German Jazz Prize Jury Statutes

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The following regulations form the basis for the composition, operational procedures, and responsibilities of the juries.

Section I: General Principles of a Jury's Work

1. Independence and Basis for Decision-Making

(1) The juries are bodies that are independent of the supervisory board and the Initiative Musik shareholders.

(2) The juries carry out their duties in accordance with the currently applicable Terms and Conditions of the German Jazz Prize, the Initiative Musik guidelines, and these Jury Statutes.

2. Role of the Juries

(1) The role of the juries is to make a qualified selection for the awarding of prizes (nominees and winners) by means of a transparent and objective process.

(2) Based on the juries' recommendations, Initiative Musik decides on the final recipients of the awards.

3. Appointment of Jury Members

(1) The juries are to be composed of experts with proven professional expertise. The juries are to be composed of experts from the jazz scene; including, among others, artists, journalists, media representatives, event organizers, program curators, label representatives, representatives of music publishers, agents, and managers – thereby allowing a multi-perspective approach to nominations and the selection of award winners. Jurors are also to be appointed based on the expertise required by the respective expert jury groups.

(2) Gender balance is to be ensured when selecting jury members. People who identify as FLINTA* (acronym for women, lesbians, intersex, non-binary, trans and agender people. The asterisk includes everyone who doesn't see themselves represented by the letters but is marginalised in a similar way) must make up at least 50% of the group. It is also important to take additional diversity criteria into account when appointing jury members in order to ensure participation in accordance with the General Equal Treatment Act. As such, the following factors – age, ethnic background and nationality, gender and

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gender identity, sexual orientation, skin color, social background, geographic location, professional experience / education / and field of work, as well as physical abilities – should be taken into account when selecting jury members. Efforts should be made to foster diversity-related competence among the jury members.

(3) Appointments are generally for a term of two years. Reappointment for up to two additional years is permitted. The aim is to implement a rotation system whereby half of the jurors are replaced every two years to ensure a consistent balance between experienced and new jurors.

(4) Nominations for jury members are submitted by the German Jazz Prize advisory board or by Initiative Musik.

(5) The Initiative Musik office submits such nominations to the supervisory board in order for a decision to be made. The supervisory board may approve such or, for example, request changes or additional nominations.

(6) Based on the decisions met by the supervisory board as per No. 3, Paragraph (5), the jury members are appointed by Initiative Musik.

(7) For the maintenance of transparency, the names of the jury members are published on the prize's website. Main jurors are appointed subject to change and may be replaced if they are nominated by name or in a leadership role in an award category in the same edition

(8) Former jury members or members of the advisory board and nominees and award winners, who were nominated by name or in a leadership function, must wait at least one year before being eligible to serve on the jury for the German Jazz Prize.

(9) Where a person is already an active member of an Initiative Musik jury, that person may not serve on another Initiative Musik jury.

4. Bias and Conflicts of Interest

(1) In order to ensure the integrity and objectivity of the selection process, jury members are required to remain impartial. They may not vote or participate in discussions if a direct conflict of interest involving themselves or persons closely associated with them exists.

(2) A conflict of interest exists, in particular, where

- the jury member is/was directly involved in the project or is/was personally nominated

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- submissions to be assessed that come from employers, customers or clients, or from an institution or company in which the jury member is active as a committee member, advisor or in a similar capacitythere is a direct financial interest in the success or failure of an nomination or project, or
- the jury member is related by blood or marriage to the applicant or key project participants, or is married to or a close friend of them.

(3) Jury members shall disclose any conflicts of interest in advance and thereupon leave the room.

(4) Should conflicts of interest be anticipated in a particular award category, or if a jury member is eligible for nomination, that person shall be assigned to another relevant expert jury group as a precautionary measure.

5. Withdrawal from a Jury Role & Absence from Jury Meetings

If an appointed jury member resigns from their position on a jury, a replacement should be sought if possible. Where a jury member is unable to attend a jury meeting at short notice for a valid reason – such as illness – the other jury members should take the absent member's nominations into account during their discussions. For more information on the provision of a quorum, see Sections 18 and 24.

6. Data Protection and Confidentiality

(1) The juries meet behind closed doors. All information obtained in the course of jury duties, particularly internal discussions and voting results, is to be treated as strictly confidential. This confidentiality obligation remains valid indefinitely and shall continue even after the jury's term has ended. The proceedings of jury meetings shall remain confidential. With this in mind, each jury member must sign a confidentiality and data protection agreement at the start of their term. The results of decisions are to remain confidential until they are officially announced by Initiative Musik. At no time may the jury disclose to anyone who is not a member of the jury, the proceedings of jury meetings, the voting preferences of jury members, or the reasons and results for or against awarding a prize.

(2) Should a breach of confidentiality arise, Initiative Musik shall be entitled to remove a jury member from their duties with immediate effect.

7. Reimbursement of Expenses

An attendance fee is paid for participation in jury meetings. For participation of up to 4 hours, the attendance fee is 125 EUR net. For participation of more than 4 hours, the

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attendance fee is 250 EUR net. Travel expenses incurred in connection with jury duties are reimbursed. In this, the provisions of the Federal Travel Expenses Act are to be observed.

8. Administration

(1) Prior to the commencement of voting by the jury, Initiative Musik will conduct a preliminary review of each submission to ensure it complies with the terms and conditions of the German Jazz Prize and the Initiative Musik guidelines. Initiative Musik will inform jury members of any concerns or comments regarding submissions when entries are approved for voting. Only subsequent to this approval by Initiative Musik will the jury members cast their votes.

(2) The project team is responsible for preparing, conducting, and following up on jury meetings. Themanagement, members of the advisory board, and representatives of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) may attend jury meetings without obtaining voting rights thereby. If, in the opinion of Initiative Musik, the jury's evaluations or decisions are not in accordance with Initiative Musik's guidelines or these regulations, the jury will be made aware of such, if possible, during its meetings. Where doubts regarding the propriety of a jury decision cannot be resolved during the jury meeting or, in exceptional cases, upon subsequent discovery of the matter with the respective jury spokesperson, the Initiative Musik supervisory board will itself reach a decision.

9. Legal Recourse

The selection of the award winners is final. Legal recourse is excluded. No substantive justification is provided for this exclusion.

Section II: General Regulations for Selecting Nominees and Award Winners

10. Criteria Pertaining to the Selection of Nominees and Award Winners

In accordance with its rules and regulations, the German Jazz Prize recognizes artists, key figures, and projects that make a significant contribution to the profile of jazz in Germany in all its forms. In addition to the criteria listed in the category descriptions, the respective jury must also individually weigh up the importance of diversity in the overall composition of the award recipients

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as well as the creative output and public impact of the individual artists, in relation to one another.

11. Selection Process for Nominees and Award Recipients

(1) The selection of award winners takes place by means of a two-step process, insofar as separate provisions for a particular award category do not apply (see Section IV (2) Main Jury Responsibilities)

In the first instance, from among all submissions or nominations, the respective juries generally nominate up to four artists or achievements worthy of an award in each award category by means of the corresponding expert jury panel. Following this, the main jury selects one winner from each of the four nominees in every award category.

(2) Support is available in the form of the use of an electronic voting tool.

12. Voting procedure

(1) Wherever possible, the selection of nominees and award recipients should be made on consensual basis. In each award category, juries select the artist or achievement to be nominated or recognized in a first round of voting by means of an absolute majority of the jury members present and eligible to vote. All subsequent rounds of voting are decided by a simple majority of the jury members present and eligible to vote. Voting continues until generally four nominees or one winner has been determined.

(2) Where a larger selection of nominations exists, it is possible to narrow the field in stages; that is, juries may, if necessary, cast multiple votes in a single round to narrow down the nominations. Initiative Musik, in consultation with the jury chair, shall determine the further selection process.

Section III Expert Jury

13. Expert Jury Responsibilities

The expert jury is divided into five panels. The expert jury panels generally select up to four artists or achievements worthy of recognition in their respective award categories – the nominees for each award category – and provide written justification for their decisions. The expert jury panels make their selection decisions without ranking the entries. However, they may make a recommendation to the main jury regarding the awarding of prizes.

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14. Curated categories

Overview of curated categories (10):

Main Category 1: Artists

1 Vocal
2 Woodwinds
3 Brass Instruments
4 Piano/Keyboard
5 String Instruments
6 Drums/Percussion
7 Artist of the Year

9 Artist of the Year International

Main Category 3: Live

15 Live Act of the Year

Main Category 5: Special Awards

18 Lifetime Achievement

(1) In the curated award categories, individual jurors must submit their nominations by November 30th of the calendar year at the latest. Each jury member should submit a total of at least 15 nominations in the curated categories. At least 3 of these nominations should be submitted in the “Live” category. All nominations made by a jury member should be distributed across at least five different categories. Each jury member may submit as many additional nominations as they wish.

(2) Each nomination by a jury member should include the nominee's name, a brief biography, a justification for the nomination, and any supporting sources. Expert jurors may not nominate themselves or any group project in which they are involved – either by name or in a leadership role – for consideration in a curated award category.

Once nominations from the various jury members for the expert jury panels have been received, a formal review is conducted to determine whether a nomination is admissible.

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In this, the general eligibility requirements set out in the terms and conditions of participation are taken into account. No later than two weeks before the jury meeting, the collated nominations are sent to all members of the respective expert jury group and assessed by means of a non-binding online vote. The descriptions of the up to four nominees selected should be prepared by the respective expert jury group in a format suitable for publication.

(3) The main jury and the expert jury panels meet in person. Where such proves not to be possible, a phone or video conference may take place.

15. Submission categories

Overview of submission categories (9):

Main Category 1: Artists
8. Large Ensemble of the Year

Main Category 2: Recording/Production
10 Album of the Year
11 Debut Album of the Year
12 Album of the Year International
13 Debut Album of the Year International

Main Category 3: Live
14 Festival of the Year

Main Category 4: Composition/Arrangement

16 Composition / Arrangement of the Year

Main Category 5: Special Awards
17 Journalistic Achievement
19 Musical Mediation

In each submission category, all projects, productions, compositions, and arrangements submitted by the deadline for that award category will be considered and evaluated.

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Expert jurors may only submit nominations in the curated award categories.

16. Number and Size of the Expert Jury Panels:

(1) The allocation for 2027 will be determined following the final appointment of the expert jury. In 2026, expert jury panels were formed for the following award categories:

Expert Jury Panel 1 reviewed Award Categories 1, 2, 15, and 18
Expert Jury Panel 2 reviewed Award Categories 11*, 17, 20, and 22
Expert Jury Panel 3 reviewed Award Categories 4, 5, 6, and 14*
Expert Jury Panel 4 reviewed Award Categories 10, 11*, 13, and 16
Expert Jury Panel 5 reviewed Award Categories 3, 8, 12, and 14*

(2) Each expert jury panel consists of 5 jury members.

*Entries in Categories 10 and 12 *National* and *International Album of the Year*, are each divided equally between two expert juries. Each of these selects two of the four nominees. When selecting nominees, care is to be taken to ensure that, prior to the jury meeting, the respective expert jury panels receive a shortlist generated from a digital preliminary evaluation, which includes the highest-rated submissions from both expert jury panels responsible for a given category.

17. Appointment of Spokespersons from the Expert Jury Panels to the Main Jury

(1) The members of the expert jury panels each elect two spokespersons from among their members to serve on the main jury; ensuring gender balance in doing so (see also Section I of the Jury Statutes). These spokespersons thereby form part of the main jury and jointly present the nominees from their respective expert jury groups there.

(2) Care is to be taken to ensure that musicians are represented in an appropriate number on the main jury. Ideally, one musician from each of the five expert jury groups should be selected to serve on the main jury.

18. Quorum for the Expert Jury Groups

The expert jury panels are deemed to be quorate if at least 60% of the jurors are present. Conflicts of interest do not affect the quorum. In the event that a panel is not quorate, Initiative Musik will appoint alternate expert jury members from among all expert jury members.

19. Interaction with the Selected Nominees

Following the meetings of the expert jury panels, the nominees for the various award categories reviewed by the expert jury panels are announced. All nominees

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are invited to the awards ceremony. The winners themselves are not announced until the ceremony (with the exception of the “Lifetime Achievement” category).

20. Recording the Results of the Expert Jury Panels

During the expert jury meetings, the following information is recorded on a standard form and confirmed by the signatures of all members of the respective expert jury group who are in attendance.

- Elected spokespersons
- The artists and/or works nominated, along with brief reasons for their selection
- If applicable, recommendations to the main jury for selecting the award winners
- Conflicts of interest with names and award categories
- Further important decisions, such as providing a rationale in the event that fewer than four artists or performances are nominated; addressing known concerns regarding compliance with the Initiative Musik guidelines

Section IV: Main Jury

21. Composition of the Main Jury

The main jury consists of a total of 10 representatives from the 5 expert jury groups, as well as up to 4 additional members who are outstanding and recognized figures in public cultural life with an affinity for jazz or who are prominent figures in the jazz scene.

22. Main Jury Responsibilities

(1) The main jury determines the selection of the winners of the German Jazz Prize. To this end, the main jury selects the respective award winners in each award category from among up to four nominated artists and performances.

(2) In Award Category *7 Artist of the Year*, the main jury selects up to four nominees from among all nominees in the national award categories

- *1 Vocal*
- *2 Woodwinds*
- *3 Brass Instruments*
- *4 Piano/Keyboard*
- *5 String Instruments*

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- *6 Drums/Percussion*
- *8 Large Ensemble of the Year*
- *10 Album of the Year*
- *11 Debut Album of the Year*
- *15 Live Act of the Year*
- *16 Composition/Arrangement of the Year*

In the case of group projects, the bandleader is taken into account for this purpose. Furthermore, each member of the expert jury may nominate one artist, who has not already been nominated, for this award category.

(3) The main jury makes the final decision regarding the *International Artist* award category. In the case of group projects, the bandleader is taken into account for this purpose. Furthermore, each member of the expert jury may nominate one artist, who has not already been nominated, for this award category.

(4) The main jury makes the final decision regarding the *Lifetime Achievement* award category (18). Nominations may be submitted by both members of the expert jury and the members of the main jury up to two weeks before the main jury meeting. Nominations may be submitted at a later date; however, in order to be admitted to the voting process, they require the approval of the main jury, whereby a quorum of two-thirds of the voting jury members are present. Each nomination by a jury member should include the nominee's name, a brief biography, a justification for the nomination, and any supporting sources. There are no nominees in this award category.

23. Main Jury Spokespersons

The main jury elects a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among its members for a two-year term to serve as spokespersons for the main jury. Gender balance needs to be taken into account in this regard.

24. Main Jury Process

(1) An external individual who is not a member of the current jury may be appointed to chair and moderate main jury meetings. Initiative Musik is responsible for the formal procedures, minute-taking, and setting of agendas.

(2) Jury members may submit motions regarding the agenda at any time.

(3) The main jury panels are deemed to be quorate if at least 60% of the jurors are present.

(4) In award categories for which an expert jury panel has selected nominees, the two members of the expert jury who also sit on the main jury present the artists or achievements they have nominated to the main jury and explain both the rationale

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behind the nomination decision and the expert jury panel's recommendation regarding a potential award. This is then followed by a discussion about the nominated artists and achievements. Once this discussion has concluded, the main jury selects the winners in each award category according to the procedure set out in the Section 24. To ensure the transparency of its decisions, the jury provides a rationale for the selections made. This may correspond to the expert jury's rationale for the nomination. In exceptional cases, the main jury may reschedule voting on the recipient of an award in a given category to a later point in the agenda.

25. Recording of Main Jury Results

(1) The meeting(s) of the main jury are minuted. The following information must be included in these minutes:

General information

- List of jury members present, including any times of absence for each jury member
- Other attendees, including times of absence
- The following times:
  - commencement and ending of the jury meeting
  - commencement and ending of interruptions to the meeting
  - times spent on the individual award categories.

Information on voting

- The specific voting question
- Time of the vote
- Required majority, special voting procedures if applicable
- Number of impartial jury members present (= number of members eligible to vote)
- Conflicts of interest (including the name of the juror in question and the nature of the conflict)
- Distribution of votes, including abstentions
- The result of the vote and a statement explaining the decision (for publication purposes)
- If applicable, any special circumstances (e.g., concerns related to compliance with the Initiative Musik guidelines).

The results of the voting are established and announced by the spokesperson for the main jury or the moderator, and thereupon recorded by Initiative Musik.

(2) The minutes must be approved by the Federal Ministry of Culture prior to any awards ceremony and are to be signed by the spokesperson for the main jury and the person taking the minutes.

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Section V: Final Provisions

Amendments to the Jury Statutes may be proposed by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), Initiative Musik, jury members and the advisory board. They shall be approved by Initiative Musik in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Culture.

In cases of doubt regarding the interpretation and application of the Jury Statutes, Initiative Musik shall decide in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Culture.

Berlin, October 12, 2026

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