jazz on Monday nights, spotlighting the most innovative new releases worldwide. She also hosts on One Jazz, a 24/7 global online network, with *Four Corners*, a monthly show exploring the jazz scene of a different country each edition.

**Set Hallström** *BASSPISTOL.COM*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC-COMMUNITIES IN THE ERA OF A.I

Set Hallström is a multidisciplinary creative and free software advocate dedicated to building resilient, independent music communities. As resident “tone architect” with the hacker collective Dyne.org and co-founder of the Outernational Music Syndicate Basspistol.com, he works at the intersection of music, technology, and decentralization, developing sovereign tools and collaborative networks that safeguard artistic autonomy in the digital age.

**Shwan Askari** *(COMPOSER & PRODUCER)*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: APPLIED MUSIC: IN FILMS, PUBLICITY, VIDEO GAMES...

Shwan Askari is a composer and music producer based in Geneva, Switzerland, who has produced music for a wide range of media, including film, television, and video games, with his work being broadcasted globally. As an additional music composer, Shwan Askari has written music for acclaimed films and TV shows such as the Netflix series *Love Death and Robots – The Swarm*, *Three Thousand Years of Longing* (directed by George Miller), and the blockbuster theatrical film *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*.

**Tim Garcia** *(RINSE FM, MUSICA MACONDO)*

15.10 | ROUNDTABLE: HOW TO PRESENT ONESELF AS A BAND

15.10 | PRACTICAL SESSION: HOW TO DEAL WITH AN INTERVIEW

16.10 | ROUNDTABLE: RECORD LABELS: MAJOR AND INDIE

Tim Garcia is a London-based DJ, broadcaster, and label founder known for his eclectic selections across electronic, jazz, hip-hop, and global club sounds. A weekly resident on Rinse FM and formerly on Jazz FM and Worldwide FM, he has built a reputation for bridging genres and communities. Through his label Música Macondo, he has released works by Grammy-nominated and internationally acclaimed artists, driven by the belief that music is a force for cultural and social change.

**Vincent Favrat**

*O - THE SYMBIOTIC VENTURE STUDIO*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC-COMMUNITIES IN THE ERA OF A.I

Vincent Favrat is a Swiss venture builder and investor specializing in AI and impact innovation. He is Managing Partner of O, the Symbiotic Venture Studio, and founder of the ScaleUp Factory seed fund. He has led ventures such as NOLEJ, a global edtech leader, and Musimap, an emotional AI pioneer. Beginning his career at the Montreux Jazz Festival, he later co-financed over 30 European film and TV productions and collaborated with Quincy Jones on international music and media projects, including Qwest TV.

**Xavier Oberson**

*PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, PRESIDENT MJAF*

17.10 | ROUNDTABLE: MUSIC-COMMUNITIES IN THE ERA OF A.I

Xavier Oberson is Professor of Swiss and International Tax Law at the University of Geneva and Partner at Oberson Abels SA, a law firm specializing in tax and commercial matters. He has published numerous works, including: *Précis de droit fiscal international* (2022); *Taxing AI* (2019, 2024) ; *International Exchange of Information in Tax Matters* (2023). He is also Vice-President of the Board of the FFJM and President of the MJAF. Finally, he is an electric guitarist in several rock and fusion bands, including FisK and Out of Law.

# Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation

A philanthropic foundation supporting emerging talent and promoting access to music

## Supporting a new generation of talent

Recognized as a public utility, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) supports emerging artists and fosters exchange through a universal language: music. Founded in 2007, the MJAF pursues two main objectives: discovering and nurturing young talents at the start of their careers, and providing access to music for everyone.

Throughout the year, the MJAF creates discoveries and meaningful encounters through its artist residency, outreach activities, and talent development programs. These projects are entirely funded by private donations and public grants.



## OUR OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES

1.

### HIGHLIGHTING AND PROMOTING NEW TALENT

MJAF NIGHTS  
MJF RESIDENCY - CONCERTS

WORKSHOPS  
JAM SESSIONS  
LISTENING SESSIONS  
PROJECTIONS

### SHARING MUSIC WITH EVERYONE

3.

2.

### SUPPORTING CREATIVITY AND DEVELOPING CAREERS

MJF RESIDENCY  
EDUCATIVE PROGRAM

BOOKING  
OPPORTUNITIES

### PRESENTING MUSICAL GEMS TO THE GREATER PUBLIC

4.



## MONTREUX JAZZ ARTISTS FOUNDATION

## Opportunities created year-round

Artists participating in the Residency join our talent pool, that we continue to support throughout their careers. They are regularly offered opportunities to perform at our own events or with our partners. For example, **Afra Kane** and **Andrina Bollinger** performed at the Purple Music Festival in Paris, **Nayana** at the Istituto Svizzero in Rome, **Anatole Muster** at MJF Rio, **Julia Heart** at MJF China, and **Fabian Mösch** at the New Echo System Residency in Venice.

Through its partnership with the U.S. Mission, the MJAF was able to nominate **Kety Fusco** to participate in the 2025 edition of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), a prestigious U.S. government cultural and professional exchange program.

**Louise Knobil, Maya Delilah, Dino Brandao, Mel D, Jasmine Myra, and Nils Boyny** are among the many talents who have participated in our autumn event.



Anatole Muster, MJF Residency 2022



Maya Delilah, MJF Residency 2023



Mel D, MJF Residency 2024



Reinel Bakole, MJF Residency 2024



Kety Fusco, The Memphis 2022



Jasmine Myra, MJF Residency 2023





Montreux Jazz Festival Residency 2023

## SUPPORT OUR ACTIVITIES

Thanks to the support of our donors, the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) discovers and fosters new talents in the early stage of their career, supporting creativity and career development. We also aim to share music with as many people as possible, offering free programming in a blend of concerts and outreach activities. If you would like to support the exciting mission of our Foundation, we invite you to make a donation.

## MAKE A DONATION



IBAN: CH82 0024 9249 8169 2101 Y

N° DE COMPTE: 249-816921.01Y

BIC/SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A

If you are an American patron, please pass through Charities Aid Foundation of America (CAF) to make your donation.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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mjaf.ch

# Special thanks

The Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation sincerely thanks all our partners, the public bodies, foundations, corporate institutions and private donors for their generous financial support and their valuable collaboration.

### GLOBAL PARTNERS

- Audemars Piguet
- Julius Baer

### CORPORATE INSTITUTIONS

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- Clarence Dillon

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- Commune de Montreux
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to the United Nations and  
Other International  
Organizations in Geneva

### PRIVATE DONORS

Thank you to all the generous Talent Circle members and other private donors.

We thank also our artistic partners, without whom these projects would never have been possible.

For more information about the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation and its activities, please go to [www.mjaf.ch](http://www.mjaf.ch)

## Foundation board

**Chairman** Xavier Oberson

**Vice-Chairman** Mathieu Jatton

### Membres

- S.A.R. Julie de Luxembourg
- Wendy Oxenhorn
- Stephanie Rada Zocco
- Magali Van Overbeke  
Deconinck

## Operational team

**CEO** Mathieu Jatton

**Secretary General**

Viviane Rychner Raouf

**Executive assistant**

Nathalie Oguey

### Curator

Stéphanie-Aloysia Moretti

### Programmers

- Stéphanie-Aloysia Moretti
- Claudia Regolatti Muller
- Rémi Bruggmann
- David Torreblanca

# Press



## Journalists & Photographers

Would you like to present the Foundation, attend a concert or a workshop, highlight Swiss and international talent, discover the secrets of the mentors or report on the life of the residents behind the scenes? We'll be happy to plan your editorial coverage, your interviews and your visit to Montreux. Don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

### YOUR CONTACT

**Eduardo Mendez**  
Press Officer

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+41 21 966 45 16

## Downloads

On a special page in our press area, you will find all the MJF Residency documentation, the artists' promotional material and the official photos of the event, for editorial use:

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

### ACCESS

Public activities (showcases, workshops, concerts, and jam sessions) are free and open to all, with no reservation required.

### LOCATION

Petit Palais, Fairmont  
Le Montreux Palace  
Avenue Claude Nobs 2  
1820, Montreux

