

MAASTRICHT JAZZ COLLECTIVE

*Contemporary European Jazz with Balkan
Roots & Ethno Grooves*



**ELECTRONIC
PRESS KIT**



SHORT BIO

Maastricht Jazz Collective

The Maastricht Jazz Collective is an organic project born out of the Netherlands' vibrant academic jazz scene, a compelling reimagining of contemporary jazz through a distinct multicultural lens. At the core of their sonic identity lies a bold convergence: the harmonic sophistication of modern European jazz intertwining with the raw, untamed spirit of Balkan and Eastern European traditions.

The collective's repertoire celebrates rhythmic intricacy, lyrical depth, and visceral storytelling, where traditional folk motifs ignite polished, expansive arrangements. Bridging conservatory-level craftsmanship with raw emotional immediacy, this is jazz defined by dynamic intensity and lyrical freedom.

With an international lineup and an active touring presence across the Netherlands, Belgium, and Romania, the collective has quickly established itself among the most compelling voices of Europe's emerging jazz generation. The year 2026 marked a defining breakthrough, beginning with the ensemble clinching the Grand Prize at the Maastricht Jazz Awards, where the jury lauded their performance as "layered, energetic, and deeply expressive."

Following remarkable appearances at the Transilvania Jazz Festival and the Urban Blues Festival in Bucharest, the group won the prestigious "Albert Michiels" Grand Prize at the B-jazz International Competition in Ghent (Belgium), thereby solidifying its international reputation ahead of major events such as the Jeker Jazz Festival, Getxo Jazz, and others.



LINE-UP

Maastricht Jazz Collective

Paul Saumets (EE) – an Estonian saxophonist who brings his own unique voice to the group. His performance is a vibrant, soulful experience that places him among the most notable artists of his generation.

Selim Aydin (TR) – Trombone. Mastering the art of improvisation with astonishing technical agility, he manages to combine inspired phrasing with profound sensitivity. Every note is authentic and passionate, demonstrating a masterful knowledge of tradition, but projected into an innovative and unmistakable musical language.



ALEX CHAVEZ (HND) – is an exceptional double bassist from Honduras, bringing depth and a solid rhythmic foundation to the formula. A skilled improviser, he responds spontaneously to groove changes and creatively incorporates diverse textures and rhythmic motifs.

David Luca (RO) – is a Romanian jazz pianist and composer recognized for his authentic style characterized by an overflowing energy, which transcends the traditional boundaries of the genre.

Micky Laheij (NL) – Drums brings an impressive ability to master the dynamics and expressiveness of his instrument in a wide range of musical styles and contexts, from subtle rhythmic nuances to moments of intensity and sonic explosion.



PRESS & CRITICAL ACCLAIM

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“Their repertoire of Balkan and ethno-jazz yields interesting, stimulating compositions. Arrangements that seem quite simple at first listen evolve into surprising harmonies. It is jazz that sounds very funky and soulful at times, without ever compromising on quality. A delight to both hear and see. The audience rightly clamored for more at the end of their set,” was the jury's verdict on the Maastricht Jazz Collective. (B-Jazz International Contest 2026, Ghent).

“What energy, what rhythm, what accents! A band reunited in Maastricht, led by a Romanian pianist with a tireless brass section, a zen double bassist, and an unexpectedly punchy drummer!” – Edwin Keleti (Transilvania Jazz Festival)

“The second recital of the series, Maastricht Jazz Collective, thoroughly enjoyed by the admirers of <The Art of Sound>, was a personal gift for the loyalty of the fans of Urban Blues Fest (...) Both the leader's compositions and the interpretative maturity of the students from the Maastricht Conservatory convinced the demanding audience.” (Cătălin Partenie - Urban Blues Fest Bucharest)

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“Complex, energetic, and highly expressive—a band fully deserving of the Maastricht Jazz Awards Grand Prize. They filled the hall with their warm, sincere sound and the palpable joy of performing.” — Maastricht Jazz Awards 2026 Jury



CONCERT SEQUENCES

Maastricht Jazz Collective

Demo live links

Lights in the Desert



Tagura



Urban Musings



Final Glow

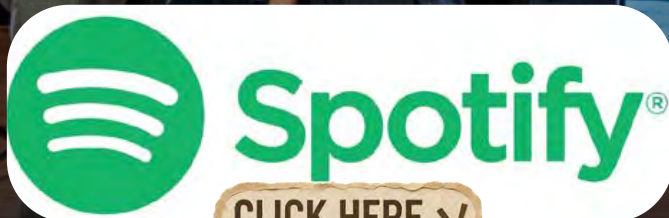
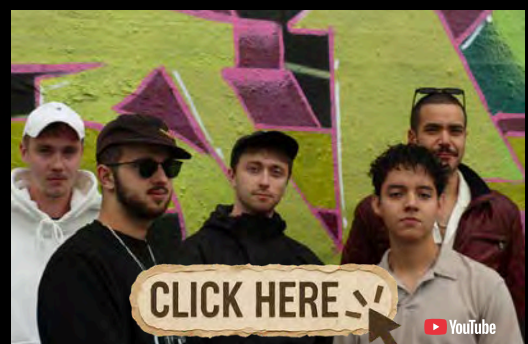


Photo Gallery



Contact & Booking

www.maastrichtjazzcollective.com

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TECHNICAL RIDER & STAGE PLOT

Maastricht Jazz Collective



PA system corresponding to the space

On Stage:

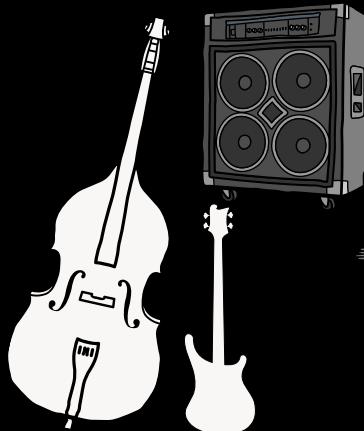
PIANO:

- Acoustic piano tuned to A 440 Hz / electric piano
- Piano chair
- Voice microphone with stand
- Monitor



BASS / DOUBLE BASS ACOUSTIC:

- Bass Amp
- Double bass



DRUMS:

- Acoustic Jazz drum set (kick drum: 18 x 16")
- Complete set (with snare, pedal and cymbals)
- Hardware
- Drum chair
- Carpet under the drum set
- Monitor



SAX & TROMBONE:

- 2 Microphones with stands
- Monitor

