

**Foundation Montreux Jazz**



## **SHURE MONTREUX JAZZ VOICE COMPETITION 2010**

Since 1967, the world's greatest jazz singers have graced the stages of the Montreux Jazz Festival. Their biographies tell tumultuous tales of hard work and artistic endeavour, but also of solidarity with fellow artists and magical opportunities.

In 2003, the desire to provide one such opportunity led Claude Nobs, founder and director of the Festival, to create an international voice competition for professional jazz singers. His aim was not only to lend a helping hand to young vocalists struggling for recognition, but also to enable them to meet singers of the same age and level from other countries.

The voice competition is open to vocalists under the age of 35. During the fall, details of the event are sent to professional jazz schools and clubs around the world.

The organisers receive entries from over fifty different countries. In the spring, around fifteen vocalists are selected to take part in the semi-finals and final at the Montreux Jazz Festival, in front of a jury of professionals and a discerning international audience. Musicians, record company representatives and producers seeking new talent take their seats among the general public. During the Festival, the competing singers are encouraged to exchange their experiences and forge friendships and are given plenty of opportunities to attend concerts and workshops together in Montreux.

Only four prizes are awarded each year. But the organisers believe that all the participants leave Montreux with the conviction that they have taken their career one step further through this culturally enriching musical experience.

## **STAGES OF THE COMPETITION**

### **First Selection**

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, jury members will examine entries that include a CD of the candidate's performance (total of 10 minutes). Candidates who have been selected for the semi-finals will be notified by May 15, 2010, and will be invited to perform in Montreux in July 2010 (the exact dates of the competition are still to be determined). These candidates have to confirm their participation in writing to the Montreux Jazz Competition.

### **Semi-finals** (maximum 15 competitors)

The candidates qualified for the semi-finals will be invited to perform in Montreux in July 2010 (dates of competition are yet to be determined). The candidates will have to perform the requested pieces (length of the performance 15 min.) in front of a jury.

### **Final** (3 competitors)

The final will be held shortly after the semi-finals. The finalists will have to perform (length of the performance 20 minutes) in front of the jury.

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## PRIZES

Each finalist will receive a ULX Wireless System with Microphone of choice and a set of SRH840 Shure professional Headphones.

The **first prize** winner of the Montreux Jazz Festival Voice Competition receives CHF 5 000.– Swiss francs and a week's recording time at Balik Farm Studio, located in the breathtaking scenery of Switzerland's Toggenburg region. He or she is invited to be part of the "Montreux Jazz on the Road", a group composed by the winners of the piano, guitar and voice competition, to which we add a bass player and drummer. In the winter, the band will spend a week recording a CD together at the breathtaking Balik Studio, before touring Europe's famous summer jazz festivals, including, of course, Montreux.

The **second prize** winner receives CHF 3 000.– Swiss francs.

The **third prize** winner receives CHF 2 000.– Swiss francs.

The Montreux Jazz Festival Voice Competition attracts an audience of connoisseurs who award their own prize. The winner of the **Public Prize** receives a Super 55 Deluxe Vocal Microphone and a certificate.

## VOICE COMPETITION WINNERS

2009	Aubrey Logan	(USA)	<a href="http://www.myspace.com/aubreylogan">www.myspace.com/aubreylogan</a>
2008	Sabine Kuehlich	(Germany)	<a href="http://www.sabinekuehlich.com">www.sabinekuehlich.com</a>
2007	Cyrille-Aimée Daudel	(France / Dominican Republic)	<a href="http://www.myspace.com/jazzycyrille">www.myspace.com/jazzycyrille</a>
2006	Kristin Berardi	(Australia)	<a href="http://www.nikolettaszoke.com">www.nikolettaszoke.com</a>
2005	Nikoletta Szoke	(Hungary)	<a href="http://www.myspace.com/kristinberardi">www.myspace.com/kristinberardi</a>
2004	Anna Serafinska	(Poland)	<a href="http://www.last.fm/music/Anna+Serafinska">www.last.fm/music/Anna+Serafinska</a>
2003	Inga Swearingen	(USA)	<a href="http://www.ingaswearingen.com">www.ingaswearingen.com</a>

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The Montreux Jazz Festival Voice Competition is open to singers of all nationalities born after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1975. Previous winners of the competition are not eligible to compete. Finalists and semifinalists of Montreux's previous competitions may not compete more than three times.

For the selection (demo CD), the candidate will be able to choose the instrument(s) which will accompany him/her. For the semi-finals and final, the candidate will have to present the musical pieces, either as a solo, a solo on piano, or accompanied by a duo to be chosen between piano bass and drum or a trio (piano, bass and drums), provided by the Montreux Jazz Festival.

The following criteria are among those that will be taken into consideration: Vocal and musical quality, originality of the interpretation and personality of the candidates.

## MONTREUX JAZZ VOICE COMPETITION 2010 ENTRY FORM

To be returned by April 15, 2010, with the requested items. The competition is open to vocalists of all nationalities born after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1975 (under the age of 35).

### Items to be sent with the entry

1. a demo CD  
The recording must include three pieces of music. The total length of the recording should not exceed 10 minutes and must include:
  - a personal choice
  - one piece of blues (12 bars)
  - either «Softly as in a morning sunrise» by Sigmund Romberg/Oscar Hammerstein or «Don't get around much anymore» by Duke Ellington/Bob Russell. Entrants should perform their own interpretation of the original piece, improving and developing it.
2. Two photos with the name of the entrant written on the back.
3. A photocopy of the entrant's ID card.
4. A curriculum vitæ with other relevant documents.

The award ceremony will take place after the final.

### Recordings

The Montreux Jazz Festival Voice Competition reserves the right to make audio and video recordings and pictures of the competitors' performances and remains the sole owner of this material. Entrants grant the Montreux Jazz Festival Foundation all rights.

### Jury

The competition is placed under the patronage of Quincy Jones, extraordinary ambassador to the Montreux Jazz Festival, with the collaboration of vocalists and musicians from the international jazz scene. The jury has been presided by:

	2009	Solomon Burke
	2008	Patty Austin
2006 & 2007		Al Jarreau
	2005	Barbara Hendricks
	2004	Angélique Kidjo
	2003	Karrin Allyson

### Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation expenses are covered entirely by the entrants.

However, the Montreux Jazz Festival competitions office can help by providing addresses of hotels and youth hostels in the area and by sending semi-finalists an invitation that can be used to seek funding from cultural institutions in their native countries.

### Legal notice

The jury's assessment will take place in private in accordance with the assessment criteria presented (see above). The participant accepts that the jury's decisions are final and that no appeal is possible. The Foundation will not be held responsible if, in case of necessity, the present competition is modified, postponed or cancelled. Any dispute relating to the interpretation, execution or non-execution of the present regulations will be subject to Swiss law.

### Information and contact at the Montreux Jazz Festival

MJF Voice Competition  
Sentier de Collonge 3  
P.O. Box 126  
CH-1820 Montreux / Switzerland

voicecompetition@fondation2.ch

Foundation Montreux Jazz



## MONTREUX JAZZ VOICE COMPETITION 2010 ENTRY FORM

**Surname**

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**First name**

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**Street / Number**

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**ZIP / Town**

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**Country**

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**E-mail**

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**Citizenship**

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**Telephone**

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**Fax**

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**Nationality**

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**Date of birth** (day/month/year)

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**How have you heard about that competition**

(name of school, club, etc)?

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The organisers reserve the right to refuse incomplete applications.

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CH-1820 Montreux  
Switzerland

