Five days of diverse, top-notch jazz at jazzambach 2027

February 17–21, 2027 (Wed–Sun) at the Kulturbühne AMBACH and St. Arbogast, Götzis / Vorarlberg – world-class concerts and workshops

For its third edition, *jazzambach* once again invites you to experience a program that is as high-caliber as it is diverse, offering a chance to immerse yourself in the fascinating world of jazz. Under the artistic direction of David Helbock, international jazz greats will join top musicians from the Lake Constance region. First-class concerts and workshops, unique formats, and even the teaser program offer creative exchange, an outstanding listening experience, and highlights for music lovers of all generations. This year's program places a special focus on the piano—from the spectacular opening "Classical in Dialogue with Jazz" to Michael Wollny's solo program "Eine Winterreise."

By combining a highly varied yet refined program with the special atmosphere of the venues and the opportunity for direct interaction, jazzambach has quickly gained an audience far beyond the region. After attracting approximately 1,600 visitors at its premiere in 2025, this past February 2,100 music enthusiasts were welcomed. The successful concept promises five days full of musical discoveries, artistic highlights, and enriching encounters for the third edition of the international Vorarlberg jazz festival, taking place from February 17 to 21, 2027. Organized by the jazzambach association in cooperation with the market town of Götzis, the Kulturbühne AMBACH, and the St. Arbogast Youth and Education Center, the festival successfully bridges the gap between the global and regional jazz scenes—with the goal of sustainably strengthening the latter and making jazz, in all its stylistic diversity, accessible to a broad audience. The program is correspondingly diverse: from the opening—a captivating interplay of two soundscapes—to the three enthralling double concerts and danceable late-night jazz, right through to the popular family concert. The stylish ambiance of Arbogast as a "jazz village" once again provides the perfect setting for the workshops, as well as the jazz breakfast and the Artist-in-Residence concert. For five days, Götzis in Vorarlberg will once again become the center of world-class jazz.

Following the successful premiere in 2025 and the equally successful expansion of the program this past spring, *jazzambach 2027* continues this innovative concept, once again providing strong creative impetus. Internationally renowned Vorarlberg jazz pianist and composer David Helbock, serving as artistic director, has once again attracted outstanding musicians from the region and around the world, putting together a diverse and sophisticated program. This year, special emphasis is placed on the piano, and the opening concert alone promises to be a true highlight: a promising dialogue between jazz and classical music, as well as David Helbock's only concert next year.

Focus on the Piano with Top Jazz Pianists and an Exclusive Opening Concert

“As a pianist, I’m particularly pleased that the piano is in the spotlight this time: You can look forward to Nik Bärtsch, Switzerland’s most famous jazz pianist, and Michael Wollny, Germany’s most famous. Right at the opening, there will be two grand pianos on stage—Yunus Kaya, who teaches at the Stella in Feldkirch, will play classical works, to which I’ll respond with improvisation and a jazz twist. In 2027, after more than 3,000 concerts over the past 20 years, I’ll be taking a one-year break from performing—but I won’t miss this opening. As the evening progresses, this will evolve into a trio of violin, cello, and piano, to which my jazz trio will respond, until, by the end, a jazz quartet featuring our wonderful Artist in Residence, Sasha Berliner, on the vibraphone, meets a classical string quartet. “A truly special concert format, developed by Hans Joachim Gögl, that brings the musical worlds of classical and jazz together,” says David Helbock about the promising kickoff to *jazzambach* on Wednesday,
February 17, 2027, at 7:30 p.m. at the Kulturbühne AMBACH.

Three double concerts featuring local and international jazz greats, plus Late Night Jazz

The double concerts all begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Kulturbühne AMBACH. On Thursday, February 18, the Haezz Trio will open the wide-ranging concert series. Martin Eberle from Vorarlberg on trumpet and Tobias Vedovelli on double bass, along with Czech saxophonist Štěpán Flagar, will explore the boundaries between jazz and chamber music in surprising ways. The second set features Portuguese singer Maria João, who for more than four decades has been one of the most extraordinary voices in European jazz; together with pianist and producer João Farinha, she masterfully combines free vocal artistry and piano with electronic sounds.

Friday, February 19, begins with a special collaboration featuring two grand pianos: Greek pianist and composer Tania Giannouli and Swiss pianist Nik Bärtsch blend the art of improvisation with complex rhythmic structures. This is followed by the Diknu Schneeberger Trio, known for its melodic elegance and virtuosic enthusiasm. Schneeberger, one of the most distinguished guitarists in the world of Jazz Manouche, is accompanied by Vorarlberg bassist Martin Heinzle and rhythm guitarist Julian Wohlmuth. The Late Night Jazz series, starting at 10:30 p.m., brings the established “Jazz im Foyer” format from the Theater Kosmos in Bregenz to Götzis: Pianist and curator Jonathan Frick kicks off the late evening alongside musicians from the regional scene, before the lineup expands for a jam session. Admission to both Late Night events on Friday and Saturday is free.

On Saturday, February 20, Three Like Us brings together three musical personalities with decades of international stage experience: Dado Moroni on piano, Rosario Bonaccorso on double bass, and Hamid Drake on drums play swing characterized by distinctive melodies, refreshing improvisation, and a zest for life. Bonaccorso lives part-time in Vorarlberg, thus personally connecting the international jazz scene with the region. The second set features Wolfgang Puschnig’s Fulsome X with Melissa Coleman on cello, Jon Sass on tuba, and Reinhardt Winkler on drums. Funk, free

improvisation, and folk-inspired melodies define the quartet's sound, which is complemented on select pieces by the Liechtenstein-based Cuban trumpeter Amik Guerra. The second Late Night event in the AMBACH foyer will be hosted by Two Souls of Swing, led by Larissa Schwärzler and Bastian Berchtold, who bring the jazz vocals and swing of the 1940s through the 1960s back to life. Both teach at BORG Götzis, creating a direct link to the region's up-and-coming music scene.

Jazz Breakfast in Arbogast and Family Concert in the AMBACH Clubhouse Hall

On Saturday morning starting at 8:30 a.m., the Jazz Breakfast returns to St. Arbogast, featuring the group Sounds like Pepper, led by Vorarlberg singer Viola Pfefferkorn. Together with Michael Ess on piano, Herwig Hammerl on double bass, and Thomas Büchel on drums and percussion, Pfefferkorn blends jazz standards and her own compositions, ranging from lyrical tones to groove and soul.

Following its huge success in 2026, the family concert has also become a staple of the *jazzambach* festival program. In cooperation with the NUEJAZZ Festival in Nuremberg, the group NUEJAZZ for Kids will perform "Gute Laune" on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in the Vereinshaussaal of the Kulturbühne AMBACH. The five musicians take children and adults on an interactive jazz adventure full of humor, rhythm, and hands-on fun. The concert is recommended for children ages four to ten and their families.

Sasha Berliner as Artist in Residence and Star Pianist Michael Wollny for the Finale

With Sasha Berliner as Artist in Residence, an internationally acclaimed American vibraphonist and composer will be part of the entire festival week. Highly regarded for her fusion of the acoustic vibraphone with electronics and improvisation, she was the first woman—and also the youngest artist—to receive the DownBeat Rising Star Vibraphone Award. Berliner will perform at the opening, lead a workshop, and work on a composition during the festival; its world premiere will be the highlight of the Artist-in-Residence concert on Sunday, February 21, at 11:00 a.m. in the St. Arbogast Chapel. In a duo with Irish guitarist and bassist Simon Jermyn, the vibraphone, guitar sounds, electronic elements, and loops—combined with the venue's unique acoustics—come together to create a fascinating soundscape with room for spontaneous dynamics.

The festival finale on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. at the Kulturbühne AMBACH once again features great artistry at the piano. The internationally acclaimed German jazz pianist Michael Wollny will make a stop in Götzis as part of his solo tour "Eine Winterreise"—currently scheduled as his only date in Austria. Motifs and moods from Franz Schubert's song cycle of the same name form the starting point for Wollny's magnificent interpretations and expansions—featuring improvisational twists and his very own musical language. In this way, the closing concert revisits the dialogue between classical music and jazz and brings the festival to a close with a finale full of surprising and moving moments.

Workshops and a teaser program for cultural exchange and new inspiration

Cultural outreach and personal encounters are among the central goals of *jazzambach*. Six music workshops in St. Arbogast will enable musicians from the region to engage in direct exchange with the international guests, gaining ideas, inspiration, and opportunities to further develop their own practice through collaborative music-making. On Friday, February 19, Maria João will work with singers on vocal technique and the conscious use of the body, breathing, and artistic personality. Nik Bärtsch will then combine movement, focus, rhythm, and groove in his “Movement, Rhythm & Flow” training session. On Saturday, February 20, the Diknu Schneeberger Trio will teach various playing styles and the musical practice of jazz manouche. In the afternoon, Sasha Berliner will demonstrate how improvisation can be expanded through electronic sound design, MIDI technology, and the MalletKAT. On Sunday, February 21, Dado Moroni, Rosario Bonaccorso, and Hamid Drake will focus on playing together and listening within an ensemble under the title “The Art of the Trio – The Art of Accompaniment.” Following that, in the workshop “Sass and Brass Jazz,” Jon Sass will focus on groove, bass lines, phrasing, and ensemble playing—with a special emphasis on brass players, though the workshop is open to all instruments and voices.

The low-threshold cultural outreach program for young visitors will also continue, allowing children and teenagers to experience contemporary music and jazz as directly as possible. Like the family concert, the school workshop will be offered again, though its specific content is still being planned. A teaser program is also planned once again for *jazzambach 2027* in the run-up to the festival. Following its great success last year, the *jazzambach* Jam Session will return: On Saturday, February 13, *jazzambach,* together with the Jazz and Popular Music Department of the tonart Music School, invites you once again to the Garnmarkt. Musicians are invited to join in for an impromptu jam session, and listeners are equally welcome.

Strong Regional Roots and Valuable Support

jazzambach is funded by the State of Vorarlberg, the market town of Götzis, and the federal government. The festival is sponsored by Am Garnmarkt Immobilienprojektentwicklung GmbH, illwerke vkw, Sparkasse Feldkirch, Loacker Recycling, and Mayer Holzbau GmbH. To bring the festival to life, the jazzambach association was founded in October 2024 with the goal of establishing a long-term, independent jazz festival in Vorarlberg that features an international focus, high artistic quality, and strong regional roots.

“I’m very pleased that we’ve once again been able to put together an exceptional program for the third year in a row. Look forward to international stars such as Maria João, Sasha Berliner, and Michael Wollny; Austrian jazz icons like Wolfgang Puschnig and Diknu Schneeberger; and many great bands featuring Vorarlberg talent,” says initiator and artistic director David Helbock, inviting everyone to *jazzambach 2027*.

Advance ticket sales are already underway. Tickets, workshop registration, and detailed information can be found at www.jazzambach.at. Travel by bus and train is included in the ticket price.

Fact Box:
jazzambach 2027
Wednesday, February 17 through Sunday, February 21, 2027
Kulturbühne AMBACH and Bildungshaus St. Arbogast in Götzis, Vorarlberg Details

and registration: www.jazzambach.at

Organizer:
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David Helbock, pianist and composer

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