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2018 Swiss Jazz Award goes to Franco Ambrosetti

Franco Ambrosetti has been named winner of the 12th Swiss Jazz Award. The expert jury decided to grant the accolade to the jazz musician from Ticino in recognition of his life's work. Franco Ambrosetti will be presented with the Award on 24 June at the JazzAscona Festival.

The 76-year-old trumpet and flugelhorn player has helped shape European jazz history and likes to be described as the “grand master of Swiss hardbop”. An economics graduate and self-taught musician, Franco Ambrosetti started playing professionally in Milan’s jazz clubs and in Zurich’s ‘Africana’ when he was just 20. He won first prize at the Viennese International Jazz Competition in 1966 and throughout his career has played with some of the biggest names in international jazz. Besides Dexter Gordon, Cannonball Adderley and Joe Henderson, these include his Swiss colleagues Daniel Humair and George Gruntz, as well as Italian jazz heavyweights such as Dado Moroni. Franco Ambrosetti’s musical achievements are reflected in his extensive discography featuring many famous names. Composing is also an important element of his work, including film soundtracks. Franco Ambrosetti presented his own jazz programme on Ticino Radio RSI for over 30 years. The 2018 Swiss Jazz Award is therefore honouring one of the biggest names in Swiss jazz.

The Swiss Jazz Award was set up in 2007 by Radio Swiss Jazz in partnership with JazzAscona and was originally intended as a public choice award to promote the Swiss jazz scene. In 2017 and 2018, the expert jury selected the winner of the Swiss Jazz Award directly.

The jury for the Swiss Jazz Award comprises:

Beat Blaser (music editor, Radio SRF 2 Kultur)

Rebecca Bretscher (Festival da Jazz, St. Moritz)

Andrea Engi (President, Jazz Club Chur and swissjazzorama)

Nicolas Gilliet (Head of JazzAscona)

Pepe Lienhard (band leader, saxophonist and arranger)

Sai Nobel (music editor, Radio Swiss Jazz)

Mirko Vaiz (Project Leader music of Migros Culture Percentage, Federation of Migros Cooperatives)



Previous winners include:

Bruno Spoerri (2018), Patrick Bianco's Cannonsoul (2016), Raphael Jost and lots of horns (2015), Nicole Herzog & Stewy von Wattenwyl (2014), Chris Conz Trio (2013), Christina Jaccard & Dave Ruosch (2012), Alexia Gardner (2011) and Dani Felber Big Band (2010). Lifetime Achievement Awards have been presented to Hazy Osterwald (2009) and Pepe Lienhard (2006).

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