

jazzambach consolidates Götzis' reputation as the festival capital of jazz

The Vorarlberg jazz festival, with its international appeal, innovative format, and regional roots, has impressively continued its success story.

With growing audience appeal, *jazzambach 2026* once again made a strong cultural impact and provided lasting inspiration with top concerts, workshops, and new educational formats. Under the direction of internationally renowned jazz pianist David Helbock, the series of events once again proved to be artistically ambitious. The teaser program placed even greater emphasis on promoting local young talent and the jazz scene. The second edition of the festival confirmed that *jazzambach* is here to stay.

For five days, from February 18 to 22, and also in the run-up to the festival with the new teaser program, Götzis presented itself for the second time as the festival capital of jazz in Vorarlberg. Thanks to its sophisticated, diverse, and imaginative program, as well as the attractive venues Kulturbühne AMBACH and Jugend- und Bildungshaus St. Arbogast, jazzambach has enjoyed international renown since its inception and is now considered a cultural highlight of the entire Lake Constance region.

This year, the festival once again welcomed some of the biggest names in jazz and promoted their collaboration with local heroes as well as young local talent. With the aim of awakening and strengthening enthusiasm for jazz across all generations, the festival is well on its way. 2.000 visitors — 400 more than in the previous year — reflect a successful outcome. Music lovers from near and far should already mark the dates for the next edition in their calendars: from February 17 to 21, 2027 (Wed–Sun), jazzambach will once again guarantee pure enjoyment of top-class jazz of all kinds.

jazzambach 2026 thrilled audiences with jazz legends and a new teaser program

Even before it began, it was clear that the festival had made an impact at its premiere in 2025 and gained its first fans. Tickets for this year's edition were already in demand in the summer. *Jazzambach* met with an encouragingly positive response in 2026 as well, with twice as many festival passes sold as in the previous year and numerous guests from further afield once again attracted to the event.

More than 100 overnight stays, not counting those of the artists who traveled to the festival, are a significant contribution to regional value creation.

The concerts by David Helbock and Julia Hofer, featuring Veronika Harcsa, Lorenz Raab, and Mahan Mirarab, as well as those by the Filippa Gojo Quartet and the Wolfgang Muthspiel Trio, featuring Scott Colley and Brian Blade, on February 21 attracted the most interest. Welcoming such international greats as Norma Winstone,

grande dame of European jazz singing, to Götzis underscores the outstanding artistic quality and cultural significance of the festival for the entire Lake Constance region.

A new addition to the program, the **children's interactive concert**, was very well received and is set to become a permanent fixture of the festival. The same applies to the **school workshop**, which this time was attended by over 70 children from the Markt elementary school in Götzis. Entitled "**Rhythm is Language – Percussion Workshop for Children with Claudio Spieler**," the joint music-making was met with great enthusiasm by the young participants.

David Helbock's summary is correspondingly positive: "We had a wonderful second edition of the jazzambach festival, with even more audience members than in the first year and a great atmosphere. My personal highlights were the children's concert and the very contemplative closing concert with Norma Winstone. I am very pleased that jazz and jazz-related music here in the Rhine Valley have already developed such charisma far beyond the borders of Vorarlberg. Journalists from all over the world were here, and so Götzis became the jazz capital again for a short time. We can and will build on that!"

The festival village of St. Arbogast as the perfect partner and thanks to the sponsors

Having already proven itself last year, the St. Arbogast Youth and Education Center once again proved to be a fabulous venue and meeting place. Six workshops, two concerts in the chapel, and a jazz breakfast were held there. All formats were very well received in this special setting, which speaks not only for the selection of excellent artists but also for the unique atmosphere of St. Arbogast.

Daniel Mutschlechner, managing director of St. Arbogast, emphasized the strong partnership: "jazzambach has truly brought St. Arbogast to life with rousing music, while also highlighting the spiritual dimension of the place. The artists and guests met on equal terms at the workshops and concerts, and everyone clearly felt at home in our educational village. We look forward to the third edition."

Special thanks go to all sponsors and supporters, without whose support a jazz festival of such high quality and lasting success would not be possible, as emphasized by **Edith Lampert-Deuring**, founder and chairwoman of the non-profit **association jazzambach**. Despite challenges, including funding, the organizers remain optimistic about the future.

Fact Box and Preview:

jazzambach 2027

Wednesday, February 17 – Sunday, February 21, 2027

Kulturbühne AMBACH and Education Center St. Arbogast in Götzis / Vorarlberg

Details and registration from summer 2026: www.jazzambach.at

Organizer and Artistic Direction:

Association 'jazzambach' in cooperation with the municipality of Götzis and Kulturbühne AMBACH, together with artistic director David Helbock.

With the kind support of:

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