

*Media release*

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## **Jazzcampus: A vision becomes reality**

After three years of building work, the time has come: the new Jazzcampus is opening its doors to the public.

**A music school, an academy, a jazz club, a meeting place, and a building complex unique in Europe: the Jazzcampus of the Musik-Akademie Basel and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland is all this and much more. It is a place for jazz, for musicians, for culture lovers in Basel, for the region and for jazz enthusiasts from all over the world. A magnet for a relatively young music genre that is alive here and that is supported and propagated in and for Basel and beyond. Its unique infrastructure is financed by two Basel foundations. From 19 to 21 September 2014, the Basel Jazzcampus is opening its doors to everyone who wants to get to know it.**

Right on time for the beginning of the 2014/15 academic year, the Jazzcampus has been completed and fitted out, so that the pupils of the Basel Jazz School can attend their first lessons after the summer break on the new campus at Utengasse. The finishing touches are being applied everywhere in order for everything to be completely ready for the students and lecturers of the Jazz Department of the School of Music when the new semester begins in mid-September.

### **Open house at the Jazzcampus**

From 19 to 21 September, everyone with an interest in jazz, culture and education can visit the newly completed Campus. An official ceremony and the ensuing "Open house" will offer guests the opportunity to explore the new ensemble of buildings, to enjoy jazz music, to talk to students and lecturers, or just to experience the magnificent atmosphere. At the same

time, the KlangBasel Music Festival will be taking place for the first-ever time. Music of the most varied styles, from classical to hip-hop, will be performed at venues all over Kleinbasel, from the Volkshaus to churches and snack bars.

### **A further milestone**

“This is yet another milestone in the history of the Musik-Akademie Basel, and all of us who have worked towards this know that we are part of a unique, forward-looking project” says Prof. Stephan Schmidt, Director of the Musik-Akademie Basel and the FHNW Academy of Music. For Prof. Bernhard Ley, Head of the Jazz Department at the School of Music, a long-held dream is now being realized: “It’s a unique centre for jazz, set in the old town of Basel. It’s an inspiring place where people can learn, come together and perform: a place that will be a platform for musicians from all over the world. A place full of life, created just for music – for teaching, learning, exploration, composition, production and performance”.

### **A gift to jazz and to Basel**

The building has been financed by the Habitat Foundation, the fitting out for the Jazz School by the Levedo Foundation. Both are funded in large part by Beatrice Oeri. The architects Buol & Zünd have understood how to unite the historical substance of the building with modern architecture, and they have scrupulously integrated the Jazzcampus in the context of its surroundings. The Musik-Akademie Basel and the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland are contractually committed to the maintenance of the building. With this Jazzcampus, the city and region of Basel are being given a new beacon of music and education: a meeting place for music lovers in the midst of the old city.

Additional Information and photos:

<http://www.fhnw.ch/musikhochschulen/medien-und-oeffentlichkeit/jazzcampus>

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