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Press release

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The festival program of JazzBaltica 2024

»From three major anniversaries to the most exciting newcomers – we celebrate jazz in all its facets!« Nils Landgren, artistic director of JazzBaltica

From June 27th to June 30th 2024, jazz will once again resound in Timmendorfer Strand. Visitors can expect 37 concerts on the area around the Strandpark, providing an impressive stage for stars and up-and-coming talents and showcasing the many facets of contemporary jazz.

Outstanding artists from the German and international jazz scene will be performing, including Monty Alexander, Rigmor Gustafsson, Viktoria Tolstoy, Ulita Knaus, Markus Stockhausen, Wolfgang Haffner, Sebastian Studnitzky and Gwilym Simcock. In addition, renowned ensembles such as the NDR Bigband, the Jacob Karlzon Trio and the Sarah Chaksad Large Ensemble will present their musical originality.

This summer, JazzBaltica will be focussing on three important anniversaries: in addition to the 30th anniversary of the Nils Landgren Funk Unit and the jazz rap band Jazzkantine, a special tribute concert will be dedicated to the Esbjörn Svensson Trio, which was founded in 1993.

First-class newcomers will also be performing: saxophonists such as Emma Rawicz and Fabia Mantwill, singer Selma Pinton and pianists Yessaï Karapetian and Tigran Tatevosyan guarantee impressive performances.

The youngest festival visitors and their families can also look forward to a very special highlight: the family concert »Schmusebär's sonorous journey with the flying chair« awaits them in the JazzCafé - a musical journey that connects young and old and ensures playful and joyful moments.

The festival site

Artists present their performances in the @the beach series directly on the idyllic beach. Just a few steps away, the rotunda of the Trinkkurhalle shines as a lively JazzCafé. A picturesque OpenAir stage nestles against the historic building and offers a platform for regional music stars and up-and-coming talents. The beach park, surrounded by majestic trees and located directly on the promenade, invites you to enjoy relaxing picnics and walks. The JazzClub has

its home in the stylish atmosphere of the 73Bar in the Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand. The hotel is also home to the Maritim MainStage – the prestigious main stage of the festival.

From WarmUp to avslut

The opening events of JazzBaltica on Thursday offer the ideal opportunity to get in the mood for an exciting festival weekend. At 6 pm on Thursday, Nils Landgren and the **big band of the Ostsee-Gymnasium Timmendorfer Strand** will perform the traditional warm-up on Timmendorfer Platz. The uptakt then begins at 11.30 pm with the Swedish-Polish singer **Vivian Buczek**, who, together with her band, creates subtle lyrical moments reminiscent of the legendary Ella Fitzgerald. The festival will be crowned by the avslut concert late on Sunday evening, where the **Petter Bergander Trio** from Stockholm will present a fascinating performance that skilfully juggles jazz, pop and Scandinavian folklore.

Concerts on the Maritim MainStage

JazzBaltica kicks off with a milestone birthday: **Nils Landgren's »Funk Unit«** has been providing the music scene with rousing grooves, danceable beats, crisp riffs, brilliant brass sections, cool vocals and lyrical soul for three decades. In the spirit of their current album title, »Funk Is My Religion«, the band will also transform the birthday concert into an extravagant celebration of »Feel Good Music«. Illustrious special guests such as **Ray Parker jr.** (guitar), **Candy Dulfer** (saxophone) and **Sebastian Studnitzky** (drums) have been invited to this funky celebration – a party that will delight the audience. The **Wolfgang Haffner Trio** (JB S) will play at the opening.

The festival programme begins on Friday with one of the best trumpet players in contemporary jazz: **Markus Stockhausen**. He describes his improvised music as »intuitive music«. Beyond stylistic boundaries, in the field of tension between jazz, classical music, folklore, new music and electronic music, he is constantly searching for new sonic experiments. Accompanied by Dutch pianist Jeroen van Vliet, cellist Jörg Brinkmann and percussionist Christian Thomé, the trumpeter creates multi-layered music that stimulates the body and mind in equal measure. (JB 1)

The BBC Jazz Awards, the British Jazz Awards, the Parliamentary Jazz Awards, all of these and many more honors are in the pocket of the Welsh pianist **Gwilym Simcock**, born in 1981. He is a star of the British jazz scene and has travelled the world as a musician. At JazzBaltica, his musical path crosses with 21-year-old saxophonist **Emma Rawicz**, a jazz prodigy from the United Kingdom. Together they create musical landscapes between chamber jazz and world music that fascinate with their richness of color, plasticity and moments of surprise. (JB 1)

In the seemingly endless world of jazz singers, only a few personalities stand out who combine the naturalness of expression and a keen sense of the musical environment as masterfully as the Swedish **Rigmor Gustafsson** and **Viktoria Tolstoy** and the German **Torsten Goods**. In the »Vocal JazzNight« they present a highly energetic mix of jazz standards, blues, funk, soul and pop. They are accompanied by their excellent ensembles, which provide the virtuoso instrumental background. (JB 2)

The concert series on Saturday will open with a performance by Swedish pianist **Jacob Karlzon**, who has been playing in the premier league of European jazz since the 1990s. He became known to a wider audience as the accompanist to jazz singer Viktoria Tolstoy. However, he has also played in various big bands, played hard bop and even heavy metal-inspired jazz. However, the 53-year-old and his trio particularly enjoy focusing on more introspective music that organically combines US tradition and Scandinavian sound culture. In doing so, he skillfully oscillates between virtuoso jazz competence, refined pop harmonies and rock grooves. (JB 3)

The German saxophonist and Zurich resident **Nicole Johäntgen** is a bundle of energy: she is involved in a number of band projects, founded her own record label and initiated a network that is dedicated to the further education and promotion of European female musicians. Her current project »**Robin**« brings together pianist Manon Mullener, bassist Sonja Bossart and percussionists David Stauffacher and Roberto Hacaturyan. Together they embark on a search for global jazz. (JB 3)

The 30-year-old pianist and composer **Yessaï Karapetian** is a shooting star of the French jazz scene. In his work, he is a musical globetrotter who skillfully blends rich Armenian ornamentation, African-American traditions, French impressionist piano playing and contemporary classical music with masterful sensitivity and virtuosity. Together with his quintet, he unfolds a unique sound that brings folklore and jazz together in a way never heard before – a musical adventure that pushes the boundaries of the familiar and explores new horizons of jazz. (JB 4)

The music of the **Lisbeth Quartett** is a beguiling interplay of diverse motifs and sounds. The German quartet, led by New York-based saxophonist Charlotte Greve, has been known for years for its unexpected musical twists and turns. This is also evident on the current album »Release«, which combines the different jazz perspectives of the band members. The result is dense, atmospheric music with wide-ranging arcs that tells of energy and letting go and conveys the feeling of a deeply rooted balance. (JB 4)

Ulita Knaus is one of the most important singers in Germany. On her eight albums to date, she has gathered a wide repertoire ranging from swinging scat singing to tasteful songs suitable for the charts. The Hamburg native is characterized by her enormous stylistic versatility, virtuosity and lightness, which is also impressively manifested in her latest work »Old love and new«. Inspired by the texts of American women poets of the 19th and 20th century, she presents a multi-faceted album that oscillates perfectly between swing, soul and pop. (JB 5)

Jazzkantine has been cooking up a storm since 1993, adding a good portion of jazz, plenty of rap, reggae and soul to the pot and occasionally even folk music. With this unique mixture, the formation from Braunschweig is celebrating huge successes and is present in the charts with its albums. Even after 30 years, the band led by composer and bassist Christian Eitner is not thinking of retiring as musicians and is determined to continue trying out creative jazz recipes. Their latest release »Discotheque«, on which disco, funk and soul become a spirited, danceable sound, bears witness to this. (JB 5)

»Jazz and flamenco are like siblings«, says Basque bassist and composer **Pablo Martín Caminero**. Both genres are about creative freedom and personal expression. He has been proving this for years in various constellations with his sparkling compositions. Now he has found the ideal partners for his ingenious ideas in the **NDR Bigband** and its chief conductor Geir Lysne. After all, the Hamburg ensemble is able to realize complex rhythms and Caminero's film music-like narratives in such a gripping way that you simply can't sit still to these Mediterranean-jazz sounds. (JB 6)

The saxophonist, singer and bandleader **Fabia Mantwill** cannot be pigeonholed. Her sound can be dark and velvety at times, then crisp and full of funk appeal. The 30-year-old from Berlin playfully juggles opposites and sharp contrasts to create an organic unity. This is also reflected in the sound of her »Large Ensemble«: energetic wind instruments and a powerful rhythm section meet delicate strings and a lyrical harp. This is no coincidence, as Fabia Mantwill endeavors to combine American jazz, European classical music and African and Latin American rhythms into a harmonious blend. (JB 6)

Sarah Chaksad is a star of the Swiss jazz scene. The 40-year-old saxophonist, composer and big band leader has made a name for herself above all with the diverse sounds of her »Large Ensemble« (a different formation to Fabia Mantwill's ensemble of the same name), which is refreshingly different from the standard sounds of a typical big band. On the new album, Chaksad deals with the death of her Iranian father and delves deep into the fascinating world of Persian music. The result is an intoxicating and meditative encounter between Orient and Occident, which redefines the lines of musical genres in a fantastic way. (JB 7)

Monty Alexander is a jazz legend. His piano playing is unique – elegant, fast-paced and imbued with the finest nuances of swinging, blues-infused jazz. But that is only one side of his music, because the 79-year-old Jamaican pianist, whose adopted home is the USA, also celebrates his Caribbean roots in his compositions with mento and reggae sounds. With his long-time accompanists, bassist Luke Sellick and drummer Jason Brown, Monty Alexander conjures up a rousing mix of swinging jazz and laid-back Jamaican rhythms, bringing a Caribbean breeze to the festival on Sunday evening. (JB 7)

In the 15 years of its existence, the Swedish **Esbjörn Svensson Trio** (e.s.t.) has not only strongly influenced international jazz, but has also raised the piano trio format to a whole new level. Tragically, pianist Esbjörn Svensson died in a diving accident in 2008. To honor the trio, which was founded in 1993, JazzBaltica is organizing a brilliant tribute concert. The members of e.s.t., Dan Berglund (bass) and Magnus Öström (drums), will also be taking part. Together with outstanding instrumentalists such as Joel Lyssarides (piano), Ulf Wakenius (guitar), Magnus Lindgren (saxophone/flute) and Mathias Eick (trumpet), they revive the trio's classics – a homage full of esprit and musical sophistication that transports the audience into the unforgettable sound world of the Esbjörn Svensson Trio. (JB 8)

Concerts @the beach

Late Friday evening, Swedish singer and pianist **Ida Sand** takes to the stage right on the beach. With her earthy, distinctive voice, she is at home in soul and blues, without missing the improvisational freedom of jazz. Together with her long-time musical companion **Nils Landgren** and double bassist **Caris Hermes**, who will be honored with the WDR Jazz Prize in 2024, she invites you to swing musically at @the beach.

Swedish and Greek musical traditions merge with jazz and classical music on Saturday evening when pianist **Joel Lyssarides** and bouzouki master **Georgios Prokopiou** present their soulful program on the beach. With a sensitive feel for timbres, harmonies and rhythms, they place the bouzouki – an eight-stringed lute from the Greek musical tradition – at the center of their concert and present this special instrument in a modern light.

Concerts at the JazzCafé

The Estonian composer and pianist **Rahel Talts** and her quartet will open Saturday lunchtime at the JazzCafé. The Copenhagen-based ensemble got to know each other during their studies and combines elements of blues, jazz, folk and pop to create a cheerful, groovy mix with surprising twists and turns. After releasing their first album »Greener Grass« in May 2023, the quartet has been touring throughout Europe. In 2024, JazzBaltica is now on the tour schedule for the first time alongside Southeast Asia.

The band **Fjarill**, consisting of the Swedish singer and pianist Aino Löwenmark and the South African violinist Hanmari Spiegel, will follow at 3 pm. The two musicians have been working together for 20 years in their adopted home of Hamburg and complement each other musically without words. In the JazzCafé, they tell stories of childhood memories and realizations in old age, of joie de vivre and longing for peace, of diversity and togetherness, of home and new beginnings, with their own songs, but also with poetry settings by Pär Lagerkvist, Nelly Sachs and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. They will be musically

complemented by Omar Rodriguez Calvo and Jürgen Spiel, both members of the Tingvall Trio.

The Armenian **Tigran Tatevosyan** has explored the diverse world of jazz and the folk music of his homeland in depth and developed a personal style from this. Trained as a classical pianist, his interest was aroused not only by the music of Claude Debussy and Sergei Rachmaninov but also by jazz pianists such as Oscar Peterson and Herbie Hancock. As a logical consequence, he went on to study jazz piano. With his trio, he presents his melodic and rhythmic compositions between Armenian folk tradition and jazz at 6 pm in the JazzCafé.

On Saturday evening, drummer and composer **Eric Schaefer** and his band **The Shredz**, founded in 2013, will be performing at the JazzCafé. Eric Schaefer has already worked with pianists such as Michael Wollny and Joachim Kühn and is known for his experimental and innovative musical ideas. He playfully transcends genre boundaries when he creates an electronic and acoustic blend of krautrock, jazz and ambient with The Shredz. A unique sound in which repetition and groove dissolve any sense of time into thin air.

Sunday morning at the JazzCafé begins with a **family concert**: it's all about Roberto the honey-sweet cuddly bear. He is lying lazily in a meadow when suddenly something speaks to him from afar. It sounds so heavenly that he curiously sets off into the world of music. A musical story for young and old by saxophonist Nicole Johänntgen – funny, cheeky and cuddly.

At 12 noon, singer **Selma Pinton** takes to the JazzCafé stage. The daughter of Alberto Pinton, saxophonist with the famous Bohuslän Big Band, has developed into one of the most exciting young voices in Swedish jazz in recent years and has released two albums to date. With her soulful voice, the 27-year-old combines traditional and modern jazz elements with pop. At JazzBaltica, Selma Pinton will be sensitively accompanied by **Max Agnas** on the piano.

Pianist **Adam Forkelid** has been active on the Swedish jazz scene for 20 years and has already toured with jazz musicians such as drummer Magnus Öström, bassist Dan Berglund, trumpeter Peter Asplund and singer Viktoria Tolstoy. Since he was taught the piano by his father at the age of five, he has been fascinated by jazz and improvisation. Together with guitarist Carl Mörner Ringström, bassist Niklas Fernqvist and drummer Daniel Fredrikson, he will present poetic melodies from his album »1st Movement« at 3 pm.

The last concert in the JazzCafé at 6 pm will be given by the **Analogue Swing** ensemble. Founded in 2020 after studying together at the Lübeck University of Music, the five musicians bring danceable swing music to the most diverse places in Germany with their irrepressible joy of playing and improvisation. In the unusual constellation of clarinet, violin, two guitars and double bass, they make jazz classics resound in new sound colors and draw on their different musical roots in pop, world music, jazz and classical music for their own compositions.

Concerts at the JazzClub

It will be rocky, witty and highly energetic on Friday evening shortly after midnight when **Marriage Material** perform at the JazzClub. Guitarist Arto Mäkelä, vibraphonist Raphael Meinhart, bassist Thomas Stieger and drummer Felix Lehrmann throw all their experience from jazz, progressive rock, neoclassical and funk into a pot and the result is music like a kaleidoscope – or as Marriage Material themselves describe it: »cinematic jazz«.

The **Matti Klein Soul Trio** will be performing at the JazzClub on Saturday night. The trio's sound is characterized by Matti Klein's playing on the Wurlitzer electric piano and the Rhodes bass – two electromagnetic keyboard instruments that were mainly used in jazz, funk and soul in the 1970s and are reminiscent of the bell-like sound of a vibraphone. Together with his

colleagues Lars Zander on bass clarinet and tenor saxophone and André Seidel on drums, he creates a rousing reminiscence of the glory days of soul jazz with plenty of groove.

Concerts on the OpenAir stage

The seven musicians of **FROLLEIN SMILLA**, who open the OpenAir stage on Friday evening, prioritize stylistic diversity. From pop ballads to funky brass interludes, the Berlin band offers a wide range of sounds to get you moving and dancing. In 2024, the band will release their fourth album »Keep Smiling« with their usual cheeky and politically poetic lyrics.

On Saturday morning, the **MHL-Bigband** will perform on the OpenAir stage under the direction of Bernd Ruf. Founded 20 years ago, the big band made up of students from the Lübeck University of Music has developed into one of the best ensembles on the north German jazz scene. The debut album »Timeless Changes – LübeckSounds« was enthusiastically received by both the trade press and the public in 2014. In 2024, the MHL-Bigband will be a guest at JazzBaltica for the first time.

The trio **frech | bollini | heidepriem** will fill the OpenAir stage with Nordic-inspired sounds on Saturday afternoon. All of the chamber music formation's compositions were written by Klaus Frech from Flemhude, who originally worked as a harpsichordist in the early music scene. On the piano, double bass and percussion, they create a gentle yet complex sound fabric that radiates a sense of calm and serenity.

The **New Orange Swing Orchestra** (NOSO) is travelling from Tokyo, some 12,000 km away, for its concert on the OpenAir stage on Saturday afternoon. The big band from HOSEI University in the Japanese capital has been in existence since 1960 and is one of the country's leading university big bands. The NOSO has already shared the stage with Nils Landgren and Ingrid Burkhardt and can also look back on a long collaboration with the OGT Bigband.

Lucas Kemmler's trio **Panimo** will conclude the concerts on the OpenAir stage on Saturday. Born in Itzehoe, Lucas Kemmler is inspired by guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix, Rory Gallagher, but also Joe Pass and Bill Frisell. Together with bassist Timon Krämer and drummer Henning Katz, the guitarist brings catchy melodies paired with rhythmic playfulness to life.

On Sunday afternoon, there will be a »blind ticket« for a winner of this year's state competition **Jugend jazzt** to present themselves to the JazzBaltica audience on the OpenAir stage. The competition for all young jazz talents in Schleswig-Holstein is taking place for the 20th time.

The **Ben Prechtl Quartett**, consisting of students from the Hamburg University of Music and Theatre, will conclude the concerts on the OpenAir stage on Sunday afternoon. In addition to pieces by quartets such as those of saxophonists Bob Reynolds, Joshua Redman and Chris Potter, the program also includes original compositions.

The **children's music workshop** takes place on Sunday from 12 noon on the OpenAir stage. Children from the age of four can approach music with a spirit of adventure, creativity and fun.

IB.SH-JazzAward

The IB.SH JazzAward will be presented for the 17th time this year. The prize, endowed with 5,000 euros, honors the work and artistic potential of young and promising German jazz musicians who perform at JazzBaltica once a year. Special consideration is given to talents from northern Germany. Last year, singer Ella Burkhardt was honored with the prize. The jury's decision will be announced on June 6th 2024. The official award ceremony will take place as part of the opening of JazzBaltica on Friday evening on the Maritim MainStage. (JB 1)

JazzTalks

Peter KleiB, author and music journalist, traditionally invites musicians from the program to his »JazzTalks« at JazzBaltica. The talks take place without an audience, but are recorded with audio and video and published on the JazzBaltica YouTube channel after the festival.

Thank you

JazzBaltica would like to thank the main sponsor Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB.SH) as well as sponsors and partners such as gradwerk, WATERKANT and Süverkrüp. Long-standing media partners NDR Kultur and Deutschlandfunk strengthen the festival's popularity, and JazzBaltica is also continuing its collaboration with ZDF.

Special thanks go to the state of Schleswig-Holstein for its support. This year, JazzBaltica is also being sponsored once again by the municipality of Timmendorfer Strand-Niendorf and the Ulbrich Foundation. The festival hotel is the Maritim Seehotel Timmendorfer Strand.

Tickets for JazzBaltica

Tickets are now available at www.jazzbaltica.de and on the ticket hotline 0431-23 70 70. The festival tickets for the entire weekend and the JazzBaltica Special concert on Thursday are already sold out. Festival tickets for 2025 will be available from mid-November 2024.

Program and information

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Photos of the press conference, all artists and press releases can be downloaded online at www.jazzbaltica.com/press.