

Media Information
January 31, 2018

BMW Welt Jazz Award 2018 starts off. “Jazz moves” to be interpreted by LBT and Jukka Eskola Soul Trio.

Munich. This year, the BMW Welt Jazz Award is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Under a yearly changing theme, six free Sunday matinees will take place at BMW Welt's double-coned structure between February and April 2018. Afterwards, the expert jury will nominate two ensembles to perform at the finale concert on June 9, 2018. The audience will also have a chance to vote for their very own favourite. For the kick-off, two ensembles will compete in February: The German ensemble LBT on February 18, and the Finish Jukka Eskola Soul Trio on February 25. This year's theme will be “Jazz moves”.

Together with bassist Maximilian Hirning and drummer Sebastian Wolfgruber, pianist Leo Betzl regularly performs as the rhythmic group known as **LBT**. They started their trio three years ago, while studying at the University of Music and Theatre Munich. Since then LBT has produced music that surprises its audiences with drama and excitement alike. The trio likes to experiment and as such has won various awards including Steinway's young talent award, Kurt Maas Jazz Award and Hansjörg Henzler Jazz Award. With their new programme featuring a combination of techno and jazz, the trio is asking for a dance at the BMW Welt on **February 18**.

Over the past ten years, trumpeter Jukka Eskola demonstrated his versatility by joining renowned ensembles playing various kinds of music including dancefloor with Five Corners Quintet, expressionist jazz with the big band of Mikko Innanen and entertaining parodies of jazz with Jimi Tenor. Together with organist Mikko Helevä and drummer Teppo Mäkynen, the **Jukka Eskola Soul Trio** returns to the essence of jazz. Following its own rules and using a humorous approach, the trio will perform moving soul jazz as heard by Blue Note and Prestige in the 1960s and 70s, on **February 25** at BMW Welt's double-coned structure.

Programme of BMW Welt Jazz Award 2018

Matinees: 11 am to c.1:30 pm at the double-coned structure of BMW Welt:

February 18, 2018	LBT
February 25, 2018	Jukka Eskola Soul Trio
March 18, 2018	PUERTA SUR – Tangomoods. Arroyo/Schläppi/Engler
March 25, 2018	Andi Kissenbeck's CLUB BOOGALOO
April 8, 2018	Beady Belle
April 22, 2018	BartolomeyBittmann progressive strings Vienna

Admission is free of charge but seating is limited. Tickets are subject to availability. Doors open at 10.30 am.

Grand finale at the auditorium of BMW Welt at 7 pm:

June 9, 2018 Final concert featuring the two nominated finalists

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Tickets for the grand finale on June 9, 2018, will be available as of February 18, 2018, at BMW Welt and München Ticket.

As in previous years, the programme will be hosted by Beate Sampson, jazz expert and editor at the German broadcasting station BR-KLASSIK.

Jury

The distinguished panel of expert jurors will be headed by **Oliver Hochkeppel** (journalist for music and cultural affairs at the German daily Süddeutsche Zeitung) and will include the following members:

Roland Spiegel, editor at the music desk and jazz expert at the German broadcasting station Bayerischer Rundfunk BR-KLASSIK;

Andreas Kolb, editor-in-chief of the magazines JazzZeitung and neue musikzeitung;

Heike Lies, musicologist, Music and Music Theatre Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the state capital Munich;

Christiane Böhnke-Geisse, Artistic Director of the international jazz festival Bingen swingt.

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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.

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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.

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 31 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 2016 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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