

Press Info

“It Must Schwing!” And More at JazzFest Berlin '09

An abundance of music on the theme “Blue Note: 70 Years” in celebration of a jazz label giant

Taking place from **November 4th to 8th**, *JazzFest Berlin '09* is dedicated to the theme “**Blue Note: 70 Years.**” Honoured through appearances by Blue Note artists from the USA and Europe are the two cofounders of this celebrated label, Alfred Lion (the source of the legendary motto: “**It must schwing!**”) and Francis Wolff – both Berlin Jews who emigrated to the United States.

Opening on October 30th and shown in tandem with the festival will be a **special exhibition** held at **Berlin's Jewish Museum** featuring unpublished **photographs by Francis Wolff and Jimmy Katz**, Blue Note's current house photographer. Attending the exhibition opening will be Blue Note producer **Michael Cuscuna**. **Bruce Lundvall**, current Blue Note CEO, also plans to attend the festival. Taking place on November 8th in the presence of the director and Mr. **Kenneth Wolfe** (GB), a nephew of Francis Wolff, in the cinema of the Martin-Gropius-Bau will be a screening of **Julian Benedikt's** film *Blue Note – A Story of Modern Jazz*.

Presented in the framework of *JazzFest Berlin '09* beneath the glass-topped courtyard of Berlin's Jewish Museum will be four trio concerts, including appearances by piano trios featuring the celebrated **Yaron Herman** (born in Israel and now living in Paris) and **Aaron Park**, the youngest Blue Note pianist. **Numerous appearance by top-notch pianists at this year's JazzFest Berlin** is no happenstance, but represents a special focus of this year's festival program. The list of keyboard virtuosos is impressive, and extends from seasoned masters like **Hank Jones**, now over 90 (with saxophonist **Joe Lovano**), and **Sheila Jordan's** duo partner **Steve Kuhn**, and all the way to celebrated pianists of the younger generation, including **Vijay Iyer**, **Jason Moran** (of the **Overtone Quartet**), the Brit **Gwilym Simcock** (in **Tim Garland's Lighthouse Trio**), and Berlin born **Jacky Terrasson** (appearing as a soloist with the **NDR Bigband** in “**A Blue Note Tribute to Horace Silver**”).

Also structuring the programme of *JazzFest Berlin '09* are concentrations on other instruments, including a focus on the **trumpet**, often favoured by bandleaders (**Terence Blanchard**, **Mathias Eick**, **Sebastian Studnitzky**, **Erik Truffaz** (Blue Note France) and **Paolo Fresu** (Blue Note Italy)). Featured this year in a variety of contexts are four greats of the jazz guitar: **Lionel Loueke**, **John Scofield**, **Elliott Sharp**, and **Jean-Paul Bourelly**. Bassists **Barry Guy**, **Dave Holland**, and **Arild Andersen** are found not so much in the foreground, and instead at the very centre point of the ensembles they lead at *JazzFest Berlin '09*.

Besides the **Haus der Berliner Festspiele**, this year's venues include the **A-Trane**, **Quasimodo**, the **glass-topped courtyard of the Jewish Museum Berlin**, and the **Georg-Neumann-Saal**, the concert venue of the *Jazz Institute Berlin* at Einsteinufer beginning in January 2009.

As usual, all concerts of *JazzFest Berlin '09* will be recorded by the ARD and Deutschlandradio Kultur, and a selection of performances will be broadcast live.

Advanced ticket sales began on September 24th.

Tickets and information are available at www.jazzfest-berlin.de or at (030) 254 89-100.

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