



jazzahead! digital 2021: Festival Programme Announced

Highlights from the German and European Scenes – Live and Online

Thursday, 8. April 2021: The programme for the new-look jazzahead! Festival is announced.

This 10th birthday edition of the festival will be in digital form. "Despite the pandemic – and all of the imponderables which have resulted – it is clear to us is that we want to do is to celebrate music and culture together", says Sybille Kornitschky, who runs jazzahead! for MESSE BREMEN. The organisers of the trade fair, staying true to their mission, will stage the festival in cooperation with Bremen-based partners. Tickets for the festival evenings are now on sale via Nordwest Ticket. Here is an overview of the events.

On Friday, 23 April 2021, the festival will start with a highlight, an anniversary evening in the fabulous acoustic of Sendesaal Bremen. "We are celebrating a double anniversary, namely 15 years of the jazzahead! Trade Fair and ten years of the Festival", says Kornitschky. "As we mark these milestones, we will be looking back together with some interesting discussion partners, we will do a retrospective about jazzahead!, and will also celebrate Bremen as a music city." The musical part of the evening will be a performance by the Rebecca Trescher Tentett. Trescher is a renowned clarinetist and composer from Nuremberg, and her ten-piece ensemble will play excerpts from her new CD "Paris Zyklus – The Spirit of the Streets". She will, in fact, have recorded the album two days earlier in the Sendesaal. jazzahead! invites jazz fans to join us for the celebration from their homes: "The evening is going to be streamed free of charge via the jazzahead! website as a 10th birthday present", says Kornitschky.

A rising star of the German scene will be the featured artist on Thursday, 29 April: the hugely talented young saxophonist Jakob Manz and his band The Jakob Manz Project will be raising the temperature onstage at Club100. Club100 is a project which so far is the only one of its kind in Germany: it is the result of an alliance forged between event organisers, clubs and a media company from Bremen. The purpose which unites them is the common desire to make events possible again in times of the pandemic and give artists a worthwhile platform. While events with spectators are still not permitted, the performances in Bremen's Pier2 event centre, now known as Club100, will be available via livestream.

On Friday, 30 April, the Dutch band Tin Men & The Telephone will offer a virtual interactive live concert via Zoom, produced out of Amsterdam for the jazzahead! audience at home on the sofa. The audience will not only be able to sit back and enjoy the concert, they can – and should! – help to determine and shape the concert programme with the help of smartphones and the specially programmed app "Tinmendo". To start with they are will only be asked for requests for pieces, then for harmonies,





chords and finally for single notes that are spontaneously put together. And it all happens in the moment.

Literature and the Grand Finale from Bremen's Metropol Theatre

The digital jazzahead! Festival is not only focused on music: on Saturday, 1 May, literature also has its word at Metropol Theatre Bremen. The evening "A Word to the Piano" will feature five well-known Bremen authors and the outstanding young pianist Johanna Summer, who is right at the onset of a highly promising international career. Slam poet Eva Matz, writer Imke Müller-Hermann, reciter Rainer Iwersen and authors Michael Augustin and Rolf "Karlchen" Schmidt will offer a fast-paced, entertaining literary evening.

The festival will culminate on Sunday, 2 May, with Jasmin Tabatabai and the David Klein Quartet onstage at the Metropol Theater. Tabatabai is a major television and cinema star in Germany. However, the German-Iranian actress is also an inspiring singer. She and the Swiss musician, composer and producer David Klein know no stylistic boundaries as they cut across genres. All these evening events from the festival will be streamed via a special landing page on the jazzahead! Website: <https://jazzahead.events/>.

Further highlights: 32 showcase bands

As ever, at the heart of the jazzahead! digital 2021 trade fair – which will take place from Thursday, 29 April, until Sunday, 2 May, under the motto "Close Together from Afar" – will be the showcase concerts. These remain as part of the festival programme. The three component parts of the showcase concerts are "German Jazz Expo", "European Jazz Meeting" and "Overseas Night". 32 showcase bands will perform. Initially, access to watch the concerts via live stream will be reserved for [participants who have registered](#) for the trade fair. Thereafter, from mid-June, the concerts will be available to the general public as usual via the jazzahead! website. Full information about the showcase bands can be found on the [jazzahead! blog](#) and with plenty of bonus material, and also at the site of new cooperation partner [Jazz Day Germany](#).

Tickets for the festival are available from [Nordwest Ticket](#) or by phone on (+49) 0421 36 36 36. More info at www.jazzahead.de/en

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About jazzahead!

jazzahead!, launched in 2006, is the largest jazz trade fair in the world. And whereas it has been growing in size every year, this meeting place for the worldwide jazz industry is also the "family gathering" for jazz; it has never lost its original spirit of fellowship and fun. The 40 showcase concerts during the trade fair, and the jazzahead! Cultural Festival are also aimed at the wider public. Since 2011, this festival, co-created with some 60 cooperation partners, presents the cultural scene of a partner country – there is a different one every year – plus bands from all over the world. These bands perform at the CLUBNIGHT in 30 venues in Bremen. Since 2015, jazzahead! has been funded by the Federal Government's Commissioner for Culture and the Media. In 2019, jazzahead! was awarded European Culture Brand of the Year.

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