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PRESS RELEASE

Montreux
Jazz Festival



RAYE INVITES ALICIA KEYS AND MARK RONSON ON STAGE

MAKES HISTORY AS SHE OPENS THE 60TH MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL

It was a night that will forever be etched in the history of the Montreux Jazz Festival. Returning for her third consecutive appearance, RAYE delivered a spectacular opening performance for the Festival's 60th edition. In a one-off show created exclusively for Montreux, she was joined by Alicia Keys and Mark Ronson—two of her greatest musical inspirations—as well as her talented sisters, Amma and Absolutely. For over two hours, the British singer journeyed through six decades of musical history, paying tribute to the artists who helped build the Festival's legacy, from Nina Simone to Prince.

Entitled *This Stage May Contain Moments in Time*, the opening night, co-created with Audemars Piguet, transformed the Auditorium Stravinski into a setting unlike anything ever seen in Montreux. Surrounded by the audience, RAYE and her band performed on a specially designed rotating octagonal stage. Above them, large suspended fabric drapes were brought to life by videos and photographs from the Festival's archives, as well as images inspired by her artistic world.

“ One of my favorite artists of all time, Ella Fitzgerald, was on this stage. So many greats were on this stage. I think this is why it's so overwhelming and slightly intimidating- in a healthy way - playing this festival” – RAYE

SURPRISE GUESTS: ALICIA KEYS AND MARK RONSON

The first surprise arrived barely twenty minutes into the show, immediately setting the tone for an evening full of unforgettable moments. As she launched into an irresistible rendition of 'Uptown Funk', RAYE invited the song's writer, **Mark Ronson**, to join her on guitar. He then swapped his guitar for a bass to perform 'Suzanne', a track composed by the two artists last year. The appearance added another memorable chapter to Mark Ronson's long-standing relationship with the Montreux Jazz Festival, following a duet with Adele in 2008, an unforgettable disco-funk night with Nile Rodgers in 2012, and a special Audemars Piguet collaboration in 2023.

When Raye uttered the words "Alicia... Keys", a roar the likes of which is rarely heard at the Stravinski Auditorium swept through the crowd. It was an intense moment of surprise and euphoria, already etched into the Festival's history. On piano and vocals, **Alicia Keys** first performed the timeless 'If I Ain't Got You' alongside RAYE, who was just as moved and elated as the audience. The two icons then sat on the floor of the revolving stage to perform a second song together, this time from RAYE's repertoire: the sublime 'Oscar Winning Tears'.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have some very exciting news. Let's have a little backstory: in 2004, this woman played her Montreux Jazz debut. She was the first album I bought. She's the most ridiculous vocalist, the most beautiful human being, the most talented songwriter... ladies and gentlemen, would you please put your hands together for Alicia Keys!" – RAYE

RAYE et Alicia Keys ne s'étaient jamais produites ensemble lors d'un concert auparavant. Ce caméo exceptionnel – l'une des plus belles apparitions surprises de l'histoire du Festival – marque également le retour d'Alicia Keys à Montreux, près de vingt ans après ses concerts de 2004 et 2008. Cette expérience l'avait profondément marquée au début de sa carrière, notamment lorsqu'elle avait pu visionner un concert de Nina Simone au Chalet de Claude Nobs. Un souvenir qu'elle avait d'ailleurs évoqué au micro de Zane Lowe il y a quelques années.

TRIBUTES TO NINA SIMONE, PRINCE AND ELLA FITZGERALD

For this unique performance, RAYE had put together an original setlist, creating a dialogue between her own repertoire and the artists who have shaped the history of the Montreux Jazz Festival. The show opened with 'Who Knows Where The Time Goes', a tribute to her heroine **Nina Simone**. Raye then shared an anecdote with the audience, a true twist of history: Nina Simone had given her most iconic concert in Montreux exactly fifty years to the day, on 3 July 1976.

RAYE prefaced each of her covers with a passionate speech, recalling the year these legends performed at Montreux and just how much they had inspired her. Among these tribute songs were: 'Summertime' (**Ella Fitzgerald**...), 'Georgia On My Mind' (**Ray Charles**), 'Purple Rain' (**Prince**), and **Al Green**'s 'Let's Stay Together', with whom RAYE collaborated on her second album. The show ended on a high note with the song 'Joy', sung alongside her two sisters, **Absolutely** and **Amma**, followed by the hit 'Where is My Husband'.

RAYE AND MONTREUX: THE THIRD CHAPTER OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

RAYE was performing at the Montreux Jazz Festival for the third year running. Following her Festival debut in 2024, RAYE immediately decided to immortalise the concert by releasing her own *Live at Montreux* album. It was an especially emotional evening, as it marked the first time she had ever performed in front of her Swiss grandfather, who appears alongside her on the album's vinyl cover. The photograph was taken backstage shortly after the concert. She returned in 2025 for another acclaimed performance on the Festival's Lake Stage, premiering songs from her second album before rounding off the night with an unforgettable late-night jam session that once again revealed her deep love of jazz.

"Let me tell you, my first ever Montreux Jazz Festival was a moment in time no money can't buy. My Swiss Grandad got to watch me perform live for the first time, at one of the greatest – if not the greatest – festival in the world." – RAYE

FULL SETLIST

RAYE SET LIST — 03.07.2026 — MJF

- Who Knows Where The Time Goes (Nina Simone)
- South London Loverboy
- Skin & Bones
- Rock Steady (Aretha Franklin)
- Uptown funk with Mark Ronson (Mark Ronson)
- Suzanne with Mark Ronson (RAYE + Mark Ronson)
- Get Up (James Brown)
- Georgia On My Mind (Ray Charles)
- Summertime (Jazz standard)
- I hate the way I look today
- Worth it
- Nightingale Lane
- Purple Rain (Prince)
- I know you're hurting
- If I Ain't got you with Alicia Keys (Alicia Keys)
- Oscar Winning Tears with Alicia Keys
- Goodbye Henry (RAYE)
- Let's stay together (Al Green)
- Fields (RAYE)
- Happier Times Ahead (RAYE)
- Joy with Absolutely & Amma (RAYE)
- Click Clack Symphony
- Where is my husband - (RAYE)

Photos



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