

jazzambach invites audiences to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of jazz

Wednesday February 18 – Sunday February 22, 2026

Kulturbühne AMBACH and Bildungshaus St. Arbogast, Götzis (Vorarlberg)
with a teaser programme on February 7 and 13

With its second edition, the *jazzambach* festival—under the artistic direction of internationally renowned pianist David Helbock—once again presents the diversity and excellence of contemporary jazz. High-calibre concerts, workshops and a multifaceted teaser programme invite audiences to experience intense listening moments, creative exchange and inspiring encounters. The festival brings together local and international artists, supports emerging talent and contributes to strengthening the jazz scene in Vorarlberg.

Following its successful premiere, *jazzambach* will once again turn Götzis into a meeting point for jazz enthusiasts from near and far from February 18 to 22, 2026. With its innovative format, the festival has quickly gained recognition beyond the region and established itself as a cultural highlight of the Lake Constance area. Concerts and workshops take place at the Kulturbühne AMBACH and the Bildungshaus St. Arbogast. Advance ticket sales for single events and the festival pass are now underway.

Outstanding programme highlights in 2026 featuring international jazz greats

One of the festival's major highlights will be the concert on **February 21 at 7:30 pm**, featuring **Wolfgang Muthspiel, Scott Colley and Brian Blade**. Bringing their new ECM album *Tokyo*, the trio will perform in Götzis between appearances at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and Vienna's Konzerthaus. Their music is characterised by lyrical depth, adventurous interplay and a distinctive atmosphere.

Another highlight follows on **February 22 at 6:00 pm**: **Norma Winstone**, the grande dame of European jazz vocals, meets award-winning pianist **Kit Downes**. Their cross-generational collaboration blends poetic intensity and improvisational finesse into an intimate concert experience, providing a powerful finale to *jazzambach* 2026.

Supporting young talent, inclusion and cultural education

From 2026 onward, *jazzambach* places an even stronger focus on nurturing young talent and cultural education. “For over 100 years, jazz has cultivated the art of improvisation—and this is a skill our society needs more than ever,” says artistic director **David Helbock**. The aim is to open jazz to a broad audience and to inspire young people in particular.

The teaser programme begins on **February 7** with *jazzambach unterwegs*, an outreach initiative in the centre of Götzis. Spontaneous performances by young talents and regional ensembles will enliven shops and cafés, creating a musical walk

through the town. On the same day, the 50th anniversary of the **tonart music school** will be celebrated, followed by an open jam session in cooperation with the school.

A further focus is *jazz inklusiv* on **February 22 at 7:00 pm**, where emerging bands, the **tonart Big Band** and Liechtenstein's **All Inclusive Superband** will share the stage, highlighting music as a space for diversity, inclusion and community.

For the first time, *jazzambach* also presents a dedicated children's programme, including a free school percussion workshop on **February 19** with **Claudio Spieler** and the interactive participatory concert *takatá takatá* on **February 20**.

Michael Köhlmeier & the jazzambach ensemble 2026: literature meets jazz

Inspired by last year's opening event, *jazzambach* continues its tradition of connecting jazz with other art forms. The 2026 opening concert focuses on literature.

On **February 18 at 7:30 pm**, author **Michael Köhlmeier**, one of the most important contemporary German-language storytellers, will read from his book *Boulevard der Helden*, featuring stories about jazz legends such as **Ella Fitzgerald, Thelonious Monk and Django Reinhardt**. The readings will be accompanied by the specially formed **jazzambach ensemble 2026**, directed by Swiss pianist **Claude Diallo**, creating a vivid dialogue between words and sound.

Fact Box

jazzambach 2026

Wednesday, February 18 – Sunday, February 22, 2026

Kulturbühne AMBACH and Bildungshaus St. Arbogast, Götzis / Vorarlberg

Teaser programme:

- *jazzambach unterwegs*: February 7
- *jazz inklusiv*: February 13, 2026

Details & registration:

www.jazzambach.at

Organiser & Artistic Direction:

Association "jazzambach", in cooperation with the Municipality of Götzis and Kulturbühne AMBACH

Artistic Director: **David Helbock**

With the kind support of:

Supporters: Province of Vorarlberg, Market Town of Götzis, Double Check, Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport

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