

ELBJAZZ TAKES A ONE-YEAR BREAK – NEXT EDITION OF THE FESTIVAL ON 5 + 6 JUNE 2026

Hamburg, October 23, 2024 – ELBJAZZ is taking a break in 2025. The organizers have made this decision in order to be able to continue working on the strategic realignment of the festival without the pressure of deadlines.

Since it was founded in 2010, the ELBJAZZ Festival has become an indispensable part of the European jazz scene. With more than 22,000 visitors in 2024 alone, more than 50 international acts every year and extraordinary venues along the Elbe – from the Blohm+Voss shipyard to HafenCity and the Elbphilharmonie concert hall – the festival offers a unique blend of music, culture and maritime flair. While ELBJAZZ has always stood for transcending supposed genre boundaries, the two post-pandemic festival editions in 2023 and 2024 in particular have taken account of the pursuit of even greater musical openness.

“Since the pandemic, we have been working hard to make ELBJAZZ fit for the future in terms of content and business. Our intention was and is to establish ELBJAZZ as an open-genre crossover festival and to increase its appeal to an even larger and younger audience. We have come a great deal closer to this goal, especially with this year's festival edition – but we have also reached our limits in some areas, which need to be analyzed. In addition, signing suitable headlining acts from the jazz scene for 2025 is proving almost impossible, as the artists in question are simply not available for the festival date at the beginning of June. However, compromises in terms of the musical line-up, which would result in a dilution of the new direction and meet neither our standards nor those of our audience, are not an option for us. For these reasons, we have decided not to celebrate the 13th ELBJAZZ until 2026. The break next year will give us the opportunity and, above all, the time to continue working on our ELBJAZZ vision and to optimize the internal and external structure of the festival,” explains Festival Director Alexander Schulz.

In addition to the musical reorientation, logistical challenges and the ongoing increase in production, program and personnel costs as well as the focus on a sustainable festival structure also play an important role in the decision.

“We will use the break to make ELBJAZZ an even more impressive, diverse and sustainable experience. We ask our visitors for their understanding and hope that they will visit us again in large numbers in Hamburg in 2026,” adds Schulz.

Ticket sales for ELBJAZZ on June 5 and 6, 2026 have started – tickets are available at an attractive early bird price at elbjazz.en/tickets. Tickets already purchased for ELBJAZZ 2025 remain valid for the 2026 edition of the festival – there is no need to exchange them. Alternatively, tickets can be returned. In this case, the purchase price including the advance booking fee will be refunded. The return is made via the respective ticket store customer account on elbjazz.en/tickets through which the tickets were purchased.

Those who want to bridge the gap until the next edition in June 2026 can still look forward to a special highlight: festival partner TUI Cruises invites you to the “Mein Schiff® meets ELBJAZZ” themed cruise with Grammy winner Gregory Porter. From June 12 to 22, 2025, guests will experience ten unforgettable midsummer days full of jazz on the Baltic Sea. Further information can be found at www.meinschiff.com/eventreisen/elbjazz.