

Media Information
March 16, 2017

BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017's finalists. Renaud Garcia-Fons and Eva Kruse compete against each other on May 6.

Munich. The prestigious jury of the BMW Welt Jazz Award has chosen the contestants for the finale 2017: Renaud Garcia-Fons from France and Eva Kruse from Germany will compete against each other on May 6 at BMW Welt's auditorium. The winning ensemble will be awarded with a prize money of 10,000 Euro as well as a trophy designed by BMW Design specifically for this purpose. The runner-up will receive a prize money of 5,000 Euro.

The ninth season's theme of the BMW Welt Jazz Award was "Amazing bass", putting this exceptional instrument in the spotlight of the international jazz competition at BMW Welt's double-coned structure. Six cost-free matinees took place between January and March, with the audience voting for their own favorite, who will be awarded during the finale as well. The winning ensemble will receive the audience award donated by Schloss Elmau and an exclusive invitation to appear at this year's edition of the Jazz Classica Festival at resort Schloss Elmau in July.

On their social media channels, BMW Welt and BMW Group Culture will soon introduce both finalists: <https://www.facebook.com/bmw.welt/> and <https://www.facebook.com/BMW-Group-Culture/>

Finalists

Renaud Garcia-Fons: Revoir Paris

The Ibero-Frenchman Renaud Garcia-Fons might just be the greatest virtuoso among jazz bassists. Aged 53, he turns what is often reduced to a rhythmic humdrum of a bell metronome into a lyrical, singing and polyphonic cornucopia of bouncy staccato and legato strokes in the highest ranges otherwise known only from violin or guitar performances. For many years Garcia-Fons has been using this unique tone for his programme featuring Mediterranean jazz influenced by Italian, southern French, Spanish and even Arabic and Southeastern European folk music. In this trio, together with accordionist David Ventucci and vibraphonist and percussionist Stephen Caracci, he now turns back to the urbanity of his native Paris. This reunion, named "Revoir Paris", covers a broad range indeed – from musette to hot jazz, from chansons in the tradition of Charles Trenet to folklore imaginaire, from "Montmartre en courant" to "Rue du Dragon".

Eva Kruse: On the Mo

Bassists and drummers typically act as the supporting acts of jazz. Which is why it is all the more remarkable when the career of a female bassist is linked to a single ensemble, as is the case for Eva Kruse and Trio [em]. Ever since the early stages of the new millennium, she has symbolised the new beginnings of young German jazz together with Michael Wollny and Eric Schaefer (also as the winners of the very first BMW Welt Jazz Award 2009). After her parental leave, Kruse changed directions, moved to Sweden, played with star trombonist Nils Landgren and finally brought her very own projects to fruition. Following "In Water", which won the Echo Jazz, she will present "On the Mo", her next fascinating programme, at BMW Welt. Arranged for a quintet, its outstanding qualities are the result of a somewhat unusual orchestration: Eric Schaefer on the drums, Christian Jormin on the piano, Uwe Steinmetz on the saxophone and Tjadina Wake-Walker on the oboe.

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Jury

The distinguished panel of jurors includes renowned jazz experts and specialists of the jazz scene, who will choose the winner of the BMW Welt Jazz Award 2017. 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").

As seen during the Sunday matinees, the final concert will be hosted by Beate Sampson (editor at German broadcasting station BR-KLASSIK). Dr Nicolas Peter, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Finance, will present the winners with the custom-made trophy designed by BMW, alongside Dr Hans-Georg Küppers, head of the Department of Arts and Culture of the state capital Munich.

The final concert followed by an award ceremony will take place on May 6 at 7 PM at the sold-out auditorium of BMW Welt.

This edition of the BMW Welt Jazz Award will once again enjoy 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.

Photographic material is available at BMW PressClub (www.press.bmwgroup.com) and via LoeschHundLiepold Kommunikation GmbH on behalf of the department for public relations of BMW Welt.
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About BMW Group's Cultural Commitment

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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 and 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.

The BMW Group

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