



EUROPEAN
JAZZ
CONFERENCE

25 - 28 September 2025, Bari, Italy



somewhere
CALLED
HOME

EUROPE JAZZ NETWORK

PUGLIA



REGIONE PUGLIA

PUGLIA
CULTURE

PUGLIA SOUNDS
the music system



Co-funded by
the European Union

Somewhere Called Home



Nestling along the Adriatic coast of the South of Italy, **Bari** is a city where **history, culture, and creativity** come alive - making it the perfect destination for our annual gathering.

A port city at the heart of the Mediterranean, Bari has a long history of **hosting and welcoming individuals**, demonstrating **hospitality and solidarity** during various periods of **migration**. As a gateway to Europe, the city has received **refugees** from diverse regions, showcasing the **openness and generosity** of its **local community**. This unique cultural and historical context makes Bari an ideal location for addressing the theme of this year's conference: **the positive contribution that migrants - and global movements of people - have played in the development of culture and diversity**, and the **vital role that culture** must play in tackling the **present societal challenges**. The conference's title, "**Somewhere Called Home**", inspired by Norma Winstone's 1987 ECM album, captures this theme, reflecting the **universal search for belonging**, and the **profound connections that music can create**.

The theme for the 2025 edition highlights the **transformative potential of cultural initiatives in addressing pressing global challenges**. It aims to **inspire action, reaffirm our shared human values**, and demonstrate **how arts and culture can foster inclusion, solidarity, and resilience within diverse societies**. Creative music - and jazz in particular - offers a powerful example of **how we can build thriving communities** based on our **shared values**, while helping us understand and navigate the **complex dynamics now present in Europe, and the world at large**.

Co-organised by the **Europe Jazz Network** in collaboration with EJM member **Puglia Sounds**, the project of Puglia Culture promoted by the Puglia Region, the European Jazz Conference is a **leading event for jazz professionals from across Europe, and beyond**. **Mark your calendars and join us in Bari** for an unforgettable celebration of **music, creativity, and collaboration**. Together, let's continue to **inspire, innovate, and grow** the vibrant world of **jazz and creative music in Europe**.



PROGRAMME OUTLINE



Thursday, 25 September 2025

- FOR EJN MEMBERS ONLY -

- ★ 14:00 - Registrations for EJN members - *Kursaal*
- ★ 15:00 - 16:00 Welcome session for new members and '30 under 30' - *Kursaal*
- ★ 16:00 - 17:15 **Presentation of the EJN activities** and general discussion - *Kursaal*
- ★ 17:15 - 17:45 Coffee break
- ★ 18:00 - 20:30 **FORMAL EJN GENERAL ASSEMBLY** - *Kursaal*

- OPEN TO ALL -

- ★ 21:30 - 01:00 **FRINGE festival** around the city centre of Bari (TBA)

★ Friday, 26 September 2026

- ★ 09:30 - Registrations for everybody - *Teatro Piccinni*
- ★ 10:30 - 11:00 **Official opening** and welcome speeches - *Teatro Piccinni*
- ★ 11:00 - 11:20 **KEYNOTE SPEECH: Nabil Bey Salameh** - *Teatro Piccinni*

Singer-songwriter, ethnomusicologist, founder of Al Darawish and Radiodervish, writer, journalist, and teacher, Nabil Bey was born in Tripoli, Lebanon, into a family of Palestinian origin. He moved to Italy in the 1980s to study engineering and since then has been living in the city of Bari. For years, Nabil's artistic exploration has extended beyond music, encompassing literature, theatre, and poetry.

- ★ 11:30 - 12:30 **PANEL DEBATE: Sounds of Home - Can music help overcome fear and division in our societies?** - *Teatro Piccinni*

In an era of extreme polarisation, increasing division and hostility toward the "other," can music truly foster a sense of belonging and break down barriers? This panel debate brings together artists, promoters, and researchers to explore the power of music, and in particular of jazz and other creative music, in shaping inclusive societies. Can it counter stereotypes, challenge hostility toward migrants, and inspire genuine connections? Or is the idea of music as a tool for social change just an oversimplified and idealistic narrative? Join us as we debate the real impact, challenges, and potential of music in building bridges across cultures and in creating more open and just societies.

Soweto Kinch, artist and broadcaster (UK)

Pino Pecorelli, artist - BabelNova Orchestra (IT)

TBA

Moderator: **Anna Umbima**, writer and broadcaster (UK)

★ 12:30 - 13:00 **SHOWCASE: ELEKTRA** - *Teatro Piccinni*

Camilla Battaglia - vocals, electronics

Francesco Fiorenzani - guitar

Simone Graziano - piano, keys

Francesco Ponticelli - double bass

Francesca Remigi - drums

★ 13:30 - 14:30 Lunch - *Castello Svevo*

★ 15:00 - 16:30 **Five parallel DISCUSSION GROUPS** - *Castello Svevo*

#1 - Embracing cultural entrepreneurship to future-proof our organisations

#2 - Sharing the load: involving audiences in environmentally responsible live music

#3 - The social and political role of curators and programmers

#4 - The elephant in the room: addressing burnout in the music industry workforce

#5 - Unseen faces / unheard voices: how to ensure migrant communities have a meaningful place in our programmes and organisations

- ★ 17:00 - 17:30 **SHOWCASE: VMV TRIO** - *Castello Svevo*
Vincenzo Di Gioia - alto sax
Marco Cutillo - guitar
Vito Tenzone - drums
- ★ 17:40 - 18:10 **SHOWCASE: Anaïs Drago 'Relevé'** - *Castello Svevo*
Anaïs Drago - violins, electronics
Federico Calcagno - clarinets
Massimiliano Trabucco - drums
- ★ 18:20 - 18:50 **SHOWCASE: Bring Your Horn** - *Castello Svevo*
Emanuele Coluccia - sax
Filippo Bubbico - keys
Alberto Manco - drums
- ★ 19:00 - 20:00 Free time / networking
- ★ 20:00 - 21:30 Dinner - *Mövenpick hotel*
- ★ 21:30 - 01:00 **FRINGE festival** around the city centre of Bari (TBA)

★ Saturday, 27 September 2025

★ 10:00 - Registrations for everybody - *Castello Svevo*

★ 10:30 - 11:00 Breakfast / networking - *Castello Svevo*

★ 11:00 - 11:30 **SHOWCASE: Matteo Bortone 'No Land's'** - *Teatro Piccinni*

Matteo Bortone - bass

Julien Pontvianne - tenor sax

Benjamin Garson - guitar

Yannick Lestra - rhodes/synth

Ariel Tessier - drums

★ 11:30 - 13:00 **Four parallel WORKING GROUPS** - *Castello Svevo*

#1 - Meet your fellow members: speed dates (for EJN members only)

#2 - Good vibes only: let's create welcoming spaces in our venues and organisations

#3 - Smart sounds and smarter systems: AI tools for creative music organisers

#4 - For a better music ecosystem: joint session for agents and programmers

- ★ 13:00 - 13:15 Group photo - *Castello Svevo*
- ★ 13:30 - 14:30 Lunch - *Castello Svevo*
- ★ 15:30 - 16:00 **Celebration of the EJM Awards 2025** - *Teatro Piccinni*
- ★ 16:30 - 17:00 **CONCERT: SC'OOF (CH)** - EJM Zenith Award winner 2025 - *Teatro Piccinni*
 - Noah Arnold** - sax
 - Elio Amberg** - sax
 - Christian Zemp** - guitar
 - Vincent Glanzmann** - drums, electronics
- ★ 16:30 - 16:45 **Wrap-up** and closing remarks - *Teatro Piccinni*
- ★ 16:45 - 17:00 **Presentation of the European Jazz Conference 2026** - *Teatro Piccinni*
- ★ 17:00 - 17:30 **SHOWCASE: Esmeralda Sella** - *Teatro Piccinni*
 - Esmeralda Sella** - piano
 - Federico Giolito** - double bass
 - Giovanni Nardiello** - drums

★ 17:45 - 18:15 **SHOWCASE: Matteo Paggi 'GIRAFFE'** - *Teatro Piccinni*

Matteo Paggi - trombone

Lorenzo Simoni - alto and soprano sax

Vittorio Solimene - piano

Andrea Grossi - double bass

Andrea Carta - drums

★ 18:30 - 20:00 Free time / Networking

★ 20:00 - 21:30 Dinner - *Mövenpick hotel*

★ 21:30 - 01:00 **FRINGE festival** around the city centre of Bari (TBA)

★ **Sunday, 28 September 2025**

★ 10:30 - 13:00 **Cultural tours and activities** (TBA)

★ **Programme committee 2025:** Karolina Juzwa (Wytwórnia Foundation, PL), Steve Mead (Manchester Jazz Festival, UK), Mark van Schaick (Buma Cultuur, NL), Alex Carr (Cheltenham Festivals, UK), Max von Pretz (Südtirol Jazzfestival Alto Adige, IT), Claudia Sergio (Puglia Culture, IT), Maddalena Ciocca (Puglia Culture, IT), Giambattista Tofoni (Europe Jazz Network, IT), Francesca Cerretani (Europe Jazz Network, IT), Stefano Zucchiatti (Europe Jazz Network, IT).

The topics of the 2025 discussion groups were suggested by the EJN members through an open call, many thanks again to all those who replied with their suggestions!

★ **Showcase selection committee 2025:** Ugo Sbisa' (journalist, IT), Sandra Costantini (Jazz Network/Crossroads, IT), Valerio Corzani (artist and journalist, IT)



About Puglia Sounds

Puglia Sounds is a project of the Puglia Region aimed at supporting music professionals and artists from Puglia. With its Puglia Sounds project, Puglia has become the first Italian region to consider music as an economic sector that boosts tourist attractiveness and generates jobs and wealth for the territory, and to devote human and financial resources to its development. Puglia Sounds has been working for years to structure and qualify the music sector, offering opportunities for growth and visibility.

The music sector consists of the creation and production of music, the performance and touring of music, and the internationalization and networking of music projects and players in the music supply chain. This way of looking at the music sector has led to the design and creation of specific calls for proposals. These are published annually and are open to all players in the music supply chain.

Every year, Puglia Sounds produces and hosts Medimex - International Festival & Music Conference. Launched in 2011 as a market fair with a full program of events, live performances and guest artists, in 2017 Medimex became an international festival with great live shows and a constantly updated calendar of events dedicated to the music industry and professional training.

Puglia Sounds, a toolkit designed to contribute to the development of the music industry in Puglia, is a project by Puglia Culture, the Regional Consortium for Arts and Culture.

www.pugliasounds.it





About EJM & the European Jazz Conference



Europe Jazz Network (EJM) is a European non-profit association of promoters specialised in creative music, contemporary jazz, and improvised music. EJM's mission is to encourage, promote, and nurture the growth of creative music across Europe, facilitating opportunities for artists, organisers, and audiences from diverse backgrounds to meet, collaborate, and exchange ideas. Its membership comprises 195 organisations- including festivals, clubs, concert venues, and national/regional support organisations- from 36 countries both within Europe and internationally.

The European Jazz Conference stands out as a leading annual gathering for professionals in the creative music sector, particularly promoters, cultural managers, booking agents, and support organisations. Organised each year by Europe Jazz Network in collaboration with one of its members, the Conference fosters long-term relationships, inspires new artistic projects and partnerships, and provides a platform for sharing expertise and exploring current trends in management and programming. Additionally, it serves as a vibrant forum for discovering international music scenes and exchanging best practices from around the globe.

Previous editions of the European Jazz Conference took place in Ghent, Belgium (2024); Marseille, France (2023); Sofia, Bulgaria (2022); Tallinn, Estonia (2021); Novara, Italy (2019); Lisbon, Portugal (2018); Ljubljana, Slovenia (2017); Wroclaw, Poland (2016); Budapest, Hungary (2015); and Helsinki, Finland (2014).

www.europejazz.net

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