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Press release:

Global stars from Canada to perform at jazzahead! 2020 Gala with Rufus Wainwright; festival opening features Laila Biali and Tanya Tagaq

In April 2020 Bremen's jazzahead! trade fair will be 15 years old – and the annual festival which happens alongside it will have its tenth edition. This double anniversary is a cause for celebration: two Canadian singers, both with major international profiles, Laila Biali and Tanya Tagaq will give the opening concert of the culture festival on Friday, 17 April, at the Theater am Goetheplatz. Canadian artist Rufus Wainwright will perform at the jazzahead! gala concert at Bremen's concert hall Die Glocke on Friday, 24 April.

Laila Biali, an award-winning singer/songwriter and pianist, will be performing in Bremen. As recently as this spring she received a Juno Award for her latest album "Laila Biali". The Junos are the Canadian equivalent of the US Grammys. The Washington Times has described the singer/pianist's musical cosmos as "masterfully mix[ing] jazz and pop, bringing virtuosity and unpredictability to songs that are concise and catchy."

In the second part of the concert evening, the singer will be Tanya Tagaq. She is one of the most important representatives of the Inuit, an original people of Canada, and is also one of Canada's most original and celebrated artists. "She has practically rediscovered the long-lost throat-singing of the Inuit, and has developed her completely independent form of it, with wide-ranging influences from pop music, traditional singing, rap and beatboxing," says Peter Schulze, one of the artistic directors of jazzahead! "She is a performer of tremendous urgency and intensity and always sings with full physical commitment." Tanya Tagaq toured the world with Björk in 2001 and received the Polaris Music Prize for her album "Animism" in 2014.

jazzahead!'s gala concert has singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright as its star. Rufus Wainwright is highly esteemed and acclaimed by critics and audiences alike, and will be celebrating the German premiere of his new album, being released worldwide in 2020. Wainwright has released numerous pop albums, set sonnets by William Shakespeare to music for a play by playwright Robert Wilson, and has also completed two operas. The award-winning musician also contributed music to various blockbuster movies such as "Brokeback Mountain" and "Shrek". Elton John once described Wainwright as "the greatest songwriter on the planet."





Since 2006, jazzahead! has gathered the international jazz scene together annually at Messe Bremen for the trade fair and festival, and since 2011 has put a particular focus each year on a new partner country. Next year, the trade fair will take place from Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 April. The Festival begins earlier, on Friday 17 April. In this year of anniversaries, Canada will become the first jazzahead! partner country from beyond the borders of Europe.

Tickets for all jazzahead! and festival events are available at nordwest-ticket.de/ or online at www.jazzahead.de

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