

CALL FOR COMPETITION
WOMEN IN JAZZ – NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL
AS PART OF THE 21ST WOMEN IN JAZZ FESTIVAL



As part of the 21st WOMEN IN JAZZ Festival in Halle (Saale), the WOMEN IN JAZZ – NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL competition will take place for the 7th time. With this, we continue our idea of presenting creative young female jazz musicians from Europe to our audience in the context of the WOMEN IN JAZZ FESTIVAL. We use the festival website (www.womeninjazz.de) to present the young jazz musicians and their current projects to an interested jazz community.

From Monday, February 2nd 2026, the application phase for the WOMEN IN JAZZ – NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL competition will start on the website www.womeninjazz.de. Until Monday, March 2nd 2026 – midnight – young female jazz musicians may submit their applications for the competition.

20 applicants will be admitted to the competition, which will begin on Monday, March 16th 2026. The jazz community will then have the opportunity to vote until Sunday, March 29th 2026 – midnight.

The three winners of the online voting will be invited to a concert on Tuesday, May 5th 2026, at the Georgenkirche in Halle (Saale). Each formation will play a set of up to 60 minutes in front of a jury and a live audience. Afterwards, the final winner will be determined based on the audience vote and the jury's evaluation. The jazz prize of the City of Halle (Saale) endowed with €1,000, and the two second prizes are worth €500 each.

Application requirements:

1. Eligible for the WOMEN IN JAZZ – NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL competition are all female jazz musicians with their bands who were born after April 25th 1990. The age of the musician who acts as the artistic director of the band project is decisive. Other band members are not subject to this age limit. Applicants must provide proof of residence in a European country.
2. Applications must be submitted by Monday, March 2nd 2026, midnight (CET), to the WOMEN IN JAZZ Festival (email: info@womeninjazz.de).

3. Applicants must send a live recording (video & audio) with a minimum length of 30 minutes (maximum 45 minutes) to the festival (info@womeninjazz.de). By submitting the concert recording, the WOMEN IN JAZZ FESTIVAL is granted the right to publish the recording free of charge on www.womeninjazz.de during the period from March 10th to May 19th 2025. This will be done via an embedded media player on the site (no upload to YouTube, Vimeo, or other video portals).
4. In addition to the concert recording, participants must answer the following question in writing: Why do you deserve the Jazz Prize of the City of Halle? What makes the band/formation special?
Furthermore, the following information, in German or English, is required: text suggestion for publication (max. 500 characters); band name and the names of the musicians with instruments; tracklist of the submitted project, indicating who arranged it. In addition, a photo of the musician and/or the band project (300 dpi, publication rights-free for use on www.womeninjazz.de, in printed materials of WOMEN IN JAZZ gGmbH, and for media releases).
5. Applications should be submitted via WeTransfer, Dropbox, or FTP link to info@womeninjazz.de. The format should be MP4 or another H.264 codec. A resolution of at least 720p is recommended.
6. WOMEN IN JAZZ gGmbH is looking forward to applications from all over Europe. The artistic direction of the festival will select 20 jazz musicians from the applications as participants for the WOMEN IN JAZZ – NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL competition. WOMEN IN JAZZ gGmbH will publish an overview of the participating jazz projects on its website. For each project, the following information will be presented: band name, participating artists, photo, tracklist, and website.
7. The online voting will take place on the festival's website. Users can cast up to three votes via a form. Multiple votes for a single project are not possible. After the voting ends, the three projects with the highest number of votes will be published on www.womeninjazz.de. These projects will then be invited to the concert on May 5th in Halle. No further ranking results will be published.
8. The audience vote on the concert day will take place via an online vote, which accounts for 50% of the total score. The jury, consisting of four music experts,

will decide on the remaining 50%. The final winner will then be determined from the combined results of the audience and jury votes.

9. The winner and her band will be invited to perform at a **prizewinner's concert at the 21st WOMEN IN JAZZ FESTIVAL on Mai 05th 2026. Participation in this concert is a mandatory condition for entering the NEXT GENERATION VIRTUAL WOMEN IN JAZZ competition.** This invitation includes a guaranteed concert fee of €750 per participating jazz musician, including travel expenses. For both the invitation and the number of musicians involved, the submitted band project is decisive. In the case of projects with a large number of musicians (e.g., choir projects), a maximum total fee of €3,750 will be awarded to all participants.
10. The City of Halle Jazz Prize is endowed with €1,000. The prize will be awarded to the bandleader of the winning band. The bandleaders of the other participating jazz ensembles will each receive €500. The jazz award is endowed with €1,000. The two other participating jazz ensembles will each receive €500.