

Protocol International Talk „Diversity in Jazz – The European Perspectives“

Jazzforum on October 15th, 2020

Moderation

Bettina Bohle, Deutsch Jazzunion

Panelists

- Aude Chandoné, Grands Formats
- Katja Lucker, Music Board Berlin
- Ellister van Molen, JazzNL

Participants

Aline Patschke, Lisa Tuyala, Benjamin Viale, Nico, Anonym, Julian Schunter, Ulrike Schwarz, Anke Helfrich, Iris Regine, Nia, Lukas Keller, Antonio Wohlgemuth, Erik Leithäuser, Nadin, Anna Bernlocher

TOPIC 1: studies about gender in Jazz

Background information: the publication "Gender.Macht.Musik – Geschlechtergerechtigkeit in Jazz" (translated: Gender.Power.Music – Gender equality in Jazz) is published in the frame of the Jazzforum. With this two-year project, the German Jazzunion wants to initiate discussions and contribute to the improvement of gender equality in jazz. The publication shows that the status quo is anything but satisfactory. Gender still plays an important role in women's career opportunities; structural discrimination, exclusion and access barriers are unfortunately still part of everyday life for female jazz professionals.



Aude Chandoné is presenting a study that they did in France, that is very similar to the German study about gender in Jazz.

Katja Lucker remarks that it is in all the music genres the same issue and that it is essential to sanction cultural institutions that are still promoting a purely white festival line-up. It is the job of institutions like the Music Board to ACT upon diversity and tell the people what diversity really means e.g. in curating festivals or in creating networks.

Bettina refers to an earlier conversation: The Jazz scene is still not ready for diversity subjects.

TOPIC 2: The role of the institutions

Ellister remarks that The Netherlands are making progress by e.g. trying to promote a female line-up by giving bands subsidies. With time she realized that it is important to have female role models. The younger generation does not take sexist remarks anymore and is more „woke“ on that matter.

Katja underlines that not everybody had access to join the Jazz family and that people in top positions will not give up their privileges: *“You have to invest time in looking at what people think around the world in order to gain different perspectives”*

Example: Barbara Mundel, a German theatre director who recently became the first female artistic director of the *Münchner Kammerspiele*, really took a long time in finding a person of color as a spokesperson, but you have to make it work and create a diverse team.

Aude underlines that it is absolutely essential to make diversity an issue, otherwise Jazz will be never be popular.

TOPIC 3: Introduction of a diversity project idea of the German Jazzunion

Bettina speaks about her personal thrive to deal with the issue of diversity: *„If I don't take care of it, I'm part of this exclusion!“*. She introduces her project of diversity in DJU:

The aim is to create more awareness of diversity with 4 modules:

1. Offering Workshops for the professors/teachers in conservatories and hopefully implement diversity in the curriculum
2. Diversity workshops
3. Scientific research
4. Panels like this one

Open talk

Lisa Tuyala, a participant, underlines that the wording in the panels would be also different if they would be more diverse.

Bettina states that people feel insecure about talking about these topics, it feels to abstract for them.

Benjamin Viale writes his dissertations about music education and diversity is a huge part of it.

Aline Patschke ends the panel with the remark that she feels encouraged by this talk to continue to study jazz and fight the fight of diversity.