



Media release

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Montreux Jazz Festival China 2021 thrilled the audience

The first Montreux Jazz Festival China, which took place at the Sofitel Hangzhou Westlake from October 5 to 8, can be summed up as "all is great, see you next year"!

The world-famous Montreux Jazz Festival, which is held every summer in Switzerland on the shores of Lake Geneva, celebrated its first China edition in Hangzhou – and the audience was thrilled.

The festival presented top-quality music performances – from jazz to rock and pop and folk and classical – in an intimate setting, reflecting the spirit of the Montreux Jazz Festival in a unique and magic way. Luo Ning, the leading Latin jazz pianist in China, opened the live festival with his band, mesmerizing the audience right from the beginning. Brazilian artists Ricardo Vogt and Veronica Nunes then enchanted the audience with virtuoso guitar playing and songs. Veronica explains: “The closeness to the audience, the beautiful scenery and the festival in this intimate format are just magical.” Ricardo adds: “It is such a privilege for any artist worldwide to play at the Montreux Jazz Festival, and this is also true for the Montreux Jazz Festival China.”

Internationally renowned jazz guitarist Lawrence Ku excelled with his unrivalled precision and groove; and the Inner-Mongolian rock band Hanggai – which has performed in 60 countries on five continents – literally brought the roof terrace of the Sofitel to the boiling point.

Among the many illustrious festival visitors was Mr. Bernardino Regazzoni, Swiss Ambassador to China. He explained: “The Montreux Jazz Festival China opens a bridge for further cultural exchanges between our two countries. I greatly enjoyed this first edition in China and look forward to future Montreux Jazz Festivals on the shores of the Lac Léman or the Xī Hú.”

Due to the pandemic-related travel restrictions, not all artists could travel to Hangzhou. Performances of the Hong Kong All Stars Bands Eugene Pao, Teriver Cheung, and Alan Kwun as well as Swiss pianist Sebastian Issler and German tenor Maximilian Vogler – recorded in 360 Reality Audio and shown in the festival’s Immersive Space – gave the opportunity to enjoy musical highlights in a cool and quiet area. Sebastian Issler explains: “Being part of the Montreux Jazz Festival China means the world to me. Music builds bridges, and I am very much looking forward to performing live in Hangzhou and collaborating with Chinese artists in the future.”

The second live festival day started with Justin Xu (Ukulele) and Pinocchio (a cappella) on a playful note. The Etienne Jeanne Quartet then made everybody deep-dive into music at its best. Etienne states: “What a

pleasure to perform our music in front of a demanding and international audience.” The evening was closed by Xiaoli Wan, who deeply enthralled the audience with his indie folk songs and beguiling nuanced voice.

The Montreux Jazz Festival China proved that it is much more than a “jazz festival”. It delivered the highest-quality music performances covering many different styles – and provided the audience a window to the world in these difficult times.

Joyce Peng Peng, CEO of Montreux Jazz Festival China, summarizes: “We are so happy that the first Montreux Jazz Festival China could fully deliver on the promise of its “mother festival” in Switzerland. I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the fantastic audience and to all our Chinese and Swiss partners and sponsors who made the festival possible.”

Both Chinese and foreign festival visitors stated that they can’t wait for next October when the Montreux Jazz Festival China 2022 will take place.

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