



Press Release | April, 2025

## **JazzAscona 2025: Ten Days of Music and New Orleans Atmosphere on Lake Maggiore**

**From June 26 to July 5, the 41st edition of the festival brings the best of Jazz, Funk, Soul, and Swing to Ascona.**

JazzAscona returns with its 41st edition, proving once more to be one of Europe's most important musical events for lovers of **New Orleans music**. From **June 26 to July 5**, the picturesque town on **Lake Maggiore** will transform into a massive open-air stage, hosting around fifty bands and nearly **200 concerts** on four official stages, in addition to performances in bars and restaurants, acoustic sessions in the old town streets, and late-night jam sessions. A unique experience blending **music, dance, and culture** in a stunning setting. As always, all concerts of the entire festival are **completely free**.

### **A program with New Orleans at heart – between tradition and innovation**

Curated for the first time by the festival's new artistic director, **Nolan Quinn**, this year's lineup balances **faithfulness to the traditional jazz styles** that have always defined JazzAscona with **new musical influences**.

JazzAscona remains **a must-attend event** for those who love the **feeling and groove of New Orleans**. A choice – officially sealed by the **twinning agreement** between Ascona and New Orleans in 2022 – that turns the **Swiss lakeside town into a little New Orleans**.

For 41 years, JazzAscona has been one of Europe's leading festivals dedicated to the **music of the Crescent City**, once again bringing big names from the **Mississippi metropolis** alongside a diverse selection of **traditional jazz, brass band parades, funk, and soul**, genres that naturally coexist in New Orleans.

The program featuring **New Orleans artists** has been curated by drummer and bandleader **Adonis Rose** and includes **many new acts**. Among the most anticipated

guests is **The Treme Funktet**, led by **trombonist Corey Henry**, ready to set the audience on fire with its infectious groove. Throughout the festival, the streets of Ascona will come alive with performances by the **Trombone Shorty Foundation Brass Band**, featuring the **charismatic Babydoll Chyna Doll** as Grand Marshal, showcasing a new generation of explosive brass musicians.

Also from **New Orleans**: Don't miss the refined swing of the **Adonis Rose Ensemble**, featuring (for the first time at JazzAscona) the acclaimed and elegant vocalist **Phillip Manuel** (July 3–5). During the festival, Adonis Rose and Phillip Manuel will record a **live album** titled *Live at JazzAscona*.

Other emerging vocalists to discover include **Cristen "Ten" Spencer**, who will present a **high-energy mix of Soul, R&B, Funk, and Jazz**, and rising **Vocal Jazz star Andromeda Turre** (July 2–5), performing with **NOJO 7**, a group featuring some of the best musicians of the **New Orleans Jazz Orchestra**.

### **International stars and young talents**

Among the most anticipated stars is **Tony Momrelle**, former lead singer of **Incognito** and a leading figure in the European Soul scene, will make his JazzAscona debut, opening the festival on **June 26 and 27**.

For **Funk lovers**: Notable performances include **Radius** (June 28–29), one of the most famous **German funk bands**, and **The Clients** (July 4), an **iconic Swiss funk group**.

In **traditional jazz and swing**, highlights include **Claus Raible** (June 27–28), an internationally renowned pianist, the **Berlin-based Big Five feat. Nicolle Rochelle** (July 4–5), and the **Jungle Jazz Band**, also featuring Nicolle Rochelle as a special guest (June 26–July 1).

The legendary **Bazil Meade**, charismatic vocalist, pianist, and founder of the renowned **London Community Gospel Choir**, will take the JazzAscona stage for the first time. He will perform on **June 29** with **organist Alberto Marsico** and the **Castagnole Community Choir** at the **San Pietro e Paolo gospel concert**.

JazzAscona is also deeply committed to **promoting young talent**.

As part of the **Groovin' Up program** for artists under 26, performances will feature the **NOJO Youth Orchestra** and **Tulane BAM**, bands composed of students from **Tulane University in New Orleans**. Several Swiss youth formations will also take the stage, including two ensembles from the **Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts**, a festival partner.

### **A festival that celebrates dance and fun**

Jazz was made for dancing, and at **JazzAscona 2025**, the dance floor will be **irresistible!** Every evening at 6:30 PM, the **Dancing Hours** will turn the waterfront square into an **explosion of energy and swing**.

Renowned dance instructors like **Stefano Benedetti** (Rock & Roll world champion and Lindy Hop instructor) and **Tony Buondancer** (Shim Sham specialist, tap dancer, and jazz dance expert) will lead dance enthusiasts and beginners through a **journey into the history of jazz dance**, from **Lindy Hop** to **Boogie Woogie**, **Shim Sham**, and **Latin Jazz fusion**.

### **A festival that highlights the Swiss music scene**

JazzAscona also offers **great visibility** to Swiss artists.

Among the highlights are the **Swiss Armed Forces Big Band** (June 28 & July 4) and the **Manon Mullener Quintet**, led by the young Swiss pianist, presenting her new album *Stories*, recently recorded in New York (July 3–4).

Another **must-see** is **European Songbook** (June 27–28), a new project by pianist **Mathias Rüegg** and singer **Lia Pale**, reinterpreting **Schubert**, **Schumann**, and **Brahms** through jazz improvisation.

A prestigious recognition at JazzAscona is the **Swiss Jazz Award**, established in 2007 to honor artists who have significantly contributed to the **Swiss jazz scene**. This year, the award will be presented to **Elina Duni** on **June 28**, an **Albanian-born Swiss singer and composer**, known for blending **jazz with Balkan folk music**.

### **Special events – historic trains and jazz cruises**

Following the success of previous editions, the **third edition of Soundtracks** will take place on **June 28**. This **unique musical journey** aboard the historic **Centovalli Railway** train will feature a traveling performance by **Frog & Henry**, with concert stops in **Intragna and Camedo**.

The **Jazz cruises** on **Lake Maggiore**, inspired by Mississippi steamboats, will once again offer an **unforgettable experience**.

By popular demand, the **evening jazz cruise** on **July 2** with **Frog & Henry** will return. Additionally, on **June 29**, three new **round-trip cruises** from **Locarno and Ascona** will be launched, as a preview of the **100th anniversary of navigation on Lake Maggiore in 2026**.

Several concerts will also take place in **Locarnese towns** such as **Orselina, Vira, Vairano, Brione sopra Minusio, Losone, and Locarno**. One of the standout events is

**LocarnOrleans on July 3, featuring a jazz parade and live concert in front of Locarno's Casino.**

**JazzAscona – A Must-See Event**

With a lineup spanning **traditional jazz, funk, swing, and soul**, **JazzAscona 2025** promises ten days of **music and emotions** in a unique setting.

For more information and full program details, visit the official festival website **[www.jazzascona.ch](http://www.jazzascona.ch)**.

**For further informations:**

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