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**PRESS RELEASE**

Montreux  
Jazz Festival

MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL PROGRAMME 2026

# THE MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 60<sup>TH</sup> YEAR WITH A VIBRANT AND COLOURFUL PROGRAMME

From 3 to 18 July 2026, the Montreux Jazz Festival will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> edition in a brand-new Convention Centre. After a two-year break, festivalgoers can once again experience its iconic venues: the Auditorium Stravinski and the Montreux Jazz Lab. This year's programme spans generations, styles and continents, bringing together emerging voices, pop culture icons, and legendary figures from jazz, rock and hip-hop. Special projects and tributes to the Festival's history will also feature throughout this anniversary edition. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday 1 April at midday.

*The programme includes, among others:*

Sting, Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, RAYE & Special Guests, Moby, The Roots, Tyla, PinkPantheress, Zara Larsson, Lewis Capaldi, Conan Gray, GIVÉON, John Legend, The Isley Brothers, Deep Purple, James Taylor, Van Morrison, Agnes Obel, Charlotte Cardin, Cerrone, Dabeull, Vulfpeck, Jovanotti, Marcus Miller, Billy Cobham, Charles Lloyd, Gregory Porter, Sienna Spiro, kwn, Liniker, Naïka, Iliona, Young Miko, Angus & Julia Stone, Dermot Kennedy, Eddy de Pretto, Makala, ¥Ø\$UK€ ¥UK1MAT\$U...

Home at last! After two years of open-air events, the Montreux Jazz Festival celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> edition with a return to what has always been its hallmark: the exceptional acoustics, comfort and intimacy of its indoor stages. At the same time, recent editions have provided valuable insights, and the Festival will retain its extended lakeside route, offering a wide range of food options and free stages along the quays.

The 60<sup>th</sup> edition, brought to life by Kévin Germanier's flamboyant artwork, presents a bold and colourful line-up. Expect special projects, exclusive shows and evenings steeped in symbolism and history. For the opening night, **RAYE** will be joined by a host of *special guests* for a show created exclusively for the Festival, co-created by Audemars Piguet, and the Auditorium Stravinski will be completely reimaged with a stage design never before seen at Montreux. At the Lab, **Eddy de Pretto** opens the Festival with "Lonely Club", a hybrid work blending music and contemporary dance in collaboration with choreographer Maud Le Pladec, while French disco legend **Cerrone** delivers an explosive finale with his orchestral performance "Disco Symphonic".

For two very special evenings, the Lab will be transformed into an American jazz club. **Marcus Miller** honours the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Miles Davis's birth, reuniting the musicians who played on the album *We Want*

*Miles!*, while **Charles Lloyd** marks 60 years since his appearance at the first Festival's edition. Joining the lineup are other long-time Festival legends: **Deep Purple** (marking 30 years since their first MJF in 1996), **Billy Cobham** (11 concerts since 1974), **Sting** (8 concerts since 1990), and **Van Morrison** (21 concerts since 1974), who will close the 60<sup>th</sup> edition alongside another folk music legend, **James Taylor**.

Returning to the Convention Centre once again brings a familiar challenge for Montreux: convincing top artists to adapt their shows for the 4,000-seat Auditorium Stravinski. This year, the Festival will host some of the biggest names in pop, many of whom will perform only a handful of European dates this summer. Among them, **PinkPantheress** makes her Swiss debut, while **Tyla**, **Giveon** and **Conan Gray** will perform in French-speaking Switzerland for the first time.

This summer, around forty artists – over half the Festival line-up – will be Swiss exclusives, including **The Roots**, **Vulfpeck**, **John Legend**, **Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds**, and **Moby**.

## THE PROGRAMME IN DETAIL

# AUDITORIUM STRAVINSKI

For the 60<sup>th</sup> edition's opening night, **RAYE** will host several special guests in a bespoke show co-created with Audemars Piguet. For the occasion, the Auditorium Stravinski will be transformed with a stage design never before seen in Montreux. The British singer, returning for the third consecutive summer, follows in the footsteps of her heroines, Nina Simone and Etta James, whose performances at the Festival left a lasting impression on her. Her first Montreux performance was immortalised on the *Live at Montreux* vinyl in 2024, and since then, her hit song "WHERE IS MY HUSBAND!" and new album, featuring Al Green and Hans Zimmer, have further cemented her meteoric rise.

From Johannesburg to Scandinavia, via the United States, the United Kingdom and Spain, the Auditorium Stravinski will play host to the best of global pop music. **PinkPantheress** and **Zara Larsson**, currently topping the global charts with their iconic collaboration "Stateside", are both on the line-up. PinkPantheress is a key figure in contemporary pop, who made history at the Brit Awards as the first woman to be named Producer of the Year. Meanwhile, Swedish popstar Zara Larsson reaches new heights with a bold artistic direction on *Midnight Sun* and three tracks currently in the global Top 50. As the youngest African artist to receive a Grammy, **Tyla** has put amapiano firmly on the global map with her viral hit "Water". Having wowed audiences at the Montreux Jazz Lab in 2019, **Lewis Capaldi** now headlines Europe's biggest festivals, transforming vulnerability into sing-along anthems that resonate worldwide. Gen Z superstar **Conan Gray** delivers bold, unfiltered pop storytelling with a queer perspective, while Spanish singer-songwriter **Guitarricadelafuente** channels flamenco influences. Together, they bring the fresh voice of the younger generation to the Festival.

Next up are three icons of the eighties and nineties. From the Lynchian rave classic "Go" (1991) to the blues- and gospel-infused samples that define *Play* (1999), **Moby** helped define the sound of the 1990s with a repertoire that still resonates today. This year, he will perform at Montreux for the very first time. **Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds**, formed in 1983, have also spanned decades without losing an ounce of intensity or relevance, moving effortlessly between organic ballads and ferocious, noise-driven bursts. Meanwhile, **Jovanotti**, a pioneer of Italian hip-hop since the mid-1980s, returns to Montreux for the first time since 1999, further cementing his reputation as a relentless musical explorer.

Since the fifties, **The Isley Brothers** have shaped the sound of modern music – yet they had never performed at Montreux until now. Having inspired The Beatles with "Twist and Shout" and played a formative role in the rise of Jimi Hendrix, their influence continues to ripple through modern music, with samples embraced by artists from 2Pac to Kendrick Lamar. The Cincinnati group's hits span eight decades, and they stand among the most enduring acts in music history, seamlessly evolving from rock 'n' roll to soul, funk and disco. The evening continues with **The Roots**, masters of a richly textured, jazz-inflected hip-hop, who are making their sixth return to the Festival in what is sure to be an electrifying performance.

On these three evenings, groove takes centre stage. The 17 July sees the virtuosic funk-jazz of **Vulfpeck** paired with the quiet powerhouse of British rap, **Loyle Carner**. Meanwhile, 9 and 10 July shine a light on two generations of crooners: **GIVĒON**, a rising force in American R&B, known for collaborations with Drake, Teddy Swims and Justin Bieber, and **John Legend**, whose angelic voice and timeless elegance require little introduction.

Finally, let's look back at the key editions in the Festival's history: the first year under the direction of Quincy Jones in 1991; the decade celebrations from 1996 to 2016; the first edition without Claude Nobs in 2013; and, more recently, the introduction of the Lake Stage in 2024. Three towering figures of rock history, closely tied to many of these defining moments, will naturally be part of the 60<sup>th</sup> edition: **Deep Purple**, **Sting** and **Van Morrison**. The latter will bring the Festival to a close alongside another giant of folk music, **James Taylor**, whose finely wrought songwriting and gentle melodies will grace Montreux for the fifth time.

## MONTREUX JAZZ LAB

For the 60<sup>th</sup> edition, the Lab starts and ends its programme with two singular projects. Opening the edition is **Eddy de Pretto**, who joins forces with choreographer **Maud Le Pladec** for *Lonely Club* – a hybrid creation blending music and contemporary dance, exploring solitude within the collective. To bring the Lab to a close, the pioneering figure of French disco **Cerrone** presents **Disco Symphonic**, an orchestral reimagining of his timeless hits.

Within the international pop-folk landscape, several established artists make a welcome return to Montreux. The magnetic Danish singer-pianist **Agnes Obel** will perform on the same evening as **Selah Sue & the Gallands**, as she reinvents her sound within a jazz-tinged trio. Australian duo **Angus & Julia Stone** bring their signature harmonies, preceded by indie sensation **Dove Ellis**, whose work has already drawn comparisons to Thom Yorke and Jeff Buckley. Irish singer-songwriter **Dermot Kennedy** also returns to the Lab following his acclaimed appearance in 2019, with his deeply expressive voice once again set to captivate audiences.

From the Francophone world, Quebec's **Charlotte Cardin**, who was recently awarded Female Artist of the Year at the Victoires de la Musique, makes her debut at the Lab following a standout appearance on the free programme in 2023, and Belgian artist **Iliona's** gentle, effervescent pop closes a three-act line-up alongside **Erin LeCount** and **Paris Paloma**.

### JAZZ EVENINGS AT THE LAB

For two extraordinary nights, the Lab transforms into an intimate jazz club, hosting four masters of the genre.

On 16 July, bassist **Marcus Miller** celebrates the centenary of Miles Davis's birth, bringing together the backing band from the album *We Want Miles!*, recorded in Japan in 1981, to revisit the trumpeter's legendary repertoire. The evening opens with another of Miles's esteemed collaborators, drummer **Billy Cobham**, one of the most influential percussionists of his generation and a pioneering force in the birth of jazz fusion at the dawn of the 1970s.

On 17 July, two generations of Blue Note Records artists take to the stage: the legendary saxophonist **Charles Lloyd**, celebrating sixty years since his appearance at the very first edition of the Festival, and the Californian crooner **Gregory Porter**, a two-time Grammy Award winner for Best Jazz Vocal Album.

Groove, the defining element of the Montreux Jazz Festival, takes central stage with the unrestrained, vintage-inspired funk of French artist **Dabeull**, and the soulful melodies of the mysterious hooded **Pale Jay**. On 6 July, the Lab presents two British singers shaped by Afro-American influences: **Sienna Spiro**, a standout from last year's Spotlight Sessions, and **kwn**, a fearless voice reshaping the rules of modern R&B.

The evening of 7 July promises to be just as fiery. Brazilian queer icon **Liniker** presents her latest album *CAJU*, a gem of soul, samba, pop, and jazz fusion, alongside Franco-Haitian singer **Naïka**, whose music traverses styles and continents, with lyrics dipping in and out of French, English, and Creole. Staying on the American continent, the evening of 15 July brings together the trap-reggaeton sounds of Puerto Rican superstar **Young Miko**, who rose to fame alongside Bad Bunny and Billie Eilish, and the sun-soaked, romantic anthems of Venezuelan artist **Danny Ocean**.

Electronic music takes over across two nights, each with its own distinct flavour. On 5 July, the Lab is set to explode with the frenetic energy of British hyperpop icon **Danny L. Harle, ascendant vierge**, a Belgian-French duo blending cathartic techno with soaring vocals, and Japanese underground legend **¥ØU\$UKE ¥UKIMAT\$U**, known for his unpredictable collisions of trance, noise, gabber, and free jazz. On 9 July, the focus shifts to a more melodic but equally captivating sound, led by the hypnotic, immersive soundscapes of Zurich-based duo **Adriatique** and German producer **Ben Böhmer**.

On 12 July, the Festival's Francophone rap night brings together four of the scene's brightest talents: 21-year-old **R2**, whose hit song "Ruinart" has taken the scene by storm; **Makala**, a powerhouse of the Geneva scene promoting his funk-heavy third album **Yamoto**; **RnBoi**, the rising prince of French R&B signed by Aya Nakamura; and **Bekar**, a rap sensation from northern France whose debut album *Plus fort que l'orage* has been a smash hit.

## A RETURN TO THE CONVENTION CENTRE, WITH AN EXPANDED ROUTE ALONG THE QUAYS

For its 60<sup>th</sup> edition, the Montreux Jazz Festival returns indoors after two years in the open air, to a Convention Centre reimaged for a more open connection to the lake and quays. Redesigned entrances, new stairways, and wider terraces make it easier for visitors to move around, while the iconic Auditorium Stravinski and Montreux Jazz Lab remain largely unchanged, with just a few technical enhancements and more comfortable balcony seating in the Auditorium Stravinski.

Lessons learned from recent "off-site" editions have opened up exciting new possibilities. The Festival's legendary venues will now be blended with the successful layouts trialled during 2024 and 2025. The extended route along the quays, from Parc Vernex to the Débarcadère, will remain in place, easing the flow of visitors and providing more spaces to relax.

Exciting new projects are in the works and will be revealed in greater detail alongside the free programme announcement. The **Festival's electronic stage** will be reinvented under a new name, housed in a two-storey indoor club at the heart of the Convention Centre. **Parc Vernex** will be transformed into a true summer retreat, combining sunlit dining, entertainment, relaxation, and direct access to the lake. Meanwhile, **the expanded terraces** of the Convention Centre will host dining, bar, and activity areas, all with breathtaking views of the lake

## MONTREUX JAZZ INSIDER PRESALE

Tickets go on sale on Wednesday 1 April at noon. Those signed up as Montreux Jazz Insider can enjoy the Early Bird presale today, Tuesday 31 March from 2pm, a full day ahead of the official box office opening.

### PRESS AREA

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

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