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Next year's partner country is...Germany!

jazzahead! 2022! has come to a successful close - Some innovations this year, and more to come next year - The Deutscher Jazzpreis/ German Jazz Prize will be the focal point of the Friday evening.

jazzahead! 2022, held under the motto "Together Again", has come to a successful close. Following on from Canada this year, next year's partner country is already in place: it will be Germany, which means that the host country will combine two roles. "The principle of having a partner country is to place a country in the international spotlight which, in our opinion, deserves to be there. In Germany's case this is something which is long overdue," says Sybille Kornitschky who runs jazzahead! for MESSE BREMEN. jazzahead! 2023 will take place from Thursday 27 April to Sunday 30 April. The baton was passed at an event on Sunday morning in the big Circus Tent on Bremen's Bürgerweide.

Kornitschky, her team, and artistic directors Ulrich Beckerhoff and Peter Schulze are well aware that this choice will "mark a departure from established practice, and also entail changes in the schedule," Kornitschky continued. The principle of having showcases with four programming strands will remain, but next year there will be co-productions involving Germany and four other countries, in order to emphasise, as ever, the international nature of the music. The four include three of Germany's neighbours: France, Austria and the Netherlands (France already having been the main partner country), plus the USA. Four German musicians with strong connections in these countries are building their own formations for this purpose - "the bands should each consist of between four and eight people; beyond that, there are no further stipulations," Kornitschky explains: "It's not about shining a light on ensembles that are already well-known, but rather about bringing something new into being!"

Another new feature of the next jazzahead! is that the German Jazz Prize ceremony, which has just been held in Bremen for the first time, will not take place before the opening as it did this year, but on the Friday of jazzahead!, i.e. the second day. "This means it will be even more centrally placed within the jazzahead! schedule, which is going to give this prize even more international profile," says Kornitschky. There are also plans for the 2023 conference programme - the path we have taken this year of increasingly taking up technical innovations will be pursued further. "Among other things, we have opened a window on Artificial Intelligence," says Kornitschky, "and we want to go further in this direction."

Kornitschky of jazzahead! considers jazzahead! 2022 with partner country Canada, an event which was able to take place "live" for the first time in three years as a result of the pandemic, a complete success. In total, there were over 2,700 participants from 55 nations present – exhibitors, musicians and trade visitors. Once again, the high musical quality of the concerts – almost 100 of them – during the weekend of the fair was praised by all. The circus tent, which was set up for the first time this year on the Bürgerweide, provided not only two very well attended concert evenings but also a splendid festival vibe. "I noticed that the average age of the participants at this year's jazzahead! has fallen significantly - and that really gives hope for the future," said London jazz journalist Sebastian Scotney.



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
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Ina Keßler, CEO of Initiative Musik, the organisation responsible for the German Jazz Prize, spoke at the event when the baton was handed over from Canada to Germany. She expressed the thoughts that many others have been having in recent days: "As the pandemic has shown us, changes can happen at any time: the Russian war against Ukraine has left everyone worried and speechless. Nevertheless, we firmly believe that music builds bridges between different worlds, between people and countries, political opinions and mentalities, and our common cultural and historical heritage. Ultimately, we are all human beings and should respect each other. For this reason, we are positive as we consider the future. We are looking forward to showing both up-and-coming new artists and established major figures from Germany to the whole world."

(4.072 characters incl. spaces)



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