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KAMPNAGEL | ÜBERJAZZ FESTIVAL | KARSTEN JAHNKE

Since 2010, the ÜBERJAZZ FESTIVAL has shown how jazz, soul, hip-hop, ambient, and other advanced styles evolve into forward-looking music—performed in four Kampnagel halls that can all be accessed with a single ticket. For its 15th anniversary, and at the same time the final edition before the halls close for renovation, the festival once again brings major names and fresh discoveries to Hamburg: from neo-soul icon Bilal, legendary alto saxophonist Gary Bartz, and sound archaeologist Adrian Younge to the cosmic journeys of Alabaster DePlume. Chicago visionary Angel Bat Dawid presents a project with London-based keyboardist Naima Nefertari, while R&B singer keiyaA returns with new music after five years. Spiritual jazz and Afrocentric traditions are embodied by Kahil El'Zabar with his Ethnic Heritage Ensemble, while the younger scene ranges from Salin and Flur to Berlin transfemme artist Lucy Liebe and the future-jazz project corto.alto. Spoken word also meets sound, as Saul Williams and Carlos Niño & Friends present their joint album. All this and more makes ÜBERJAZZ 2025 once again a parcours through the musical worlds of the future – before the festival re-emerges in a new form in 2026.

DAY 1 / 31.10.25

ÀBÁSE

Àbáse is the solo project of Hungarian producer and keyboardist Bognár Szabolcs, now based in Berlin. Shaped by his early discovery of Fela Kuti's Afrobeat, he studied jazz in Budapest and expanded his knowledge in New York and Rio de Janeiro. "Àbáse" is Yoruba for "community" – a principle reflected in collective processes that weave jazz, Hungarian folk, hip-hop, West African and electronic music into intense live recordings. This is also true of his latest album "Awakening," described by NDR as "a unique blend of spiritual Coltrane jazz, Afrobeat, and Hungarian folk traditions."

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BANDCAMP | BACKSEAT MAFIA ALBUM REVIEW | VIDEO

ALABASTER DEPLUME

British saxophonist, poet, and composer Alabaster DePlume returns to Kampnagel after his 2023 ÜBERJAZZ performance with his seventh studio album, "A Blade Because a Blade Is Whole" (International Anthem, 2025). Featuring string arrangements by Macie Stewart and contributions from Donna Thompson and Mikey Kenney, the record merges jazz, folk, spoken word, and classical elements. Tracks like "Thank You My Pain" reflect on grief and healing, while "Who Are You Telling, Gus" embodies vulnerability and dignity. "On this graceful new album, the reminders to savor each day and to forgive oneself feel less like jazz tunes than wordless hymns" (Pitchfork).

© Sofia Lambrou

HOMEPAGE | PITCHFORK ALBUM REVIEW | VIDEO

ANGEL BAT DAWID & NAIMA NEFERTARI

After her acclaimed ÜBERJAZZ debut in 2019, multi-instrumentalist, singer, and composer Angel Bat Dawid returns to Hamburg. A central figure in Chicago's vibrant scene between jazz, beats, and the avant-garde, she records for International Anthem, the label closely linked to the festival – with Alabaster DePlume, Saul Williams, and Carlos Niño also appearing at ÜBERJAZZ 2025. This time, Angel Bat Dawid presents a project with Swedish keyboardist and interdisciplinary artist Naima Nefertari from London: their joint album "Journey to Nabta Playa" is a spiritual, meditative sound journey to a stone circle in Egypt's Nubian desert, released on London's Spiritmuse Records, which also features fellow ÜBERJAZZ artist Kahil El'Zabar.

© Sulyiman Stokes

INSTAGRAM / ANGEL | INSTAGRAM / NAIMA | VIDEO

CORTO.ALTO

corto.alto is the acclaimed future-jazz project of Scottish multi-instrumentalist Liam Shortall. His debut "Bad With Names" was shortlisted for the 2024 Mercury Prize and hailed as offering a European counterpart to the "syncretism à la Brainfeeder and other American beat visionaries" (laut.de). With trombone, synths, and a live band he fuses jazz, hip-hop, club music, and soul into high-energy, erratic performances. His new Ninja Tune single "DON'T LISTEN" pushes the eclectic style further—a track bursting with rhythmic intensity, heavy basslines, distorted leads, and hazy vocals that collapse under a wash of strings. "If Hiatus Kaiyote and Masters At Work had a child, corto.alto would be it – the future is now!" (Gilles Peterson).

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HOMEPAGE VIDEO

DOUNIAH

Since her debut album "A Lot, Not Too Much," German-Moroccan singer douniah has built a large audience with her distinctive dreamy, beat-driven R&B and most recently performed at Kampnagel's Summer Festival in 2024. Her sound is inspired by jazz, North African Gnawa music, and her mother's cassette collection.

© Elena Cremona

BANDCAMP VIDEO

FLUR

Flur is the promising new trio of Miriam Adefris (harp), Isaac Robertson (saxophone), and Dillon Harrison (percussion), who met while studying at Goldsmiths University in London and have collaborated with artists such as Floating Points, ganavya (on Saturday also live at ÜBERJAZZ), and Shabaka Hutchings. Their album "Plunge" (Latency Records) was released in September and hailed by taz as "a strong debut from an ensemble that rethinks spiritual jazz without false reverence and reveals a clear, idiosyncratic voice." Drawing on contemporary classical, free jazz, and ambient influences, Pitchfork described their music as "a vaporous, polyrhythmic style somewhere between astral jazz and cosmic minimalism."

© Olivia Brissett

LABEL INFOS BANDCAMP PITCHFORK REVIEW INSTAGRAM

KARRIEM RIGGINS & J.ROCC

Summit of two hip-hop icons: Detroit jazz drummer and producer Karriem Riggins — known for his work with Erykah Badu, The Roots, and J. Dilla, as well as co-founding the supergroup August Greene with Common and Robert Glasper — performs live with J.Rocc. A Stones Throw mainstay, co-founder of the Beat Junkies, and longtime Madlib live-DJ, J.Rocc has been one of the defining turntablists since the 1980s. Together they fuse drums and turntables into a journey through the universe of groove, where beat science meets improvisation.

© emerged agency

LABEL INFO / KARRIEM | LABEL INFO / JROCC | VIDEO

LUCY LIEBE

Lucy Liebe is a transfemme multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, and producer based in Berlin. Whether in her solo projects, as part of the experimental jazz trio Bokoya, as live bassist for douniah, or producing the latest album by Swedish trombonist and singer Ebba Åsman, her versatile output centers on alternative RnB and themes such as queerness, trauma, and love. At ÜBERJAZZ, she will be playing live in a quartet.

© Thammasudthasil

HOMEPAGE | INSTAGRAM | BOKOYA BANDCAMP | VIDEO

MISHA PANFILOV SEPTET

Estonian composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist Misha Panfilov blends psychedelic jazz, electronic lounge, and ambient exotica into a distinctive sound. For more than a decade, he has released albums both solo and with ensembles such as Estrada Orchestra, Center El Muusa, and Misha Panfilov Sound Combo. In September he released his latest album, “To Blue From Grey in May” (Ultraääni Records), which he now presents on a European tour with a seven-piece band.

© Ilya Tulit

INSTAGRAM | BANDCAMP | VIDEO

JOY GUIDRY

Joy Guidry, U.S. bassoonist and composer, is regarded as one of the most exciting voices in the experimental jazz scene. On their new album “Five Prayers” (2025), Guidry transforms personal crises into sonic meditations on vulnerability, liberation, and spirituality. With bassoon, harp, synths, and electronic textures, they create prayers in sound—drawing inspiration from Alice Coltrane, Jazmine Sullivan, and Lorna Simpson—somewhere between ambient, gospel, and Black sonic traditions.

© Cole Douglas

HOMEPAGE | INSTAGRAM | BEATS PER MINUTE: ALBUM-REVIEW | THE LINE OF BEST FIT: FEATURE | VIDEO

SALIN

Thai-born percussionist and composer based in Montréal presents her new album “Rammana”: a groundbreaking fusion of Afro-jazz, funk, and Thai instruments that Salin calls “Afro Thai Funk.” Her songs address themes of identity, spirituality, and political events; working with Thai musicians and Western instrumentalists alike, Salin weaves all four directions into a subtle global sound that knows no borders.

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HOMEPAGE | BANDCAMP ALBUM OF THE DAY | SALIN ESSAY | INTERVIEW | VIDEO

TOMOKI SANDERS

Tomoki Sanders, child of jazz legend Pharoah Sanders, is part of New York’s new generation of musicians. Having toured internationally with Kassa Overall’s supergroup and curating “Tomo Tuesdays” in Brooklyn, they draw on African American and Japanese heritage and a non-binary perspective to merge Great Black Music, urban sounds, electronics, and the avant-garde. Their debut album will arrive in 2026—echoing the spirit of Impulse! while carving out a distinctive voice between spiritual jazz and the present.

© Tomoki Sanders Studio

HOMEPAGE | INSTAGRAM | INTERVIEW | VIDEO

ZEITGEIST FREEDOM ENERGY EXCHANGE

The Berlin-based trio Zeitgeist Freedom Energy Exchange (Z*F*E*X) is the meeting point of improvisation and dance music. Founded by Australian drummer Ziggy Zeitgeist (known from Melbourne's future-jazz collective 30/70), the group fuses jazz energy with broken beats, synths, and flute lines into a live DJ-set in human form. Following acclaimed performances at XJAZZ, MELT, and We Out Here, their fifth album "Inspire // Radicalise" (Energy Exchange Records) arrived in 2025—an ecstatic fusion of dancefloor, jazz, and psychedelic transcendence.

© Z*F*E*X

BANDCAMP | INSTAGRAM | JAZZWISE-REVIEW | VIDEO

DAY 2 / 01.11.25

ADRIAN YOUNGE & HIS ORCHESTRA

Adrian Younge is a producer, multi-instrumentalist, and sonic archaeologist who fuses Black musical idioms from jazz and soul to hip-hop and Brazilian MPB. In addition to soundtracks such as the blaxploitation homage "Black Dynamite" (2009), the Los Angeles–born musician has built a discography of more than 60 albums, including productions with Ghostface Killah, Tony Allen, as well as Bilal and Gary Bartz—both of whom also perform at ÜBERJAZZ. Most recently, in 2025, Younge released "Something About April III" and "Adrian & Samantha" on his Jazz Is Dead label, where Brazilian vocals meet orchestra, synthesizers, and breakbeats.

© bacana.live

JAZZ IS DEAD LABEL | INSTAGRAM | VIDEO

BILAL

Since his debut "1st Born Second" (2001), Bilal has been one of the most distinctive voices in US neo-soul. The Grammy winner fuses soul, jazz and electronic experiments, and has collaborated with Erykah Badu, Robert Glasper and Kendrick Lamar. New York Magazine wrote about his voice: "The closest thing to Prince's … remains breathtaking in action." After his appearance at the ÜBERJAZZ Festival in 2014, Bilal now returns to Kampnagel with his sixth studio album "Adjust Brightness."

© onerpmstudios

HOMEPAGE | VIDEO

GANAVYA

Born in New York and raised in Tamil Nadu, India, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist ganavya stands among the most compelling new voices bridging spiritual jazz and South Asian tradition. For her latest album “Daughter of a Temple” (LEITER, 2024), she collaborated with esperanza spalding, Vijay Iyer and Shabaka Hutchings. Inspired by Alice Coltrane and the Harikatha tradition, it braids styles and worlds into a deeply spiritual current of sound and ganavya’s own voice—about which The Guardian wrote after her 2023 appearance with SAULT: “a delicate emotive heft that could turn stoics into sobbing wrecks.”

© Carlos Cruz

HOMEPAGE | LABEL INFO | VIDEO

GARY BARTZ & NTU TROOP

Gary Bartz, legendary alto saxophonist and NEA Jazz Master, has shaped modern jazz for over six decades while keeping the heritage of African American music alive. The two-time Grammy winner played with Charles Mingus, Art Blakey and Miles Davis; as a bandleader he has released over 45 albums, including the seminal “Harlem Bush Music.” In 2025, this boundary-pusher between hard bop, soul jazz and spiritual improvisation presents his first studio album in over a decade—produced by Om’Mas Keith, whose credits include Frank Ocean, Erykah Badu and John Legend. At Kampnagel, he performes with his NTU Troop, founded in 1969. Ntu, pronounced “into”, is a word from the Bantu language, where it unifies all things – time and space, living and dead, seen and unseen forces.

© Alan Nahigian

BANDCAMP | INSTAGRAM | VIDEO

KAHIL EL’ZABAR & ETHNIC HERITAGE ENSEMBLE

U.S. multi-instrumentalist Kahil El’Zabar has been a pioneer of Afrocentric spiritual jazz since founding the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble in 1973. Marking the ensemble’s 50th anniversary, he released the album “Open Me, A Higher Consciousness of Sound and Spirit” (Spiritmuse Records) in 2024, affirming his enduring contribution to Great Black Music. Following his celebrated concert at ÜBERJAZZ Festival 2024, El’Zabar now returns to Hamburg with the four-piece Ethnic Heritage Ensemble.

© Sandro Miller

HOMEPAGE | LABEL INFO | THE GUARDIAN ALBUM REVIEW | ALL ABOUT JAZZ | VIDEO

KASSA OVERALL

Kassa Overall is a U.S. drummer, producer, and rapper who has already been one of the highlights of the last two ÜBERJAZZ editions with his blend of smooth hip-hop beats and jazz drumming. His latest album “CREAM” (Warp Records), featuring fellow ÜBERJAZZ artist Tomoki Sanders, is a jazz-infused homage to hip-hop: across eight tracks, the Grammy-nominated musician reimagines classics from Notorious B.I.G.’s “Big Poppa” and Wu-Tang Clan’s “C.R.E.A.M.” to Dr. Dre’s “Nuthin’ but a ‘G’ Thang” – once again dissolving the boundaries between jazz and rap.

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INSTAGRAM | BANDCAMP | JAZZTIMES ALBUM REVIEW | VIDEO

KEIYAA

R&B singer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist keiyaA first came to prominence in 2020 with her debut “Forever, Ya Girl,” named one of the year’s best albums by Pitchfork, Rolling Stone, and The Guardian. After a five-year break, she returns in 2025 with the single “stupid prizes.” Recorded late at night in her Brooklyn living room, the song blends reflections on loss, grief, and anger with a radiant, romantic sample of U.S. orchestral composer Percy Faith: a dreamlike expression with looped melodies about “what it can feel like navigating my internal and external worlds, but also what it feels like being a marginalised person in America.”

© Neva Wireko

INSTAGRAM | PITCHFORK REVIEW | VIDEO

KNOWSUM / NEPUMUK

Nelson Brandt is two artists in one: as Nepumuk, he sends German words on endless journeys—stream-of-consciousness rap, mischievous at times, razor-sharp at others, always with a wink toward society. As knowsum, he spins the globe, sings in English, and blends jazz, indie, and funk into psychedelic loops that feel studio-borne, extraterrestrial, and inside your head all at once. Brandt moves between satire and poetry, head-nod grooves and mind cinema—making it clear: music is permitted to be contradictory.

© Tatiana Vdovenko

INSTAGRAM | BANDCAMP | VIDEO

MELANIE CHARLES FEAT. IGNABU & PAUL WILSON BAE

Singer, flutist, and producer Melanie Charles has collaborated with the likes of Wynton Marsalis, SZA, and Gorillaz, and was one of the big surprises at the 2019 ÜBERJAZZ Festival, where she wove together jazz, soul, and the roots music of her Haitian heritage. Now performing in a trio that first emerged as a John Coltrane tribute, the Brooklyn-based musician blends jazz, soul, and R&B with striking artistry. Together with multi-instrumentalist and producer Ignabu (Macklemore, Pink, Hypnotic Brass Ensemble) and pianist/producer Paul Wilson Bae (SZA, Lauryn Hill, ÜBERJAZZ artist Kassa Overall), the group performs selections from their Coltrane homage alongside reinterpretations. Their live shows unfold as both ritual and experimental jam session.

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HOMEPAGE | INSTAGRAM / MELANIE | INSTAGRAM / BAESEF | DOWNBEAT MAG | VIDEO

MOCKY

Dominic Giancarlo Salole, better known as Mocky, is a multi-instrumentalist, producer, and songwriter whose list of collaborations is as long as the range of styles he moves between. With Chilly Gonzales and Peaches he formed the punk band “The Shit,” with the legendary Puppetmastaz he gave voice to puppets, and as a producer and touring musician he has worked with Feist – earning Grammy nominations along the way. After several acclaimed concerts at Kampnagel, most recently in 2017, he now returns to Hamburg with his new album “Music Will Explain (Choir Music Vol. 1)” (Stones Throw Records, 2025) – an exploration of the human voice as a true expression in a digital world.

© Yvonne Schmedemann

HOMEPAGE | INSTAGRAM | LABEL INFO | VIDEO

NIECY BLUES

South Carolina–based singer, producer, and multimedia artist Niecy Blues is one of the most exciting new voices at the intersection of R&B, ambient, and gospel. Their debut album “Exit Simulation” (Kranky, 2023) transforms personal experiences of loss, faith, and self-discovery into hypnotic songs moving between ballads, looped improvisations, and flowing soundscapes. “A nourishing statement of ambient, operatic R&B… a free-flowing yet focused album that opens up like night-blooming jasmine” (Pitchfork).

© Tommy De Nys

INSTAGRAM | BANDCAMP | PITCHFORK REVIEW | POP MATTERS FEATURE | VIDEO

SALOMEA

Cologne-based band Salomea is known for its genre-bending, experimental sound blending hip-hop, jazz, RnB, and electronica. The quartet features German-American lead singer Rebekka Salomea Ziegler alongside Yannis Anft (keys), Oliver Lutz (bass), and Leif Berger (drums). To date they have released three studio albums, most recently “Good Life” (Papercup Records, 2024). Festival appearances have included CO POP, XJazz, Popkultur Berlin, Jazzablanca, Avignon Jazz Festival, and the 2024 Reeperbahn Festival.

© Alex Lienerth

HOMEPAGE | INSTAGRAM | VIDEO

SAUL WILLIAMS MEETS CARLOS NIÑO & FRIENDS

U.S. author, actor, director, and musician Saul Williams is considered a trailblazing artist: His film “Slam” (1998) brought slam poetry to international prominence, he has been a defining voice in alternative hip hop, and has collaborated with Janelle Monáe, The Roots, Gil Scott-Heron, and Erykah Badu. Back in 2010, he performed with the Symphoniker Hamburg orchestra at Kampnagel. Together with his longtime friend, producer, percussionist, and Dublab co-founder Carlos Niño—who first appeared at the ÜBERJAZZ Festival in 2016—he now presents his poetry live. Niño is known for his project Carlos Niño & Friends as well as his work on André 3000’s “New Blue Sun.” Their joint album “Saul Williams meets Carlos Niño & Friends at TreePeople” (International Anthem, 2024) was recorded outdoors in Los Angeles’ Coldwater Canyon Park.

© Todd Weaver

HOMEPAGE / SAUL | HOMEPAGE / CARLOS | BANDCAMP | VIDEO