



PRECONDITIONS FOR SHOWCASE APPLICATIONS

jazzahead! 2026 > 23 April – 25 April

PLEASE NOTE: A precondition for the application is that the applicant must be a registered exhibitor or professional participant (all days) of jazzahead! 2026. Every exhibitor or professional participant (all days) can propose 1 artist/band for each of the 4 showcase modules. (Each artist/band can only be submitted once, i.e. for one module!)

In order to apply, make sure you are available for all jazzahead! days (23 - 25 April) and have no other commitments as the program is spread over all three days and nights.

The on-site program at jazzahead! 2026 will feature **38 showcases**, they are open for applications.

Showcase modules

1	Swedish	8 showcases	Thu 23 – Sat 25 April 2025
2	German Jazz Expo	8 showcases	Thu 23 – Sat 25 April 2025
3	European	14 showcases	Thu 23 – Sat 25 April 2025
	Overseas /		
4	Jazz from Africa	8 showcases	Thu 23 – Sat 25 April 2025

(subject to change)

For each showcase module, bands are selected by panels of experts, whose names will be published together with the official selection by end of November 2025. The criteria for the jury selection can be found online here: <https://jazzahead.de/showcases/#selection-process>

Applicants need to fulfill and accept the following preconditions:

APPLICATION

- ⇒ **Requirement:** applicants **must be registered exhibitors or professional participants (all days)** of jazzahead! 2026 **OR** be proposed by a **registered exhibitor or professional participant (all days)**. Go to <https://jazzahead.de/trade-fair/participate/>
- ⇒ You can register as a professional participant on an umbrella stand (e.g. German Market, the Label Connection stand, Africa Jazz, USA Jazz or many others umbrella stands of national organizations or main exhibitors).
- ⇒ **Please note that the registration costs to the trade fair are not related to your showcase application.** The registration gives you access to the jazzahead! trade fair, conferences and showcase festival **online and on-site**.



- ⇒ **For professional participants** cancellation is free of charge until two weeks after receipt **and** confirmation of the registration by jazzahead! – later cancellations will be charged with **30% of the registration fee until December 10th, 2025**. After this date cancellations will be charged with 50% of the registration fee until March 10th, 2026. Thereafter, a cancellation will be charged at 100% of the registration fee. **For exhibitors**, please check the conditions here: <https://jazzahead.de/trade-fair/exhibitors>. Here you can find all important deadlines regarding jazzahead!: <https://jazzahead.de/trade-fair/participants/#deadlines>.
- ⇒ **Bands that are selected for the official showcase program 2026 are freed of the fees for the exhibition and showcase festival online and on-site (this applies for all band members)**. If band members have registered before and are selected, the registration fee will be reimbursed.
- ⇒ The application form and information material (band information, professional photo and press material as well as audio/video files) must be provided via the **online application system**. **THE LATEST by October 8th, 2025**. Please note that it is more than helpful for the juries to listen to the different band applications step by step. So, the earlier the applications come in the better it is for everybody involved! Incomplete applications can unfortunately not be taken into consideration.

PROFILE OF THE APPLYING BANDS

- ⇒ The artist/band should have **professional intentions and perspectives**, being able to **tour internationally**. The applicant should be an **existing band or a profiled and current project** with a permanent line-up presenting **high quality music** that includes improvisational elements to a larger extent.
- ⇒ jazzahead! is not a decided new-comer festival; nevertheless, it is our intention to offer a platform for **current, exciting projects** and upcoming bands being able to tour internationally.
- ⇒ **The artist/band has to provide the following for the application:**
 - Vita/short portrait of the artist/band (only pdf/doc) – in English!
 - Technical rider and/or stage plan (only pdf/doc)
 - Professional photo(s) of the artist/band incl. copyright, (minimum 300 dpi, landscape)
 - Relevant video/audio material of the applying/performing line-up in form of links to youtube, soundcloud, vimeo, etc. (at least 1, max. 3)



GENERAL CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE

- ⇒ Each exhibiting company, institution, association or professional participant can suggest **1 artists/band for each showcase module**. The same artist/band cannot be submitted for different modules!
- ⇒ jazzahead! does not accept applications from **bands** that already have performed with **an identical line-up at jazzahead! 2024 or 2025!**
- ⇒ For the **Swedish showcases** the band should be a **formation from Sweden** (this means, the majority of the band members should have a residence in Sweden).
- ⇒ For the **European showcases**, the band should be a European formation (this means, the majority of the band members should have a residence in Europe, excl. Germany and Sweden).
- ⇒ For **Overseas**, the band should be a **formation from outside of Europe** (this means, the majority of the band members should have a residence outside of Europe, excl. Africa).
For the **Jazz from Africa showcases**, the band should be a **formation from the African continent** (this means, the majority of the band members should have a residence on the African continent, not based in Europe).

Please note: Like the years before, three of the eight slots of the Overseas Showcases module are set for bands/artists from Africa. Although there is only one jury team for all Overseas Showcases, **Jazz from Africa has its own application form** in order to get clear recognition.

- ⇒ For the **German Jazz Expo**, the band should be a **formation from Germany** (this means, the majority of the band members should have a residence in Germany).
- ⇒ The assignment to the different showcase modules **European and Overseas is based geographically – not politically**. Bands/Artists based in the Middle East (like Israel), Saudi Arabia or Asia are welcome to apply for the Overseas Showcases.
- ⇒ **German Jazz Expo, Swedish** and all other **European showcases**: the selected bands get a time slot of **30 minutes performance time + time for set-up/soundcheck** (according to a schedule provided by jazzahead!).
- ⇒ **Overseas and Jazz from Africa**: the selected bands get a time slot of **45 minutes performance time + time for set-up/soundcheck** (according to a schedule provided by jazzahead!). The bands commit to abiding by the time slots. **(+ soundcheck beforehand, during the day or the day before)**.
- ⇒ **Announcement:** The official selection of showcasing bands 2026 will be announced to the public by end of November 2025. However, all applicants will receive a



message confirming whether they have been accepted into the program or not before then.

- ⇒ **New in 2026:** the results of the first jury session, the so called “shortlists”, will be published by end of October 2025. All bands on these shortlists will be part of the final jury discussion.
- ⇒ All **participating musicians of the selected bands** will receive badges that entitle them to **free entrance to jazzahead!’s official program online and on-site** (incl. exhibition, concerts, conferences).
- ⇒ All participating bands commit to using **only** the available backline and PA. Standard backline will be provided, taking into consideration the submitted technical riders and specific requirements after approval of jazzahead!’s managing technical engineer.
- ⇒ **All national and international professionals** including representatives of the press **have access** to the jazzahead! showcase program.
- ⇒ For the German Jazz Expo, jazzahead! conducts an **invitation program** with its collaborating partner “Initiative Musik” to invite a number of **international festival directors and promoters**. If you know someone who would be suitable for participation, **please refer to Nina Thomann:** thomann@jazzahead.de.

COSTS AND CONTRACT MATTERS

- ⇒ **The applicants** (exhibiting labels, agencies, artists’ associations, export offices, musicians, or other) **are responsible for organizing and financing the travel, arrival and departure of their artists/bands, as well as their accommodation and any additional costs.**
We ask all showcasing artists/bands to look for support and to apply for funding at the relevant institutions in their respective home countries.
- ⇒ Costs for **professional technical equipment, rent of the premises, professional video recording of the concert (cut in 15-minute parts) (TBC), promotion in the national and international media and the press campaign of jazzahead!** (YouTube compilation, program leaflet, guide, internet, social media and press) **as well as catering on location on the day of the performance** are covered by jazzahead! and their collaborating partners.
- ⇒ **Backline:** jazzahead! will provide the backline for the respective stages based on a standard backline list. Instruments from a variable backline list can be provided for limited use (not for all stages and not at all times) and only on prior request. Backline



which is requested but not used can under certain circumstances be recharged to the requesting band.

- ⇒ **The applicant agrees with the application that jazzahead! and its radio and production partners are authorized to present the concert recordings by public and private broadcasting companies**, to broadcast the same via cable or satellite or other transmission facilities, or to distribute and to make them available in digital form or analogue form by any other means.
- ⇒ **The applicant agrees with the application that jazzahead!'s partner and licensee Stingray DJAZZ is authorized to present the concert in any and all medias and formats.** Stingray DJAZZ is a pay television channel dedicated to all jazz and jazz-related genres. Stingray DJAZZ is available through website, app, social media, Video-On-Demand (VOD) services and linear television channels. **Stingray DJAZZ is providing each showcasing band with a license payment of 500 € per band (TBC).**
- ⇒ Any other commercial exploitation of the concert recording shall be governed by a separate contract or contract amendment.
- ⇒ Furthermore jazzahead! and its partners are entitled to use the recordings for live-streaming and later transmissions/broadcasts of the concert (on the radio and on television) including the simultaneous transmission of the original radio program in full length or as short excerpts on the Internet, on television, in movies, on mobile terminals, etc. (e.g. as (live-) streaming, for downloading, or also in the context of the jazzahead! video recordings). **The video recordings are made available in sections to the artists for their own non-commercial self-promotion.**
- ⇒ **The applicant agrees with the application that jazzahead! is authorized to use the provided press material, photos and audio files free of charge for their marketing and PR campaign** incl. all print media, internet services and social media portals worldwide.
- ⇒ All conditions and respective liabilities of each party will be put down in a **concert agreement** that is to be signed by both parties prior to the event. **A standard version of this agreement can be provided on request prior to the application, please contact Insa Stanke: stanke@jazzahead.de for that.**