

Media Information  
May 6, 2017

## **Renaud Garcia-Fons wins BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017. Ten years of BMW Welt Jazz Award will be celebrated with the leitmotif “Jazz moves”.**

**Munich.** The winner of BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017 was chosen: French bassist Renaud Garcia-Fons and his trio convinced the jury with their programme “Revoir Paris” against the German bassist Eva Kruse and her quintet. The award was presented by Dr Nicolas Peter, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, along with Dr Hans-Georg-Küppers, head of the Department of Arts and Culture of the state capital Munich.

“Amazing bass” was this year’s theme, pushing an instrument from the background to the front, making the big star in all of the six cost-free matinees and the finale at the sold-out auditorium of BMW Welt was just as thrilled.

Renaud Garcia-Fons was supported by drummer Stephan Carracci and David Venitucci playing the accordion, while Garcia-Fons was playing the usual darker tones of the bass almost violin-like, as heard in his programme “Revoir Paris”.

The expert jury stated: “Outstanding technique is not always the most important aspect – in classical music as well as in jazz. Eva Kruse and her companions demonstrated with ‘On the Mo’ that creativity with compositions and sensitive power are necessary to enchant an audience. It is a cast of fortune, if unique virtuosity at the contrabass serves a musical portrait engaging all senses. Just like Renaud Garcia-Fons’ thrilling homage to his home Paris. At times, it is lyrical delicate, at times with breath-taking force, leading through musical epochs, typical styles and emotional states of the French Capital – and last but not least with a bow play that couldn’t be better executed by classical musicians. That’s the reason the jury has chosen Renaud Garcia-Fons and his trio to be the winner of the BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017.”

Renaud Garcia-Fons received 10,000 EUR prize money and a trophy designed by BMW Design. The runner-up, Eva Kruse and her quintet, were awarded with 5,000 EUR.

Garcia-Fons won this year’s audience award as well, earning his trio an exclusive stay at resort Schloss Elmau and an appearance at the resort’s annual JazzClassica Festival in July 2017.

“Since 2009, 54 jazz ensembles from 17 countries have performed at BMW Welt Jazz Award. In 2018, we want to celebrate the tenth anniversary of BMW Welt Jazz Award with even more international guests and our loyal fans. I very happily congratulate Renaud Garcia-Fons for winning and also want to deeply thank our long-term partners”, said Dr Nicolas Peter. During the finale, Dr Nicolas Peter also announced next year’s theme: 2018’s leitmotif will be “Jazz moves”: BMW Welt is calling to dance!

“The BMW Group created with the BMW Welt Jazz Award a success story with international impact, but it’s also a huge gain for our city. Not only the six matinees, but also this incredible finale were very unique musical experiences, which will be remembered by the enchanted audience for a long time”, said the head of the Department of Arts and Culture of the state capital Munich, Dr Hans-Georg Küppers.

The BMW Welt Jazz Award celebrated its ninth edition in 2017. From January to March, six renowned international ensembles excited and delighted a full house during the

## Media Information

Date May 6, 2017

Subject Renaud Garcia-Fons wins BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017.

Page 2

Sunday matinees at the Double Cone of the BMW Welt. In addition to the two finalists, the other participating ensembles were: Chris Minh Doky & New Nordic Jazz (Denmark), Henning Sieverts' Symmethree (Germany), Lars Danielsson plays Liberetto feat. Grégory Privat (Sweden/France), Linda May Han Oh: Sun Pictures (USA).

The distinguished panel of jurors included renowned jazz experts and specialists of the jazz scene, who chose the winner of BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017. Chaired by Oliver Hochkeppel (journalist for music and cultural affairs at the German daily Süddeutsche Zeitung), the jury included the following members: Roland Spiegel (editor at the music desk and jazz expert at German broadcasting station Bayerischer Rundfunk BR-KLASSIK), Andreas Kolb (editor-in-chief of the magazines JazzZeitung.de and neue musikzeitung), 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").

The 2017 edition of the BMW Welt Jazz Award once again enjoyed the generous support of its partners 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.

**For further questions please contact:**

Dr Thomas Girst  
BMW Group Corporate and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Head of Cultural Engagement  
Telephone: +49-89-382-24753

Leonie Laskowski  
BMW Group Corporate and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Cultural Engagement  
Telephone: +49-89-382-45382

Bernhard Ederer  
BMW Group Corporate and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Spokesperson BMW Welt  
Telephone: +49-89-382-28556

[www.press.bmwgroup.com](http://www.press.bmwgroup.com)  
Email: [presse@bmw.de](mailto:presse@bmw.de)

**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. Currently, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari are creating 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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Media Information

Date May 6, 2017

Subject Renaud Garcia-Fons wins BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017.

Page 3

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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.

**The BMW Group**

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2016, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.367 million cars and 145,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax was approximately € 9.67 billion on revenues amounting to € 94.16 billion. As of 31 December 2016, the BMW Group had a workforce of 124,729 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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