

Press release

## Premiere Deutscher Jazzpreis 2021: 31 awards presented for outstanding artistic achievements

- **Artists national:** Lucia Cadotsch | Daniel Erdmann | Markus Stockhausen | Aki Takase | Ronny Graupe | Eva Kruse | Christian Lillinger | Christopher Dell | Philipp Gropper's PHILM | Andromeda Mega Express Orchestra
- **Artists international:** Jaimie Branch | Tigran Hamasyan | Wolfgang Muthspiel | Brian Blade | Shake Stew
- **Recording / Production national:** Julia Hülsmann Quartet | Masaa Mirna Bogdanović | Bill Laurance & WDR Big Band Cologne
- **Recording / Production international:** Carla Bley | Kandace Springs | Joel Ross
- **Live:** LOFT | Leipziger Jazztage
- **Composition / Arrangement:** Florian Ross | Fabia Mantwill
- **Special Prizes:** Günther Huesmann | Karsten Jahnke | Jazzclub Unterfahrt

Berlin, June 4th, 2021

The grand premiere of Deutscher Jazzpreis took place on Thursday evening. Outstanding achievements in the national and international jazz scene were honoured in a total of 31 categories. The names of the award winners remained secret until the ceremony, therefore the surprise and emotions during the live-streamed award show were accordingly great.

»This award shines the spotlight on the diversity, creativity and communicative power of jazz. The jazz music scene has always built sounding bridges between different cultures, it stands for courage, exchange, cooperation – and is thus also a reflection of our pluralistic society.«

- **Monika Grütters, Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media**

Pinar Atalay hosted the evening together with her co-hosts Ulf Drechsel (rbb), Ulrich Habersetzer (BR) and Nicole Köster (SWR). The Hamburg Jazz Prize Studio was combined with the popular jazz clubs A-Trane (Berlin), Unterfahrt (Munich) and Ella & Louis (Mannheim) as additional award venues. In each location, protagonists were on site or were broadcasted from all over the world. In this way, the whole scene could come together and celebrate the premiere of the award.

Following the opening by the moderation team, Sebastian Studnitzky had the honour of giving the first live musical performance of the evening at Jazzclub Unterfahrt. After the welcoming address by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media Monika Grütters, the ceremony of the new award for the jazz scene started. The first artist of the evening to be honoured in Hamburg was vocalist Lucia Cadotsch, with a laudatory speech by singer and actress Ute Lemper, who was streamed live from New York. At the A-Trane, the coveted trophies went to Mirna Bogdanović, Philipp Gropper's PHILM and Aki Takase, among others. Artist of the Year International was Tigran Hamasyan, who joined from Los Angeles and was honoured with a laudation by Nils Landgren in Hamburg.

In addition to the laudations – e.g. by Rolf Kühn, Max Mutzke, Kalle Kalima or Silke Eberhard – there were live performances by brilliant jazz musicians at all locations. Fabia Mantwill and Nils Landgren performed in the Hamburg studio. At Ella & Louis, the prize-winners Masaa and Florian Ross gave thrilling musical performances. The drummer Christian Lillinger was then honoured as Artist of the Year in the legendary Jazzclub Unterfahrt. The laudatory speech was given by the chairperson of the main jury Beate Sampson.

The varied award ceremony ended with the Lifetime Achievement Award for live promoter Karsten Jahnke. With this special category, the main jury honoured the decades-long work of a great music lover and connoisseur for jazz in Germany. To the great surprise of the audience, jazz legend Herbie Hancock addressed the award winner and friend with moving words from Los Angeles.

»Thank you, my friend, for paving the way for me and all the other artists, you've handled. You have opened the door for us. For this you not only receive a thank you, but as a special tribute you are awarded the German Jazz Prize for your lifetime achievement.«

– Herbie Hancock, Jazzpianist and Composer

»The Deutscher Jazzpreis is a great honour for me! But what makes me happy the most is that my favourite music is currently more relevant than it has been for a long time. I am firmly convinced that

the power of music is identity-forming and unifying across all generations - and that there is hardly a better way to do this than experiencing a live concert together.«

– Karsten Jahnke, Lifetime Achievement Award Winner

The complete award ceremony is now also available as VoD. Excerpts of the premiere will soon be available on ARTE CONCERT. The premiere was also shown on the websites of NDR Kultur, SWR2, BR-Klassik and rbbKultur. The livestream was also presented on the website of 'Jazz in the City' – as part of a cooperation with FUNKE Medien Gruppe Thüringen.

Today, 4 June, the ELBJAZZ starts - this year on two days as a purely digital and free edition. In order to make optimal use of the synergies of the two jazz events in Hamburg as a music location, a studio environment suitable for both jazz events was created in a collaboration between the Initiative Musik and ELBJAZZ GmbH. On both Friday and Saturday, ELBJAZZ ([www.elbjazz.de](http://www.elbjazz.de)) in cooperation with ARTE CONCERT ([www.arte.tv](http://www.arte.tv)) will present an extensive, international programme of concert streams from the studio.

## Deutscher Jazzpreis 2021

### All award winners at a glance

#### Artists national

1. Vocals: Lucia Cadotsch
2. Woodwinds: Daniel Erdmann
3. Brass Instruments: Markus Stockhausen
4. Piano/Keyboards: Aki Takase
5. Guitar: Ronny Graupe
6. Bass: Eva Kruse
7. Drums/Percussion: Christian Lillinger
8. Special Instruments: Christopher Dell
9. Artist of the Year: Christian Lillinger
10. Band of the Year: Philipp Gropper's PHILM
11. Large Ensemble of the Year: Andromeda Mega Express Orchestra

#### Artists international

12. Wind Instruments International: Jaimie Branch
13. Piano/Keyboards International: Tigran Hamasyan
14. String Instruments International: Wolfgang Muthspiel
15. Drums/Percussion International: Brian Blade

16. Artist of the Year International: Tigran Hamasyan

17. Band of the Year International: Shake Stew

#### **Recording / Production**

18. Instrumental Album of the Year: Julia Hülsmann Quartet – Not Far From Here

19. Vocal Album of the Year: Masaa – Irade

20. Debut Album of the Year: Mirna Bogdanović – Confrontation

21. Broadcast Production of the Year: Bill Laurance & WDR Big Band Cologne

#### **Recording / Production International**

22. Instrumental Album of the Year International: Carla Bley – Life Goes On

23. Vocal Album of the Year International: Kandace Springs – The Women Who Raised Me

24. Debut Album of the Year International: Joel Ross – KingMaker

#### **Live**

25. Club of the Year: LOFT

26. Festival of the Year: 44. Leipziger Jazztage Transitions

#### **Composition / Arrangement**

27. Composition of the Year: Florian Ross – Streamwalk

28. Arrangement of the Year: Fabia Mantwill – Ophelia

#### **Special Prizes**

29. Journalistic Achievement: Günther Huesmann

Bird Lives - Zum 100. Geburtstag von Charlie Parker

30. Lifetime Achievement: Karsten Jahnke

31. Special Prize of the Jury: Jazzclub Unterfahrt

## Deutscher Jazzpreis

Deutscher Jazzpreis awards outstanding artistic achievements of the national and international jazz scene in 31 categories. The focus is on musicians, for whom there will be a total of 17 awards in the main *category 1: Artists*. In addition, 14 awards will be presented in four other main categories for *recording/production, live, composition/arrangement*, and three special prizes. Deutscher Jazzpreis is endowed with 10,000 euros each. It is realized by the Initiative Musik with funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The concept of Deutscher Jazzpreis was developed together with an advisory board appointed by the Minister of State for Culture, Prof. Monika Grütters, which is made up of representatives of the jazz scene.

Please use #jazzpreis21 #deutscherjazzpreis at your social networks:

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**Note:** Deutscher Jazzpreis of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media has neither an organizational nor a content-related connection to the Neuer Deutscher Jazzpreis of IG Jazz Rhein-Neckar e.V., which is awarded once a year in Mannheim as an audience prize of the German jazz scene.