



Landes-Jugendjazzorchester Bayern

Träger: Verband Bayerischer Sing- und Musikschulen e. V.
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Information

Bavarian State Youth Jazz Orchestra

Every year, about 400 members aged between 10 and 25 years meet together at 4 working sessions and numerous supporting courses. They apply to become a member of the orchestra or are discovered at the State Competition „Jugend jazzt“ and qualify to take part after an audition.

The first priority is the care and support of the young musicians and the realization of the orchestra's educational concept. It is only with the support of the Association of Bavarian Schools for Singing and Music that the educational work with the jazz orchestra, which is unique in the Federal Republic, is at all possible. Here, there is plenty of room for experimental work and improvisation. The practical work is constantly aimed at training the feeling for music, for playing together and rhythm. Each member of the orchestra can contribute with his own individual abilities and his own profile, thereby helping form the collective sound of the formation.

The teaching team with Karsten Gorzel, Johannes Herrlich, Walter Lang, Peter Tuscher and various guest instructors look after the up-and-coming jazz players in Bavaria, the artistic direction is in the hands of Harald Rüschenbaum. The internationally famous drummer and outstanding teacher has for years been the driving force behind a wide variety of activities in jazz education. He is almost unique in the way he motivates and activates young musicians and inspires their enthusiasm for jazz, from swing to modern. This is noticeable at performances of the Bavarian State Youth Jazz Orchestra.

The concert ensemble can be heard in some 20 concerts a year in Bavaria and during concert tours at home and abroad. In addition, there are interesting projects with orchestras or ensembles from very different musical directions. To these experiences belong numerous intercultural projects such as the project „Raga Meets Jazz“ together with the Southern Indian ensemble Bhakti from Shantala Subramanyam, or Duke Ellingtons „Sacred Concerts“ under the direction of Fred Sjöberg together with singers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and China at the Festival for Young Artists in Bayreuth, as well as „A Christmas Cantata“ from Nils Lindberg for jazz orchestra, choir and soloist. A tour of South East Asia through Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines was the crowning event of the concert year 2014.

The recordings „You'd better know it“, „On a clear day“, „20 Jahre Landes-Jugendjazzorchester Bayern“, „Together“, „Wie heißt der Typ?“, „Da Cau“, „Raga meets Jazz“ and „A Christmas Cantata“ document impressively the high level of the jazz orchestra with the best young jazz players from all over Bavaria.

Information about the concert program

The educational concept of the Bavarian state Youth Jazz Orchestra means that it is not possible to present a printed concert programme.

Harald Rüschenbaum, the Artistic Director of the jazz orchestra can often only give details of the programme shortly before the concert.

You will hear spontaneity, creativity and improvisation

All the musicians should feel comfortable and give their best to the music. Spontaneity, creativity and improvisation can only succeed, when the musicians are in agreement about the programme and can find themselves in the music. In the working sessions, which often take place only shortly before the concerts, the programme is decided democratically by all the band members. Soli are decided upon, the emphasis on particular styles is agreed upon and then the programme is chosen. Of course, young composers and arrangers from among the members have the chance to work on their pieces with the help of the instructors and present them publically. And of course at the same time, singing should not be forgotten. There is a search for suitable arrangements, often, existing compositions will be arranged according to the material available. Of course, free elements can also be heard in which all the musicians in an incredible way improvise collectively from existing sound material without written music and in this way produce their own music. Almost all the musicians in the jazz orchestra perform solos.

The Bavarian State Youth Jazz Orchestra is not a concert orchestra with a fixed programme, the educational principle has priority. The pieces are not rehearsed note for note or copied from existing examples, the path follows one of personal experience with music leading to an unusual unity between the joy of playing and perfection at the highest level. New teaching methods give plenty of room and show in a very unconventional manner and form individual ways as to how a body of sound can combine together into an expressive musical unity. In this way, the young musicians get to know the whole wide extent of orchestral jazz literature.

Look forward to a mixture of swing classics and modern jazz, of Latin jazz, jazz rock through to HipHop. You will hear, among others, works from Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Thad Jones, Pat Metheney, Maria Schneider, Peter Herbolzheimer and the own compositions and arrangements of the orchestra members and the teaching staff.

(Willi Staud / Claudia Bestler 2017)

INFORMATION: www.ljib.de

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