



jazzahead! 2020: These are the showcase bands

List of the 40 bands who will give concerts during the trade fair

Dear colleagues,

Below you will find an overview of the bands which have been selected for the short concerts, i.e. this is the list of the showcase bands for jazzahead! 2020 at MESSE BREMEN, together with thumbnail descriptions of each group, taken from their press packs.

jazzahead! 2020 takes place from Thursday 23 April until Sunday 26 April, with the showcases from the Thursday to the Saturday.

Canadian Night

Audrey Ochoa

Audrey Ochoa (tb), Sandro Dominelli (dr), Mike Lent (b-g)

Trombonist Audrey Ochoa is a rising star on the Canadian jazz scene. (...) mentor and trombone master Hugh Fraser describes her as “an inspired emerging artist that embodies the talent, inspiration and focus to make a major contribution at the highest level.”

<http://www.audreyochoa.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/audrey.ochoa.908>

Carrier, Lambert, Edwards

François Carrier (as), Michel Lambert (dr), John Edwards (ac-bg)

“In sum this is world-class free jazz. You probably owe it to yourself to check it out closely. It is a real kicker!” (gapplegatemusic)

<https://www.francoiscarrier.com>

<https://francoiscarrier.bandcamp.com>

François Bourassa Quartet

François Bourassa (p), André Leroux (sax, fl, cl), Guy Boisvert (db), Guillaume Pilote (dr)

“A real ‚choc‘ surprises you as you didn't expect it ... the feeling of amazement does not fade with repeated listening ... when the music possesses so many qualities. Crazy energy, dense and nourishing writing, high-level soloists.” (Jazzmag)

<https://www.facebook.com/officiel.francois.bourassa/>

Itamar Erez quartet

Itamar Erez (p, g), Francois Houle (cl), James Meger (db), Kevin Romain (dr)

Itamar's music holds a depth and sensitivity that touches listeners deeply. It blends the delicateness of Middle Eastern music, the freedom found in jazz and the passion of flamenco, creating a unique sound all his own.

www.itamarerezh.com

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/itamarerezh/?hl=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/itamarerezhpage/>

Larnell Lewis

Larnell Lewis (dr), Elmer Ferrer (g), Andrew Stewart (b-g), Rob Christian (ww), William Sperandei (tpt), Jeremy Ledbetter (p)



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Larnell Lewis is a Grammy Award winning musician, composer, producer, and educator. A Toronto native, Larnell has quickly established himself as one of the most diverse and in-demand drummers currently on the music scene. (...) Larnell's talents can be seen worldwide via his various social media platforms, which have a combined total of over 100,000 followers.

www.larnelllewismusic.com

<https://www.instagram.com/larnelllewismusic/?hl=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/LarnellLewisMusic/>

Marianne Trudel + John Hollenbeck: Dédé Java Espiritu

Marianne Trudel (p), John Hollenbeck (dr)

"An extraordinary pianist and composer, Marianne Trudel is one of the most respected jazz musicians in Canada. She has made her way on our jazz scene so as to become an authentic and indispensable part of it ..." (CBC Radio)

<http://www.mariannetrudel.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/mariannetrudelmusique/>

<http://www.johnhollenbeck.com>

Silvervest

Kim Zombik (voc), Nicolas Caloia (db)

Playing in the field of storytelling, pop, soundscapes, jazz and jangling, Silvervest offers fresh music that is intuitive and unique. (*The duo places*) primary importance on creation that has structure yet allows following their ears into wider spaces.

<https://musiquerayonnante.org/silvervest.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/silvervestmusic/>

<https://silvervest.bandcamp.com/album/soft-shine-galaxy-demo>

Steph Richards

Stephanie Richards (tpt), Andrew Munsey (dr), Cathlene Pineda (p), Sam Minaie (db)

Her second release *Take The Neon Lights* also received high praise from critics, *Downbeat* calling Steph "a virtuoso of nonlinear trumpet playing" and *NextBop* calling the record "mesmerising ... fans of avant-garde jazz should definitely give this one a listen".

www.stephrichards.com

German Jazz Expo

Heidi Bayer's "Virtual Leak"

Heidi Bayer (tpt, flgn), Johannes Ludwig (as), Leif Berger (dr), Calvin Lennig (db)

(...) the quartet has no harmony instrument. Therefore, harmony in the classical sense may not exist in *Virtual Leak's* music, but it still feels present. Sometimes it's dynamic, other times subtle. Stunning and contrasting passages with surprising twists are what make *Virtual Leak* an exciting listening experience.

www.heidi-bayer.de

<https://www.instagram.com/heidibayermusic/>

Hendrika Entzian+



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Andreas Haderer (tpt), Felix Meyer (tpt), Bastian Stein (tpt), Heidi Bayer (tpt), Klaus Heidenreich (tb), Shannon Barnett (tb), Janning Trumann (tb), Jan Schreiner (tb), Matthew Halpin (sax), Sebastian Gille (ts), Julian Bossert (sax), Theresia Philipp (sax), Heiko Bidmon (sax), Simon Seidl (p), Sandra Hempel (g), Matthias Nowak (db), Fabian Arends (dr), Hendrika Entzian (cond)

(...) she has now assembled her own 17-piece orchestra of Cologne musicians, with She transfers the dynamically differentiated Modern Jazz of her quartet to a large cast: as a linear network of voices, which condense as if by chance into clusters of sounds.

<http://www.hendrika-entzian.de>

Johanna Summer (DE)

Johanna Summer (p)

Johanna Summer, german jazz pianist and composer living in Dresden and Berlin, started her piano career at age seven. She took lessons in classical music and was awarded several times at the german federal competition "Jugend musiziert". (...) Johanna's work focuses on the encounter of classical music's fidelity and the spontaneity of jazz.

<http://www.johannasummer.de>

<https://www.facebook.com/johannasummer.piano/>

<http://www.youtube.com/johannasummer>

Nau Trio (DE)

Henrique Gomide (p), Jean Cammas (b-g), Antoine Duijkers (dr, perc)

"Nau Trio is definitely a jazz trio and not just a world-music band. The rhythmic variety meets Western jazz harmonies. This creates a rhythm-driven jazz with great melodic ideas." (nrwjazz.net)

www.facebook.com/nautriomusic

NIAQUE (DE)

Stefan Karl Schmid (sax), Philipp Brämswig (g), David Helm (db), Fabian Arends (dr)

The clear, vocal themes of her compositions are counteracted by rhythmically always surprising movements and naturally flow into extensive improvisations. "Everything about this music appears to be well-dosed, skillful, balanced. And yet never lifeless, but lovingly elaborated, filed, sanded and colored." (Jazzthetik)

<http://www.stefankarlschmid.net/>

<http://www.philippbraemswig.com/projects>

<https://www.facebook.com/Philipp-Br%C3%A4mswig-204140293270659/>

<https://www.facebook.com/stefankarl.schmid>

The True Harry Nulz

Nils Fischer (bcl), Siegmар Brecher (bcl), David Koch (g), Julian Adam Pajzs (g), Samuel Huwyler (b-g), Dominik Mahnig (dr), Valentin Schuster (dr)

"The true Harry Nulz" merges "Edi Nulz" and "The great Harry Hillman". Both bands are very active working bands since many years. (...) The thrill of the line-up is resulting out of a doubling-effect: two bass clarinets, two guitars, two drum sets and an electric bass as the basis provide clever arrangements, unison-stereo effects and improvisational outbursts.

<http://www.thegreatharryhillman.ch/>

<http://www.edi-nulz.com/>

Tilo Weber Quartet „Four Fauns”

Tilo Weber (dr); Richard Koch (tpt), Claudio Puntin (cl), James Banner (db)



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Jazz standards are played backwards and preludes for fugue-like ballads are improvised. The quartet (...) thus presents contemporary jazz that is not avant-garde at the price of emotional coldness and does without clichés.

<https://www.facebook.com/tiloweberofficial>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQYWFcB5jT02K7zD0ptb-5Q>

Tobias Meinhart – BERLIN PEOPLE (DE)

Tobias Meinhart (ts, EWI), Ludwig Hornung (p), Tom Berkmann (db), Mathias Ruppnick (dr)

„Germany's biggest talent on the saxophone.” (JazzThing) – „Bursting with power and full of nuances.” (Jazzthetik)

www.tobiasmeinhart.com

www.facebook.com/tobiasmeinhartmusic

www.instagram.com/toby_mh

Overseas Night

Badi Assad (BR)

Badi Assad (g, voc)

“She skilfully mixes Musica Popular Brasileira with jazz, electronics and pop. The result is exciting, original and up to date. A direct hit.” (Nürnberger Nachrichten)

<http://badiassad.com/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/badiassad>

Connie Han Trio (US)

Connie Han (p), Ivan Taylor (db), Bill Wysaske (dr)

Jazziz Magazine claims, „Han has been labeled a rising star and rightfully so – she’s an intriguing artist with mastery over her instrument as well as a deft bandleader. Given the maturity and brilliance she demonstrates on ‚CRIME ZONE‘, perhaps ‚rising‘ could be dropped from that designation.”

<http://www.conniehan.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/conniehanjazz>

<https://www.instagram.com/conniehanjazz/?hl=en>

ESCALANDRUM (AR)

Daniel Piazzolla (dr, direc), Nicolas Guerschberg (p), Mariano Sivori (db), Damian Fogiel (ts), Gustavo Musso (ss, as), Martin Pantyrer (bcl)

Daniel „Pipi“ Piazzolla started ESCALANDRUM (Jazz – ARG) in 1999. The group’s name is a portmanteau of „Escalandrún“ (a species of shark which „Pipi“ fishes with his father Daniel – hobby started by his grandfather Astor Piazzolla) and „drum“.

www.escalandrum.com

<https://www.facebook.com/escalandrum/>

<https://www.instagram.com/escalandrum/>

Etuk Ubong (NG)

Etuk Ubong (tpt), tba

Drawing inspiration from the jazz greats, afrobeat, highlife and ekombi, he adds that the sounds of the elements water, wind and fire inspire him, which is why he calls his music ‘Earth Music’. His



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compositions reflect his heritage and life philosophy of goodwill, peace and love to humanity. "A fresh new voice in the international jazz scene" (London Jazz News)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Musician-Band/Etuk-ubong-555804934555097/>

<https://earth-agency.com/artists/etuk-ubong/>

Faraj Suleiman Trio (PS)

Faraj Suleiman (p), Emmanuel Forster (b), Baptiste de Chabaneix (dr)

Faraj Suleiman is a Palestinian a composer and pianist. His music is strongly influenced by Arabic/Eastern melodies and rhythms. He often incorporates those scales and modalities in his compositions. In addition to being inspired by his Arabic culture, he is also influenced by Jazz traditions.

<https://www.farajsuleiman.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Faraj.Suleiman.music/>

Melissa Aldana (US/CL)

Melissa Aldana (ts), Pablo Menares (db), Kush Abadey (dr), Sam Harris (p)

In 2013, aged 24, (*Aldana*) was the first female musician and the first South American musician to win the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Saxophone Competition, in which her father had been a semi-finalist in 1991. (...) Reporting her win, the Washington Post described Aldana as representing "a new sense of possibility and direction in jazz".

<https://www.melissaaldana.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/melissa.aldana.3958/>

<https://www.instagram.com/melissaaldanasax/>

Ron Minis Trio (IL)

Ron Minis (p), Daniel Harlev (b), Yogev Gabay (dr)

(*On YouTube*) he demonstrated how a piano can be used as a guitar and become a new playground for musical adventures, combining state of the art technology and sound effects. (...) Now, for the first time, Ron is delivering this wild spectacle to the live stage.

<https://www.youtube.com/ronminis>

<https://www.facebook.com/ronminisproject>

<https://epk.ronminis.com>

SooJin Suh Chordless Quartet (KR)

Daniel Ko (as), Sunjae Lee (ts), Younghoo Kim (db), Soojin Suh (dr)

Chordless quartet is (*SooJin Suhs*) 2nd group as a leader. The whole theme of this project is about freedom and space. For this purpose, she put a band without harmonic instruments like piano and guitar so that she can explore the harmony, space, and range more freely.

<http://soojinsuhmusic.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/soodrums/>

European Jazz Meeting

Camilla George (GB)

Camilla George (sax), Daniel Casimir (db), Sarah Tandy (p), Rod Youngs (dr)



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(Camilla's) music is a hypnotizing blend of Afrofuturism, hip hop and jazz. Camilla's music is politically minded and heavily linked with African history and slavery in particular.

https://twitter.com/Camilla_sax

<http://www.camillageorge.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/camillageorgeband/>

Guy Salamon Group (NL)

Guy Salamon (dr), Alistair Payne (tpt), Ian Cleaver (tpt), José Soares (as), Lucas Martínez (ts), Teis Semey (g), Youngwoo Lee (p), Brodie Jarvie (db)

The award winning Guy Salamon Group is one of the most notable emerging bands in the new Dutch jazz scene. (...) Ever since their first performances in early 2018, the *(band)* has made a strong impression on both the national and international scenes, rapidly becoming an integral part of major jazz events.

<https://www.guysalamon.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/GuySalamonMusic/>

JULIA BIEL (GB)

Julia Biel (p, voc)

"The best British vocalist to emerge in an age". (The Independent) "Her awe-inspiring voice and melancholic sensuality captivated the audience right from her very first note and did not let go over the full one and a half hours of an impressively spell-binding performance." (Süddeutsche Zeitung)

<http://www.handshake-booking.com/de/artists/julia-biel/>

<http://www.juliabiel.com>

https://www.facebook.com/juliabielmusic/?ref=page_internal

KAMA Kollektiv (NL)

Kirsi-Marja Harju (tpt, voc, mbira), Jetse de Jong (p), Jonathan Nagel (db), Yoad Korach (dr)

(Kirsi-Marja "Kiki" Harju) tells stories – some in Finnish, some in English – about love and transformation, forests and animals, small everyday pleasures, and a mystical, romantic view of nature. The music is a mesmerizing mixture of jazz, Scandinavian folk and indie pop.

<https://kamakollektiv.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/kamakollektiv/>

<https://www.instagram.com/kamakollektiv/>

Kasia Pietrzko Trio (PL)

Kasia Pietrzko (p), Andrzej Świąt (db), Piotr Budniak (dr)

The artist has been nominated for a Fryderyk Award in 2018, in the Debut of The Year category, and is ranked as the second New Hope in the monthly Jazz Forum. (...) In the opinion of distinguished Polish jazz musicians, she is characterized by her improviser's instinct, harmonic imagination and tonal creativity.

<https://www.facebook.com/KasiaPietrzkoMusic/>

<http://kasiapietrzko.com/en/main/>

<https://www.instagram.com/kasiapietrzko/?hl=pl>

Kristina Barta Event Horizon

Kristina Barta (p), Jan Feco (db), Marek Urbanek (dr), Nela Dusova (sax), Krystof Tomecek (g)

(The) Project Event Horizon is an original trio enriched with guitar and saxophone. This band plays original contemporary creative jazz, reflecting on Kristina's earlier classical music studies with an emphasis on melodies, modern rhythms and electronic elements.



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<https://kristinabarta.com/project-event-horizon>

<https://www.facebook.com/kristinabarta/>

LRK Trio (RU)

Evgeny Lebedev (p), Anton Revnyuk (b), Ignat Kravtsov (dr)

LRK Trio are very modern in their sound – the way they play and sound is unmistakably 21st century; but they never let their listener forget that they come from a distinctive, globally influential musical culture of their native country, incorporated in the global music scene and yet distinctly original and recognizable.

<https://www.lrktrio.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LRKtrio/>

<https://www.instagram.com/lrktrio/>

Luzia von Wyl Ensemble (CH)

Luzia von Wyl (p), Amin Mokdad (fl), Nicola Katz (cl), Marcel Lüscher (bcl), Maurus Conte (bsn), Vincent Milliod (vl), Jonas Iten (clo), André Pousza (db), Cédric Gyger (mba), Lionel Friedli (dr)

“As a composer, the Swiss woman has her very own Handwriting - so convincing, stirring and delightful, that comparisons are superfluous.” (Jazzthetik)

<http://luziavonwyl.com>

<http://luziavonwylensemble.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/luziavonwylensemble/>

Macha Gharibian (FR)

Macha Gharibian (p, voc), Chris Jennings (db), Dré Pallemmaerts (dr)

Classically trained on the piano from an early age, singer, songwriter, performer, and a bold composer for the theater and cinema, Macha Gharibian has achieved a natural blend of all (...) influences mixing jazz, Armenian folk songs and other non-Western traditions in which she has forged her own style that is urban, crossover and modern.

<https://www.instagram.com/machagharibian/>

<https://www.facebook.com/gharibian.macha/>

Nefertiti Quartet (FR)

Delphine Deau (p). Camille Maussion (saxs), Pedro Ferreira (db), Pierre Demange (dr)

With a common instrumental form, the quartet manages to find its originality through its compositions that combine polyrhythm and groove. All written by the pianist Delphine Deau, the tunes are mainly influenced by North American Jazz, with a large space for improvisation and interaction between the musicians.

<https://www.facebook.com/nefertitiquartet/>

<https://www.instagram.com/nefertitiquartet/?fbclid=IwAR0-ZwD80OJX6ONnp93JvYCB3Uzwh3vTVCCQf4EiluUQjRPX4KVtzfGz7AU>

<https://nefertitiquartet.com/>

Red Kite (DK/GB)

Fulvio Sigurta (tpt), Ross Hughes (bcl, sax), Hannes Riepler, (g), Esben Tjalve (p, key), Jasper Højby (db), Tim Giles (dr)

From cinematic meditative soundscapes to groovy noir tunes the structure of the music allows for the improvised parts to interact and co-exist with the written (...). The music cannot really be defined by genre. “Pleasingly melodic but also deeply rhythmic, easily digestible yet subtly challenging, and just full of good ideas allied to exemplary playing.” (The Jazz Mann)



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<http://esbentjalve.com>

Rembrandt Frerichs Trio (NL)

Rembrandt Frerichs (p), Tony Overwater (ac-bg), Vinsent Planjer (dr)

Rembrandt Frerichs Trio is internationally known for its high profile collaborations that have given jazz new directions. Labeled groundbreaking by the press is the album with Kayhan Kalhor "It's still autumn". "One of the highlights of the North Sea Jazz Festival" (Jazzism).

<http://www.rembrandtfrerichs.nl>

<https://www.facebook.com/Rembrandt.Jazzpianist>

https://www.instagram.com/rembrandt_pianist_composer/

Sun-Mi Hong Quintet (NL)

Nicolo Ricci (ts), Alistair Payne (tpt), Young-Woo Lee (p), Alessandro Fongaro (db), Sun-Mi Hong (dr)

With a keen interest in Korean Traditional Music, she is influenced by the percussions of her country. Alongside this, her compositional style is influenced by Impressionistic Classical Music. In short, Sun-Mi offers up an entirely original and extremely relevant artistic output.

<http://www.sunmihong.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/drumpersunmihong/>

https://www.instagram.com/sun_music/

Synesthetic 4 (AT)

Vincent Pongrácz (cl), Peter Rom (g), Manuel Mayr (b), Andreas Lettner (dr)

An important part of their music are complex but catchy rhythms that originate from hip hop, contemporary groove and electronic music (...) "Dada-Rap" and abstractly folkloristic melodies that are sometimes inspired by Olivier Messiaen harmonies are meant to leave a humoristic or even bizarre impression on the listener. "Less well known but more groundbreaking ... pushed the boundary between Rap and Scat" (Jazzjournal)

<https://www.synesthetic4.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Synesthetic-Octet-Synesthetic-4-266797033481999/>

Théo Ceccaldi Trio (FR)

Theo Ceccaldi (vln), Valentin Ceccaldi (cl), Guillaume Aknine (g)

The trio works with original compositions "under the influence" and revisited big classics associated with the great gypsy guitarist. With ist unorthodox orchestration (amplified guitar, cello ...), the ensemble shifted towards a new form of "chamber jazz" (...) while using all the expected attributes of gypsy jazz (rhythmic energy, melodic grandiosity) amplifying its virtue and modernizing its codes.

<https://www.instagram.com/theoceccaldi/?hl=fr>

<https://www.facebook.com/theoceccaldimusique/>

<http://www.theoceccaldi.com/projets/theo-ceccaldi-trio/>

Torun Eriksen (NO)

Torun Eriksen (voc, p), Kjetil Dalland (el-b), Eivind Fossnes Dahl (sound)

Torun (...) has since (*her debut*) made her mark as a unique voice, with an ever-growing audience on the Norwegian and international music stages. Fall 2018, Torun released her sixth solo album (*which*) received accolades in the Norwegian and German press, with critics describing it (...) "A Musical gem" (Jazz Podium).

<https://www.toruneriksen.no/>

<https://www.facebook.com/torunsongs/>

<https://www.instagram.com/Toruneriksen/>



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