

Media Information  
June 10, 2018

## **LBT winner of BMW Welt Jazz Award 2018. Award will be continued in the coming year following the theme “Saxophone Worlds”.**

**Munich.** The winner of the tenth edition of BMW Welt Jazz Award was chosen following an outstanding final concert. Competing against BartolomeyBittmann – progressive strings vienna, LBT and its members Leo Betzl (piano), Sebastian Wolfgruber (drums) and Maximilian Hirning (bass) won the coveted award on Saturday night. Dr Nicolas Peter, Member of the Board of Management of BMW Group, presented the prize together with Dr Hans-Georg Küppers, Head of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the state capital Munich.

This year's anniversary edition followed the theme “Jazz moves”, which was interpreted during six matinee shows offered free of charge during spring. Performed to capacity audiences, the concerts were testament to the fascination of the broad range of danceable jazz music.

LBT, who founded their trio three years ago while still studying at the Academy for Music and Theatre Munich, consistently delight their audiences with dramatic movements and exciting music best described as “techno jazz”.

The expert jury said, “To the audience, both bands opened up entirely new worlds of sound emanating from a traditional cast and set-up. Their appropriation of patterns and models from pop music ideally embodied this year's motto ‘Jazz moves’ in the most exciting and convincing ways. BartholomeyBittmann's enormous range of musicality and power of expression transformed a classic duo of strings into an all-encompassing jazz-rock band. The revolutionary innovation of chamber music techno pulled LBT ahead by the slightest of margins. It is astounding to witness how coherent jazz improvisations are put together via a delicate, acoustic form of high-frequency ‘beats per minute’-blasts of techno. This is why the BMW Welt Jazz Award 2018 goes to Leo Betzl, Maximilian Hirning and Sebastian Wolfgruber.”

LBT received a prize money of 10,000 Euro as well as the trophy designed by BMW Design. The runner up BartolomeyBittmann – progressive strings vienna was awarded 5,000 Euro.

In addition to the award, the public's favourite was selected based on audience votes at each performance. BartolomeyBittmann – progressive strings vienna won this prize and are looking forward to an exclusive stay and concert at resort Schloss Elmau.

“We are delighted to celebrate this year's anniversary edition of BMW Welt Jazz Award in such a diverse manner. Over the course of the last ten years we joined forces to make the BMW Welt Jazz Award known far beyond the borders of the city of Munich. Sixty national and international ensembles have since performed at the double-coned structure of BMW Welt and shown that jazz has the power to bring people together internationally. I would like to express my gratitude to our partners of many years and it is my pleasure to congratulate LBT on their win,” said Dr Nicolas Peter, member of the board of BMW Group. At the final concert, Dr Nicolas Peter also announced the theme of the 2019 edition of BMW Welt Jazz Award: “Saxophone Worlds” is an homage to the instrument, probably most significant for jazz.

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Dr Hans-Georg Küppers, head of Munich's cultural department, is very pleased with the success story of BMW Welt Jazz Award and said, "After only a few years, this award boasts international acclaim and is highly reputed amongst musicians, experts and audiences alike. This is in part due to the great attention and care BMW put in creating the format. It also illustrates the exceptionally high musical standards of the competition. And for that reason, I am delighted that a Munich-based band, the Leo Betzl Trio, convinced the jury at this year's final concert. Allow me to congratulate on the occasion of the award's anniversary and to express my deepest gratitude to BMW for this outstanding partnership of many years."

A total of six renowned, international ensembles invited their audiences to dance during the Sunday matinees held between February and April at the double-coned structure of BMW Welt. Other participating bands included Jukka Eskola Soul Trio (Finland), PUERTA SUR – Tangomoods. Arroyo/Schläppi/Engler (Switzerland), Andi Kissenbeck's CLUB BOOGALOO (Germany) and Beady Belle (Norway).

The distinguished panel of jurors includes renowned jazz experts and specialists of the jazz scene, who chose the winner of the BMW Welt Jazz Award 2018. Led by Oliver Hochkeppel (journalist for music and cultural affairs at the German daily Süddeutsche Zeitung), the jury includes the following members: Andreas Kolb (editor-in-chief of the magazines JazzZeitung and neue musikzeitung), Roland Spiegel (editor at the music desk and jazz expert at the German broadcasting station Bayerischer Rundfunk BR-KLASSIK), Heike Lies (musicologist, Music and Music Theatre Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the state capital Munich) and Christiane Böhnke-Geisse (Artistic Director of the international jazz festival Bingen swingt).

This edition of the BMW Welt Jazz Award once again enjoyed the generous support of BR-KLASSIK, nmz, nmz-online and JazzZeitung.de as well as resort Schloss Elmau and the Department of Cultural Affairs of the city of Munich.

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**About BMW Group's Cultural Commitment**

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by the artist Gerhard Richter specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. Besides co-initiatives, such as BMW Tate Live, the BMW Art Journey and the "Opera for All" concerts in Berlin, Munich and London, the company also partners with leading museums and art fairs as well as orchestras and opera houses around the world. The BMW Group takes absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business.

Further information: [www.bmwgroup.com/culture](http://www.bmwgroup.com/culture) and [www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview](http://www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview)

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**BMW Welt – at the heart of the brand, on the pulse of the city**

The BMW Welt welcomes over 3 million visitors per year. With its pioneering architecture, BMW Welt is the heart of all the brands in the BMW Group – BMW, the sub-brands BMW M and BMW i, MINI, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and BMW Motorrad, which are impressively presented in their own worlds of experience. But it is not only the exhibitions and the collection of new vehicles that are highlights for car lovers from all over the world. Visitors can enjoy a year-round programme of varied events covering culture, art and entertainment as well as a popular event location for over 400 external events per year. The various restaurants of the BMW Welt offer a variety of culinary delights up to star gastronomy. In the BMW Welt Junior Campus, children and youngsters can enjoy exciting guided tours and workshops on the themes of mobility and sustainability.

Weitere Informationen: [www.bmw-welt.com](http://www.bmw-welt.com)

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**The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2017, the BMW Group sold over 2,463,500 passenger vehicles and more than 164,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2017 was € 10.655 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.678 billion. As of 31 December 2017, the BMW Group had a workforce of 129,932 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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