German Jazz Prize Terms and Conditions

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DEUTSCHER JAZZ PREIS

1. Preamble

Jazz is a network of musical practices whose beginnings can be traced back to the 20th century in the United States.

In jazz musicians' own understanding, the emergence of a musical personality is closely connected to developing an individual musical language – which functions as an expression of social, musical and biographical background.

As contemporary improvisational music drawing from African-American as well as various other global classical and ethnic musical traditions, jazz has long become an independent, original and vibrant part of German music culture.

As an Afro-diasporic art form, jazz is formative for the current musical discourse, particularly addressing and artistically reflecting the issues of our time. With its multifaceted identity, jazz develops and acknowledges historical, geographical and cultural crosslinks/crossover. This is one of the reasons why jazz is readily associated by the public with the idea of freedom; in the history of this music, freedom was and still is a value/good often endangered and defended against resistance. Indeed, the concept of freedom is central to jazz's potential to transcend categories of age, gender, social origin, and ethnicity.

In particular, improvisation as a cultural technique constitutes a special competence (skillset) in a world with ever more complex interrelations. The authentic characteristics of jazz – internationality, transculturality and creolity – are becoming increasingly important.

Hence, the systematic and permanent support of jazz as an expression of artistic attitude and as a cultural practice is a challenge for contemporary cultural policy, as performance and reception have undergone an unprecedented development in recent years. This development fundamentally influences and shapes the richness of contemporary music culture, impacting other art forms such as film, theater, literature or the visual arts.

Furthermore, the variety of styles and potential constellations for musical projects meanwhile attracts a highly diverse crowd of global musicians to Germany to be part of the new developments of jazz in this country. As music whose essence lies in experiencing both live performances and audio recordings, jazz is increasingly challenged to meet the fundamental transformation of the music market with sustained innovation.

The German Jazz Prize pursues the overarching goal of creating, living and promoting more cultural diversity in musical practice, education, cultural management, as well as in recording and documentation. All members of the jazz community should gain increased mobility, form networks and develop new concepts and formats for the performance, recording and dissemination of jazz and improvised music.

The purpose of the German Jazz Prize is to reward innovators of jazz in all its facets, as well as to introduce jazz in new ways to a diverse audience.

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The prize is intended as an orientation for those interested in jazz from all social groups both domestic and abroad, and is based on the self-conception that jazz and improvised music belong to the cultural educational canon. The German Jazz Prize reflects the music's social significance, and its award criteria are first and foremost based on artistic considerations.

2. Aims of the German Jazz Prize

The German Jazz Prize aims in particular:

- promote the diversity of jazz in and from Germany,
- honor and strengthen exceptional artistic creativity, innovation and achievements in jazz in and from Germany,
- help jazz from Germany achieve even greater worldwide appeal to lead to this art form becoming more firmly established in society,
- lead to a stronger anchoring of jazz in society
- embody and strengthen cultural diversity
- visibly support jazz creators and their networks. To this end, in addition to increased public attention through the German Jazz Prize, its various categories should be appropriately financially endowed.

To this end – in addition to increased public attention through the award ceremony – various awards of the German Jazz Prize should be endowed with appropriate financial prize money.

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3. Award Categories

The German Jazz Prize is presented in five main categories, each with its own subcategories, leading to a total of 19 awards:

Main Category 1: Artists

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

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
15 Live Act of the Year

Main Category 4: Composition/Arrangement

16 Composition/Arrangement of the Year

Main Category 5: Special Prizes

17 Journalistic Achievement
18 Lifetime Achievement
19 Musical Mediation

The German Jazz Prize principally aims to recognize achievements from the preceding calendar year. The exception to this is Award Category 18 “Lifetime Achievement”.

Further terms and conditions are governed by the provisions for the individual award categories, which are set out under *7. Submission and Selection Criteria.*

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4. Formal Provisions for Recipients

4.1 Artists or performers who are nominated for a German Jazz Prize in Award Categories 1–8 (*1: Vocal; 2: Woodwinds; 3: Brass Instruments; 4: Piano/Keyboard Instruments; 5: String Instruments; 6: Drums/Percussion; 7 Artist of the Year; 8 Large Ensemble of the Year*), as well as *15: Live Act of the Year, 16 Composition/Arrangement of the Year,* and *17 Journalistic Achievement*, must meet at least one of the following conditions no later than one day before the submission deadline:

- hold German citizenship, or,
- have had their primary residence in Germany for at least three years prior to the submission deadline, or be able to provide evidence of continuous activity and work in Germany during that period, or
- have earned their degree from a state-recognized German college or training institution.

4.2 **International artists** (*Award Category 9: Artist of the Year International*) are artists who

- are not German citizens, and
- do not have their primary residence in Germany or had been residing in Germany for less than three years as of the submission deadline.

4.3 In the case of **group projects**, at least half of the participating artists or performers must meet the criteria listed above; or the bandleader who gives the ensemble its name must meet those criteria. In the international categories, alongside citizenship and the artist's primary place of residence, the setting of the artist's creative work also plays a decisive role; that is, whether the artist or band can demonstrate an international body of work that has received international recognition. Where any doubt exists, the respective expert jury panel decides whether a group project should be classified as national or international.

4.4 In the case of the Main Category 2 *Recording / Production* (*Award Categories 10 Album of the Year, 11 Debut Album of the Year, 12 Album of the Year International, and 13 Debut Album of the Year International*), the same criteria apply to the artists concerned. The decisive factor is not the location of the company responsible for the production or recording, but rather the artists involved in the same.

4.5 An artist or a project cannot be simultaneously submitted or nominated in both national and international categories.

4.6 In the case of Award Category 14 *Festival of the Year*, the festivals must be held

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predominantly (based on the number of concerts taking place) in Germany.

4.7 In the case of Award Category 19 *Music Mediation*, projects must be carried out in Germany.

4.8 Individuals who received an award in the previous year or were nominated in each of the two preceding years are excluded.

5. Funding and distribution of prize money

The awards presented as part of the German Jazz Prize are intended as cultural recognition of contributions to jazz. Each award category is associated with a cash prize of at least 10,000 Euro. The award is conferred by means of an actual administrative act (*Realakt*) in the form of a monetary prize.

Category 8 *Large Ensemble of the Year* represents a special case: while other large ensembles are eligible for an award, ensembles affiliated with public broadcasting organizations – due to their independence from the state – may receive an award but are not entitled to any associated prize money or nomination fees. In Category 17 *Journalistic Achievement*, radio and television productions from the year may also be recognized, for example, on an alternating basis. However, in the event of a win, only the respective artists will receive prize money; public broadcasters, on the other hand, are not eligible for prize money due to their independence from the state, while private broadcasters should receive half of the prize money, which must be at least 10,000 Euro.

There are up to four nominees per category (except for the Special Award Category 18 *Lifetime Achievement*). Nominees who do not win an award in a category receive a nomination prize of at least 1,000 Euro. Said payment is made by means of an actual administrative act.

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6. Procedure

The categories are divided into curated and submission categories, each with its own procedures and criteria.

6.1 Curated categories

Overview of curated categories (10):

1. Main Category: Artists

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

9 Artist of the Year International

3. Main Category: Live

15 Live Act of the Year

5. Main Category: Special Prizes

18 Lifetime Achievement

In the case of the curated award categories, nominations for award recipients are submitted exclusively by the expert jury. In the case of the *Lifetime Achievement* category (18), nominations for award recipients are submitted by both the expert jury and the main jury of the German Jazz Prize.

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6.2 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 prizes

17 Journalistic Achievement

19 Music Mediation

The remaining award categories are so-called submission categories, for which artists who meet the formal requirements and selection criteria may themselves apply. Submission deadlines and information concerning the application process are announced on the German Jazz Prize website. Candidates must provide a justification for each of their submissions. Consideration is given to all applications received by the application or submission deadline published on the German Jazz Prize website. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered to have been submitted.

Applications submitted for review must be made available to the jury online.

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7. Submission and Selection Criteria

1	Vocal	**Curated**
2	Woodwinds	**Curated**
3	Brass Instruments	**Curated**
4	Piano/Keyboard Instruments	**Curated**
5	String Instruments	**Curated**
6	Drums/Percussion	**Curated**
7	Artist of the Year	**Curated**
8	Large Ensemble of the Year	**Submission**
9	Artist of the Year International	**Curated**

7.1 Main Category 1: Artists

Outstanding artists and achievements in the field of jazz that are distinguished by a high degree of artistic quality and exceptional creative energy, and which thereby contribute to and, in particular, further enhance the appeal of the German jazz scene in all its diversity, are eligible for awards in Main Category 1. In this, eligibility for the award is assessed primarily on the basis of the artist's overall body of work over the preceding 12 months. In the case of the *Artist of the Year International* category (9), corresponding international appeal is important. In principle, prizes are awarded for achievements in the preceding year (calendar year).

a) 1 Vocal

This award category recognizes jazz singers.

b) 2 Woodwinds

This award category recognizes artists whose primary instrument is a woodwind instrument (such as the saxophone, clarinet, or flute).

c) 3 Brass Instruments

This award category recognizes artists whose primary instrument is a brass instrument (such as the trumpet, trombone, horn, sousaphone).

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d) 4 Piano/Keyboard Instruments

This award category recognizes artists whose primary instrument is a keyboard instrument (such as the piano or accordion).

e) 5 String Instruments

This award category recognizes artists whose primary instrument is a string instrument (such as the guitar, bass, harp or violin).

f) 6 Drums/Percussion

This award category recognizes artists whose primary instrument(s) is/are drums, percussion, or mallets.

g) 7 Artist of the Year

This award category recognizes an artist from among all the nominees in the national award categories

- *1Vocal*
- *2 Woodwinds*
- *3 Brass Instruments*
- *4 Piano/Keyboard Instruments*
- *5 String Instruments*
- *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. Artists who have demonstrated exceptional musical virtuosity and activity during the period under consideration and who have achieved significant public relevance or impact are eligible for recognition. Artistic and cultural activities that go beyond music may also be taken into account.

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h) 8 Large Ensemble of the Year

This award category recognizes a group project consisting of a permanent ensemble with at least eight musicians and, in principle, a consistent line-up. Professional ensembles that have distinguished themselves through outstanding artistic achievements and that have been particularly active during the relevant period under consideration are eligible for recognition. At least two recordings (audio or audiovisual) must be submitted, with each being at least two minutes in length. These are to have been made available to the public for the first time during the period under consideration as part of a commercial performance (verifiable via a public web link), as well as two media reports about the ensemble that appeared in independent media outlets during the same period. Both musicians from the ensemble and the associated management teams, labels, and promoters are eligible to submit entries.

i) 9 Artist of the Year International

In the case of this award category, an international artist is selected directly by the main jury. 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.

7.2 Main Category 2: Recording/Production

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

Productions (in the sense of musical recordings) that demonstrate exceptional sound quality and reflect the extraordinary artistic and innovative creativity of the artists involved are eligible for awards in Main Category 2. Nationwide or international appeal is important for the award categories. Productions that were released for the first time during the period under consideration are eligible for submission.

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Artists involved in productions are eligible to submit entries, as are both the producers responsible for those productions and representatives of record labels, publishers, broadcasters, management companies, and promoters.

Musical recordings of at least 25 minutes in length must be submitted. These are to have been made available to the public as part of a commercial release (verifiable via a public web link) and for which two reviews have appeared in independent media. In the case of productions released on or after November 15, a grace period applies; thereby allowing the two reviews to be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on December 15 of the respective calendar year.

A recording/production may only be submitted in one of the two award categories.

In all cases, the prize money goes directly to the artists themselves. In the case of a group project, the prize money goes to the person leading the project. In the event of all band members of the project having equal status, the prize money is divided equally among all members.

a) 10 Album of the Year

This award category recognizes a production in the jazz genre.

b) 11 Debut Album of the Year

This award category recognizes jazz newcomers for a recording that is the artist's or group's debut release. In the case of group projects, at least half of the participating artists must meet the criteria listed above; or the bandleader who gives the ensemble its name must meet those criteria.

c) 12 Album of the Year International

This award category recognizes an international production in the jazz genre.

d) 13 Debut Album of the Year International

This award category recognizes international jazz newcomers for a recording that is the artist's or group's debut release. In the case of group projects, at least half of the participating artists must meet the criteria listed above; or the bandleader who gives the ensemble its name must meet those criteria.

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7.3 Main category 3: Live

Main Category 3: Live	
14 Festival of the Year	**Submission**
15 Live Act of the Year	**Curated**

a) 14 Festival of the Year

This award category recognizes festivals with a focus on jazz that are distinguished by a high-quality, artistically sophisticated, and innovative program. Furthermore, special event formats and areas of focus are to be taken into account in the assessment of submissions. Organizers of festivals in Germany that present a total of at least six concerts over at least two consecutive days are eligible to apply. The application must include a brief general description of the festival, a brief description of the concept, and the program for the festival year being submitted for consideration.

b) 15 Live Act of the Year

This award category recognizes artists or groups in the field of jazz who have demonstrated outstanding artistic achievement and an exceptionally strong stage presence during live performances, and who have displayed a particular level of activity and garnered significant public attention during the period under consideration. Artists nominated for the German Jazz Prize in this category must have performed at least six concerts in at least three different venues during the period under consideration.

7.4 Main category 4: Composition/Arrangement

Main Category 4: Composition/Arrangement	
16 Composition/Arrangement of the Year	**Submission**

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This award category recognizes original compositions or arrangements in the field of jazz, whereby “arrangement” refers to a new version of an existing composition, usually for different instrumentation than featured in the original.

Compositions and arrangements are eligible insofar as they were first made public in the relevant year (previous live performances of the composition or arrangement and/or recordings, such as from club performances, do not exclude entry), as well as compositions/arrangements that premiered in the year under consideration and for which a professional audio recording exists (or a video with appropriate sound quality). If the work is published in connection with a performance, evidence of the location, date, and venue of the performance must be provided.

Compositions and arrangements that were professionally released prior to the relevant year under consideration in the form of radio recordings and productions or professionally produced videos are excluded.

Applicants must submit a score and a professional audio recording of the piece; MIDI files are not sufficient. The notation must be presented in detail. In addition to sheet music, these include detailed performance instructions, running orders, and lead sheets. Sketches and purely graphical notations are not sufficient. Only one work per composer and arranger may be submitted. Arrangements of one's own works are permitted.

7.5 Main category 5: Special Prizes

Main Category 5: Special Prizes	
17 Journalistic Achievement	**Submission**
18 Lifetime Achievement	**Curated**
19 Music Mediation	**Submission**

a) 17 Journalistic Achievement

This award category recognizes journalistic achievements (an item of TV, radio, print, or online journalism, such as blogs, podcasts, or vlogs) from the preceding year that stand out for their particularly knowledgeable, incisive, or sensitive coverage of (musical) events in the world of jazz during that year. Special formats and journalistic efforts to spark interest in jazz among a broader audience are also to be taken into account here. Journalistic works in the field of photography may also be considered and radio productions from this year may also be submitted in this category.

The authors of contributions themselves, as well as the media outlets publishing the material, and readers are eligible to enter submissions. It is expressly noted that individuals who are not primarily employed as journalists are also eligible to enter submissions.

Submissions entered for review should include the work itself (link to the work, text file, or audio/image/video file), a short biography of the author(s) in question, and details regarding the type and date of publication. Only one journalistic achievement may be submitted per applicant.

b) 18 Lifetime Achievement

This award category recognizes artists and figures in the field of jazz who have rendered outstanding service to jazz in Germany over an extended period of time and who, in this sense, have made an important artistic and socially relevant contribution to the development of jazz. This award category is presented by the jury on a case-by-case basis. As such, it is not necessarily awarded every year.

c) 19 Music Mediation

This award category recognizes projects (pertaining to the preceding year) in the field of jazz for their outstanding cultural contributions in the areas of musical outreach, inclusion, and/or participation. In particular, these may include services or initiatives that have served as exemplary and successful models in the field of musical outreach or in expanding the participation of broader segments of society in the jazz community.

Individuals who have carried out projects in the fields of musical outreach, inclusion, and/or participation in Germany during the period under consideration are eligible to apply. The application must include a description of the project concept and the target group/audience, as well as at least two pieces of evidence demonstrating that the project has been carried out.

8. General provisions

As a principle, artistic freedom is of fundamental importance. Submissions that contain anti-constitutional, unlawful, racist, anti-semitic, sexist, or other discriminatory content are ineligible for the German Jazz Prize. In addition, the Initiative Musik guidelines apply.

An advisory board will be established to provide professional guidance to Initiative Musik and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media regarding the

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implementation of the German Jazz Prize. Further details are set out in the procedural regulations.

Further details regarding the composition and work of the juries are set out in the jury regulations.

The venue for the awards ceremony will be decided upon by Initiative Musik in consultation with the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

9. Data protection

Initiative Musik gGmbH takes the necessary technical and organizational measures to ensure that applicable data protection regulations are complied with both by the company itself and by any third parties entrusted with the processing of personal data in connection with the application process or the administration of the German Jazz Prize. Personal data is processed in accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) and the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG).

In the case of the submission categories, a data protection statement forms part of the application process, in which applicants – to the extent required by law – consent to the processing of their personal data. In the case of the curated categories, the provisions set out in the jury regulations apply.

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