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PRESS RELEASE

Montreux
Jazz Festival



FREE PROGRAMME MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL 2026

OVER 700 FREE EVENTS AT THE 60TH MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Montreux Jazz Festival unveils its expansive free programme, set along the lakeside promenades and within a brand-new Convention Centre, from 3 to 18 July 2026. Among this year's highlights: the Duplex introduces an unprecedented electronic club experience across two floors of the 2m2c; the Paloma transforms Parc Vernex into a true beach club; and an exhibition celebrates the Festival's 60th anniversary through a curated selection of objects, archives and artworks—most of them never before shown to the public.

Concerts and DJ sets

A6EL • ARMANA KHAN • ARON! • AVALON EMERSON • BAMBY • BÉESAU • BLEU SOLEIL • CARRTOONS
CHEZILE • CHLÄR • CLIFFORDS • DBN GOGO • DJ NOBU • EBONY • ERIS DREW • FAUSTE • GINI BROWN
HELENA HAUFF B2B L.F.T. • JEUNE MORTY • KNATS • L'ANTIDOTE • LIL LOUIS • LISA PARIENTE
LUKE ALESSI • MADRA SALACH • MEI SEMONES • MIDNIGHT GENERATION • MILUNE • RIKAS
RÛFÛS DU SOL • SALIN • SALOMÉ LE CHAT • SAMORA • SÉLÈNE SAINT-AIMÉ • STEVE RAY LADSON
TOMOKI SANDERS • TONINA • TSHA • YILIAN CAÑIZARES • ZÉLIE • ZEYNE

And a wide range of activities

CONCERTS • DJ SETS • JAM SESSIONS • WORKSHOPS • POOL PARTIES
SILENT DISCOS & KARAOKE • DRAG PERFORMANCES • CONCERT AND FILM SCREENINGS
VINYL LISTENING SESSIONS • DANCE CLASSES • RECORD FAIR

Concerts, DJ sets, jam sessions, workshops, screenings: with 700 events spread across 12 stages over 16 days, the Montreux Jazz Festival offers one of the most significant free programmes in the Swiss cultural landscape. Curated with the same level of artistic rigour as the ticketed stages, the free programme reflects the Festival's commitment to making **a high-quality musical, cultural and festive experience accessible to all**. Showcasing a wide diversity of styles and atmospheres, the free stages spotlight emerging talent from Switzerland and around the world.

The last two editions held outside the Convention Centre have provided valuable insights. The Festival is now consolidating its **extended site along the lakeside promenades**, from Parc Vernex to the Débarcadère in the east, in order to improve audience flow and offer more relaxation areas. Meanwhile, the 2m2c benefits from new possibilities thanks to redesigned access points, outdoor staircases and spacious terraces, making the building more open to the waterfront.

The Festival site is being reimagined through three major new features. The **Duplex** offers electronic music a wholly new playground within a large immersive space spread across two floors of the 2m2c. The **Paloma** brings a seaside atmosphere to Parc Vernex, with a sun-drenched restaurant and a pop-up beach area set on a terrace with direct access to the lake. At the Montreux Palace, the exhibition “**Putting Montreux on the Map**” celebrates the Festival’s 60th edition by retracing the musical history of the city through a curated selection of objects, archives and artworks—most of them never previously shown to the public.

LAKE HOUSE

Now a true institution, the Lake House takes over the Petit Palais for a fifth consecutive edition. This three-storey residency—essentially a “festival within the festival”—invites audiences to wander freely from room to room and immerse themselves in a wide range of musical, cultural and festive experiences.

THE MEMPHIS SUPPORTED BY JULIUS BAER

The Memphis is dedicated to jazz in all its forms. Screenings and workshops are offered in the late afternoon, followed by concerts from some of the most exciting names on today’s jazz scene. Legendary jam sessions then carry the night through until 5am.

Evenings at the Memphis open with a series of film screenings paying tribute to the Lake Stage: ten landmark performances from that stage have been selected, including *Raye* (2024) and *Pulp* (2025). Workshops will feature figures such as **Charles Lloyd**, **Marcus Miller**, **Deep Purple** and **Gregory Porter**. The “Montreux, Creative City” series revisits the Festival’s ties with artists such as Prince and David Bowie. These sessions celebrate Montreux’s inclusion in UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network in the field of music. Meanwhile, the directors of Paléo and the Montreux Jazz Festival, **Daniel Rosselat** and **Mathieu Jatton**, will explore the story of the friendly rivalry between the two neighbouring festivals.

On the concert side, **aron!** and **Mei Semones** represent a new generation of US artists blurring the lines between indie pop, vocal jazz and bossa nova. Producer and multi-instrumentalist **CARRTOONS** and saxophonist **Tomoki Sanders**, child of the legendary Pharoah Sanders, carry forward the legacy of the New York jazz scene. Originally from Newcastle, the band **Knats** fuse a wide spectrum of influences, from Charles Mingus to UK garage, hip-hop and punk. Switzerland is represented by Zurich-based “jazztronica” duo **Samson Philipps**. Elsewhere, Spanish duo **Maestro Espada** explore cinematic soundscapes, while Thai drummer **Salin** develops a global percussive universe. Finally, Australian drummer and producer **Alexander Flood** brings together broken beat, house and jazz in a fluid, hybrid language.

LE CINÉMA AND LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Two thematic strands run through the programme of these two intimate spaces at the heart of the Lake House. From 6 to 12 July, the **history of electronic music** is explored through screenings of iconic Montreux performances (New Order, Underworld, The Chemical Brothers, Justice, among others) alongside listening sessions dedicated to landmark albums of the genre (Wendy Carlos, Cybotron, Kraftwerk, Aphex Twin...). The second week of the Festival celebrates the **100th anniversary of Miles Davis** with four of his Montreux concerts and a selection of his most iconic recordings (*Kind of Blue*, *Bitches Brew*, *Jack Johnson*...). The final weekend is dedicated to **David Bowie**, his connections to jazz—particularly on the haunting *Blackstar*—and his years spent in the Montreux region.

La Bibliothèque hosts Switzerland’s largest collection of books on jazz and contemporary music, as well as 2,500 vinyl records, including 300 *Live at Montreux* albums. Everything is freely accessible, with a Nagra turntable and a Meyer Sound system available to visitors. Dozens of records and books are presented and contextualised by journalists, writers and figures from the music and cultural worlds.

A favourite destination for film and music lovers alike, the **Cinéma** screens concert recordings captured in Montreux, alongside a curated programme of documentaries and films developed in collaboration with the Tourne-Films Festival, the Locarno Film Festival and the Swiss Film Archive. The concert recordings come from the Claude Nobs/Montreux Sounds Collection, inscribed on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register, in collaboration with the Claude Nobs Foundation, RTS and EPFL.

LA COUPOLE

A landmark venue of the Lake House, La Coupole once again presents its signature programme of house, disco and funk, with occasional incursions into amapiano and reggaeton.

Among the highlights: Chicago house pioneer **Lil Louis**; **Luke Alessi**, the Australian breakout artist championed by some of the biggest names on the current scene; **TSHA**, the British producer and MOBO Award winner; **DBN Gogo**, a leading figure of South African amapiano; **Armana Khan**, with her high-energy, queer-tinged oriental universe; and **Quelza**, presenting a special soul/funk set, stepping away from his usual techno territory.

Activities & concerts presented by the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation

The jam sessions and workshops at the Memphis are curated by the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF), a public-interest foundation established in 2007. In addition to these activities, the MJAF continues its mission of talent development by presenting a series of concerts featuring **L’Antidote**, a trio with Iranian, Lebanese and Albanian roots; **Sélène Saint-Aimé**, French vocalist and double bassist; **Poppy Daniels**, a London-based trumpeter performing with a 100% female sextet in partnership with Women in Jazz; keyboardist **Sean Haefeli** and bassist **Tonina**, who embody the renewal of the contemporary American jazz scene; and French flautist **Ludivine Issambourg**, joined by legendary musician **Brian Jackson**, whose flute and Fender Rhodes sound helped shape Gil Scott-Heron’s music in the 1970s.

Finally, on the occasion of the MJF’s 60th edition, the Foundation invites the winners of its competitions by showcasing artists it supports over the long term: Cuban-Swiss singer and violinist **Yilian Cañizares**, guitar-and-vocal duo **Elina Duni & Rob Luft**, and Franco-Malagasy pianist **Mathis Picard**.

60TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION *PUTTING MONTREUX ON THE MAP*

How did a small town on the shores of Lake Geneva become a global capital of music? Presented at the Montreux Palace on the occasion of the Festival's 60th edition, the exhibition *Putting Montreux on the Map* traces this remarkable journey through **objects, audiovisual archives, photographs and original artworks – the majority of which have never previously been shown to the public.**

The exhibition explores **the emergence of a unique musical ecosystem:** a summer festival that has become an international benchmark, a prestigious recording studio, a bold pop-oriented programme, and a network of leading artists drawn to Montreux to create, record, and sometimes settle there. At the heart of this dynamic lies a **founding figure: Claude Nobs.**

Visitors can also discover the **creative process behind iconic Festival posters** by artists such as Keith Haring and Jean Tinguely, through original works, sketches and previously unseen maquettes. The journey continues with the **immersive virtual reality experience *Listening to Photographs***, created by the University of Lausanne and the EPFL, offering an exploration of the Festival's history through photographs and sound excerpts. Finally, visitors can delve into a **curated selection of concerts filmed between 2014 and 2025** at the Montreux Jazz Festival, accessed via a cutting-edge digital platform inspired by the jukebox and developed by Millennium, the Festival's global partner.

SPOTLIGHT STAGE SUPPORTED BY JULIUS BAER

The Spotlight Stage retains its location from last year, extending the Festival's pathway eastwards. This open-air stage explores current pop and urban trends in an electrifying setting. It embodies the MJF Spotlight brand, launched by the Festival in 2021 to support and promote emerging artists across digital platforms.

The Spotlight Stage places a strong focus on the Francophone pop-rap scene and its rising talents, including Lille-based singer **Zélie**; the masked, genre-defying **Romsii**; *Star Academy 2024* finalist **Ebony**, now stepping forward with a bold debut album; Swiss artist **a6el**, who broke through with his hit "Soleil" and will perform at the Tataki night; and **Piche**, singer-rapper and finalist of *Drag Race France*. Ranked in Pitchfork's Top 10 hip-hop albums of 2025, **Jeune Morty** crosses borders with his fusion of trap and Ivorian «coupé-découlé».

Also featured are **Chезile**, the US indie lo-fi artist who broke through with the viral track "Beanie"; Palestinian-Jordanian artist **Zeyne**, a collaborator of Saint Levant; and Mexican band **Midnight Generation**, whose retro funk-electro-disco sound recalls Parcels. July 10 is fully dedicated to Caribbean music—dancehall, bouyon and shatta—with a night opened by French-Guyanese singer **Bamby**, who has collaborated with some of the biggest names in contemporary French rap. The Marseille-based collective **Maraboutage** will close the edition in a spirit of free and inclusive celebration.

SUPER BOCK STAGE

As in the past two editions, the Super Bock Stage takes over Parc Suisse with its Biergarten and relaxed summer atmosphere. Open to all audiences, this open-air stage offers a varied and unifying programme, bringing together Swiss and international artists.

On the Swiss side, the line-up features Fribourg singer **Fauste**, stepping out solo after five years as part of the duo BARON.E; Zurich-based German-American rocker **Gini Brown**; and **LUM**, whose sound blends rap and reggaeton. International highlights include **Madra Salach**, who challenges and reshapes the codes of Irish folk music, and **Steve Ray Ladson**, a finalist on *America's Got Talent*, embodying the reclamation of country music by the African American community. Also featured are Australian folk artist **Kim Churchill**; the cathartic indie rock of Irish band **Cliffords**; and Chilean group **Calle Mambo**, who fuse traditional South American instruments with electronic textures. Reggae artist **Samora** returns to the Super Bock Stage with a project highlighting female voices from around the world, spanning Suriname to Jamaica, as well as Canada and Liberia. Jura-born rapper **Sim's** will take part in the traditional "Singing Hands Day", a concert interpreted into sign language in collaboration with ProCap.

NESTLÉ SUNSET STAGE

Each evening at sunset, the terrace of the Nestlé Sunset Stage becomes a must-visit meeting point, hosting concerts by emerging talents, many of them supported by the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation. Unique culinary experiences and DJ sets also bring the space to life in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere.

The stage will feature **Bleu Soleil**, the French duo known for their warm electro-dub sound and breakout hit "Soleil Bleu"; **Béésau**, trumpeter and beatmaker who has already appeared at Montreux alongside saxophonist Ferdi; **Lisa Pariente**, a rising voice in introspective French pop; and **Rikas**, an indie pop band infused with funk and soul influences.

Swiss talent is well represented by a strong line-up of female artists: **Lady O**, the first Swiss artist to win *The Voice France*; **Roxane**, a pop-soul singer who took part in the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation residency in 2021; **Milune**, a rising star of Zurich's pop scene; and **Marie Jay**, returning to the MJF programme for a third consecutive year.

DUPLEX NEW

The Festival's new nighttime playground, the Duplex offers a wholly unprecedented electronic club experience. This immersive space spans two floors of the Convention Centre as well as an outdoor terrace.

The programme, both forward-thinking and accessible, showcases a broad spectrum of today's club music: techno, house, trance, high-energy, Latin.x and broken beat. Two rare highlights stand out: **DJ Nobu** and **Polygona**, each delivering a special house set that departs from their usual styles—techno for the former, experimental breakbeat for the latter. The line-up also features a series of exclusive B2Bs, bringing together artists with strong individual identities and established solo careers: **Helena Hauff B2B L.F.T.** for an abrasive encounter between EBM, acid and industrial textures; **Peach B2B Ogazón** for a house set full of shifting nuances; and **Surusinghe B2B Moktar** in a dialogue shaped by Latin.x influences.

Other highlights include Swiss, Berlin-based artist **Chlär**, a rising figure in Europe's hardgroove scene; **Eris Drew**, a queer icon of the American rave movement; and **Avalon Emerson**, equally at home in electronic music and indie pop circles.

PALOMA RESTAURANT & BEACH CLUB NEW

Sun-drenched flavours, a festive atmosphere and an ephemeral beach: **Paloma transforms Parc Vernex into a true beach club.** At once a restaurant, seaside lounge and cocktail bar, this hybrid venue shifts mood throughout the day, animated by DJ sets, afterworks and special happenings. Highlights include a Run & Groove electronic race on 5 July, a Coffee Party on 11 July, and a Disco Lunch on 12 July. The **Paloma beach**, set on a terrace overlooking the lake, invites visitors to relax and swim. The presence of a lifeguard ensures a safe and carefree experience.

LILO, EL MUNDO & POOL PARTY

A lakeside bar with the feel of a tropical guinguette, Lilo sits directly opposite the Convention Centre and offers a house music programme in an idyllic setting. A mix of rising talents and established names from the house scene take turns behind the decks, including **Salomé Le Chat**, **Kitty Amor**, **William Djoko**, and **Aline UMBER** with a live set.

A hub for Latin music in all its forms, **El Mundo** hosts afternoon dance classes followed by high-energy concerts and DJ sets into the night. After a one-year break, the **Pool Parties** return on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the Festival at the iconic Casino swimming pool, soundtracked by sun-drenched DJ sets.

AUDEMARS PIGUET PARALLEL EXPERIENCE

The Audemars Piguet Parallel Experience returns for another unforgettable evening. Launched in 2022, this series of musical immersions takes place at an undisclosed, unexpected location on the Riviera, kept secret until the very last moment. The 2026 edition will feature a DJ set by **RÜFÜS DU SOL**, a leading force on the electronic scene, who headlined the Lake Stage last summer. Tickets for this event are free and allocated through competitions run on the Montreux Jazz Festival's social media channels.

THE FREE PROGRAMME IN FIGURES

- More than **700** free events, representing over **90%** of the Festival's total offer
 - **140** concerts
 - **320** DJ sets
 - **240** activities
- **12** free stages and **9** activity areas
- **55%** Swiss artists and more than **48** nationalities represented
- **63** food and beverage stands and bars

Full programme



Press Kit



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