



Information guide Deutscher Jazzpreis

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1. Preface

Over the past decades, jazz from Germany has developed into one of the world's most respected cultural flagships, which has been recognised and promoted for several years now. More than ever before, jazz in Germany is at the cutting edge of our time: its protagonists live and convey cultural diversity in musical practice, teaching, cultural management, recording production and documentation. They are all highly mobile and form networks; they develop new concepts and formats for the performance, recording and dissemination of jazz and improvised music. The purpose of Deutscher Jazzpreis is to honour their innovative power in all its facets.

It was initiated by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media (BKM), Prof. Monika Grütters. The Federal Government will award Deutscher Jazzpreis from 2021 onwards in accordance with the following regulations and within the framework of the available budget funds.

2. Funding objectives

Deutscher Jazzpreis is intended in particular to

- reflect and preserve the diversity of jazz creation in and from Germany
- to honour and strengthen exceptional artistic and innovative creativity and achievements in national and international jazz
- help jazz from Germany to achieve even more global appeal
- lead to a stronger anchoring of this art form in society and
- set a visible sign of support for jazz professionals, on the one hand, through public attention during the award ceremony and, on the other hand, through the award of appropriately funded prizes

3. Price categories

Deutscher Jazzpreis is awarded in the following categories:

Main category 1: Artists

1. Vocal

In this prize category a jazz singer is awarded.

2. Woodwinds

In this prize category, an artist whose main instrument comes from the field of woodwind instruments (e.g. saxophone, clarinet, flute) will be awarded.

3. Brass instruments

In this prize category, an artist whose main instrument comes from the field of brass instruments (e.g. trumpet, trombone, horn, sousaphone) is honoured.

4. Piano/Keyboards

In this prize category, an artist whose main instrument is a keyboard instrument (e.g. piano, keyboard) will be awarded.

5. Guitar

In this prize category, an artist whose main instrument is the guitar is honoured.

6. Bass

In this prize category an artist whose main instrument is bass will be awarded.

7. Drums/Percussion

In this prize category, an artist whose main instrument is drums or percussion will be awarded.

8. Special instruments

In this prize category, an artist from the field of jazz will be awarded who primarily uses an instrument for artistic expression that is not included in prize categories 1–7 (e.g. harp, violin, vibraphone, accordion).

9. Artist of the year

In this prize category an artist from the circle of prize winners in the prize categories 1–8 will be awarded.

10. Band of the year

In this prize category, a group project consisting of up to 9 artists is honoured as a permanent ensemble. This requires a fixed collaboration with a basically uniform cast.

11. Large ensemble of the year

In this prize category, a group project consisting of at least 10 artists is awarded, which is a permanent ensemble.

12. Wind instruments international

In this prize category, an international artist whose main instrument is a woodwind or brass instrument is honoured.

13. Piano/Keyboards international

In this prize category, an international artist whose main instrument is a keyboard instrument (e.g. piano, keyboard) is honoured.

14. Stringed instruments international

In this prize category, an international artist whose main instrument is a stringed instrument (e.g. guitar, violin, bass) is honoured.

15. Drums/Percussion international

In this prize category an international artist whose main instrument is drums or percussion will be honoured.

16. Artist of the year international

In this prize category an international artist from the circle of prize winners in the prize categories 12–15 can be awarded.

17. Band of the year international

In this prize category, an international group project is honoured that exists as a permanent ensemble.

Main category 2: Recording / Production

18. Instrumental album of the year

In this prize category a production in the field of jazz is awarded, in which the instrumentals is in the foreground.

19. Vocal album of the year

In this prize category a production in the field of jazz with vocals/voice will be awarded.

20. Debut album of the year

In this prize category, a production in the field of jazz is honoured which is the first publication of the artist or group or with which the artist or group has for the first time gained greater public interest.

21. Broadcast production of the year

This prize category honours a musical production (audio or audiovisual) in the field of jazz, which has been made possible by radio and has been released for publication.

22. Instrumental album of the year international

This prize category honours an international production in the field of jazz, in which the instrumental event is in the foreground.

23. Vocal Album of the year international

In this prize category, an international production in the field of jazz with vocals/voice is awarded.

24. Debut album of the year international

This prize category honours an international production in the field of jazz which is the first publication of the artist or group project or which has for the first time gained greater public interest.

Main category 3: Live

25. Club of the year

This category honours jazz venues or performance venues that are distinguished by a high-quality, artistically demanding and innovative programme and that give jazz as a contemporary art a place to emerge and develop. All clubs listed in the Jazz Wegweiser Jazz of the Jazzinstitut Darmstadt are eligible for selection.

26. Festival of the year

In this category, prizes are awarded to festivals with a focus on jazz, which are characterised by a high-quality, artistically demanding and innovative programme.

Main category 4: Composition / Arrangement

27. Composition of the year

In this prize category, an original composition from the field of jazz is awarded.

28. Arrangement of the year

In this prize category, an arrangement from the field of jazz is awarded, whereby arrangement is to be understood as a new version of an already existing composition, usually for a different instrumentation than the original.

Main category 5: Special prizes

29. Journalistic achievement

This prize category honours a journalistic achievement (contribution in TV, radio, print or online journalism, photography can also be considered) which is characterised by a particularly knowledgeable, sharp analytical or sensitive presentation of (musical) events in the field of jazz.

30. Lifetime achievement

This prize category honours artists and actors from the field of jazz who have rendered outstanding services to jazz in Germany over a long period of time and to a special degree and who have made an important contribution to the development of jazz in this sense.

31. Special prize of the jury

In this prize category, a prize can be awarded to artists, actors, events or performances from the field of jazz, who the jury considers particularly worthy of an award, but who have not already been considered in another prize category.

4. Who can be awarded?

For the national prize categories (1–11, 27–31), the following requirements must be met:

The award winners must be

1. German citizens, or
2. citizens of other EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland or other non-EU countries, and
 - 2.1. have lived in Germany, i.e. have had their main residence in Germany for at least three years prior to nomination or can provide

evidence of continuous work and activity in Germany during this period, or

- 2.2. have completed their studies at a German higher education institution or another training institution in Germany with state recognition

For recordings/productions (price categories 18–24) the same criteria apply to the participating artists. The decisive factor is not the location of the company responsible for the production/recording, but the participating artists.

The awarded projects of prize categories 21, 25, 26 must be located in Germany.

For the international prize categories (12–17), the following requirements must be met:

The international award winners

1. are not German citizens, and
2. are not living in Germany or have not been resident in Germany for at least three years up to one day before the submission deadline.

In the case of group projects, the majority of the participating artists or actors, i.e. at least half of them, must meet the above criteria.

Please note: The same artist or project cannot be submitted/nominated in both national or international categories at the same time.

5. What is the prize money?

The prizes awarded within the framework of Deutscher Jazzpreis are to be understood as cultural-political recognition of the merits of jazz. All prize categories except categories 9, 16 and 21 are endowed with prize money of at least 10,000 euros.

6. What does the application process look like?

The application procedure is divided in two parts: There are curated categories and submission categories.

Curated categories:

For award categories 1 to 8 as well as 10 to 15 and 17, proposals for award winners are submitted exclusively by the appointed expert juries. For categories 30 and 31, proposals for prize-winners will be submitted both by the appointed expert juries and by the main jury of Deutscher Jazzpreis.

Submission categories:

The other prize categories (18–24 and 26–29) are so-called submission categories for which musicians and parties involved who meet the formal requirements and selection criteria can apply independently. The application for the submission categories is possible from December 7th 2020 until January 10th 2021.

7. What are the requirements for the submission categories?

Please note: Documents and media files can only be submitted via links. This can be done either by linking to publicly available online sources or via cloud services such as Drive or Dropbox. Please avoid temporary links (e.g. via WeTransfer).

Requirements for the main category recording/production (prize categories 18–24)

Musicians, with productions in which they are involved, as well as the labels and broadcasting companies responsible for the productions, are eligible to apply. A short written statement as to why the production should be considered, must be included in the application.

Music recordings with a length of at least 30 minutes, that have been made available to the public in the context of a commercial release (verifiable via an EAN code), as well as two reviews that have been published in independent media, should be submitted. The productions submitted for review must be made available online to the jury, together with covers/ artworks, that have been used in the sale of recorded products.

For category 21, notwithstanding the previous regulations, a music or video recording must be submitted and the broadcast date of the production must be stated.

Productions that have been or will be published after the end of the submission phase of the previous award period and at the latest by the end of the current submission period or (in the case of category 21) have been or will be broadcast.

Requirements for the prize category 26. Festival of the year

Organizers of festivals, who presented or will present at least six concerts on at least two consecutive days before the application deadline, are eligible to apply. To be eligible, festivals need to take place predominantly in (measured by the majority of concerts) in Germany. A short general description of the festival, a short description of the concept and the programme of the festival year must be provided. Additionally, a short written statement as to why the production should be considered needs to be included in the application.

Requirements for the main category composition/arrangement (prize categories 27 und 28)

Musicians, with compositions/arrangements in which they are involved, as well as the labels responsible for the composition, are eligible to apply. A short written statement as to why the composition/arrangement should be considered, must be included in the application.

A score of the composition, a recording of the composition - not necessarily professional – and details on the date of realization need to be provided with the application. Additionally, a short written statement as to why the composition should be considered, is required.

Requirements for the prize category 29. Journalistic achievement

Eligible for submission are the authors of the contribution themselves, the media publishing the contribution and listeners and readers. Submitters must give reasons for their application. Submissions should include the article itself, a short biography of the authors (in the case of articles for which several authors are responsible, short biographies of all authors), as well as information on the type and date of publication.

General provision for all submissions

In principle, artistic freedom applies, but applications with anti-constitutional, illegal, racist, sexist, inhuman or other discriminatory content are excluded from participation in Deutscher Jazzpreis.

8. Special Categories

The winner in category 25 “Club of the year” will be determined via an online voting among the members of the German Jazzunion.

For category 9 “Artist of the year” there will be neither a proposal nor an entry procedure. An artist from the circle of prize winners in categories 1–8 will be honoured. For category 16 “Artist of the year international” there will be no proposal or submission procedure either. Here an artist from the circle of prize winners in categories 12–15 will be awarded a prize.