

## Jazzaar Festival 2022 – Press Release

The Jazzaar Festival's youth programme, the 'Bandstand Learning with Role Models' turns 30 years old this year.

To celebrate the anniversary we present a 'Tribute to Chick Corea' the late piano legend that revolutionized Jazz. Also to commemorate the birthday we produced a home-grown Gospel show that takes the audience across a few Afro-American genres besides the traditional southern gospel music style.

Both concerts were planned and produced with the Covid-19 lockdowns in mind, therefore they will be available streamed in a virtual format at the Vimeo on Demand platform from early June 2022 onwards.

As the Covid-19 regulations in Switzerland were relaxed in April, the youth participants of both productions had the spontaneous chance of attending a live workshop and a jam session in the Reithalle Aarau next to a few visiting artists such as Rick Margitza, Tom Walsh, and Billy Cobham on site. In addition to the live opportunity, the youth participants also received one-on-one coaching sessions as well as a group Zoom sectional meeting with their professional mentors.

All of the individual tracks were recorded and filmed between March and April in the regions where the artists reside in their respective countries. The youth musicians of Switzerland came to the Shanti Music studio at the same time for the individual audio recording and for the most part filmed in groups in the Reithalle Aarau in April. Audio sounds were mixed in Bonn and Switzerland and mastered in Trier, Germany while the video editing in post-production was tackled by David Lapland of Lapland Films in Germany too.

The 'Tribute to Chick Corea' is premiered on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will be continuously available on Vimeo on Demand (see link below). The Swiss Youth Jazz Orchestra will be seen and heard alongside their professionals such as Wayne Bergeron – Ltp (USA), Tom Walsh – tp (UK), Eijiro Nakagawa – tb (JPN), Tom Dunnet – tb (UK), Christian Kramer – tb (DE), Tommy Smith – ts, fl (SCT), Christian Jacob – p (USA/FRA), John Patitucci – b (USA), and Peter Erskine – d (USA). Together they play the repertoire spanning from Chick's early to late recorded numbers.

Premiering during the 2nd week of June, 2022 is the Gospel production titled, 'A New Creature', which emerged from the pens of composers Fritz Renold and Helen Savari as well as the arranger Adi Yeshaya. The Swiss Youth Gospel Ensemble with a 4-piece choir is joined by their mentors, Gabrielle Goodman – VOC, Rick Margitza – ts, Louis Dowdeswell – Ltp, Mark Whitfield – g, Etienne Stadwijk – keys, Dennis Montgomery III – HB3 Org, Michael Mondesir – b, and Billy Cobham – drums

The streaming shows can be found indefinitely for a steal at this link.

<https://vimeo.com/search/ondemand?q=Jazzaar>

We count on the Jazzaar audience to visit the shows online and spread the word further. It is our hope to present live shows again in the future to greet our audiences in person.