

Vacation courses for young musicians are good and useful, and they have been around for a pretty long time, in the jazz world too. They promise inspiration and lots of ideas for making progress in both artistic and technical terms. In addition, you get to know people who are just as off-the-wall as you are. People for whom music is the no. 1 priority, people who have already invested the first couple of thousand of the legendary minimum of 10,000 hours that anyone needs to become really good in any discipline.

REGISTER NOW

for the next edition of the Elbphilharmonie Jazz Academy in summer 2023

Registration

»This week probably taught me more than any other week of my life, both about jazz and about music in general.«

Jakob Bänsch

THE ELBPHILHARMONIE JAZZ ACADEMY: 15 selected applicants meet a group of jazz stars

At the end of the summer, the Elbphilharmonie's Education Department put on a week of this kind for the first time for 15 top young jazz musicians. Selected from 185 applicants, six women and nine men aged between 18 and 28 came together for the »Elbphilharmonie Jazz Academy«. The group consisted of three saxophonists, three pianists, three bass players, three percussionists, two trumpeters and one trombonist. They had six teachers at their side, all of them eminent authorities in their respective fields: Melissa Aldana (saxophone), Matt Brewer (bass), Theo Croker (trumpet/trombone), Julia Hülsmann (composition, arrangement), Ziv Ravitz (percussion) and Yaron Herman (piano and artistic direction).

SIX DAYS OF INTENSIVE TRAINING

The learning curve was really steep: just six days lay between the very first get-together and a full-length concert given by the youngsters and their teachers in the Elbphilharmonie Grand Hall. Every member of the Academy brought along one or more of his or her own pieces, which were then tried out to see how well they worked. Starting right away on Monday morning, the musicians played all kinds of music together in various line-ups. And pieces still unfamiliar that had only just been rehearsed were presented to the others and the teachers in the Recital Hall. A bit like it used to be at school, except that there were six teachers sitting in the first row who all had plenty to say about what they had just heard.