

KARSTEN JAHNKE KONZERTDIREKTION

›promoting talent since 1962‹



Karsten Jahnke Konzertdirektion is one of the most renowned concert agencies in Germany, organising nationwide tours as well as concerts in Hamburg.

Company founder Karsten Jahnke is a key pioneer of the German concert scene. In 1959, the qualified import and export merchant organised his first event, a jazz band ball. In 1962, he turned his passion into his profession, from which the now well-known Karsten Jahnke Konzertdirektion firm emerged.

The company boasts an excellent international reputation as a straight-up, music-loving, highly collaborative agency that cares deeply about supporting its artists. Particularly popular examples of this ongoing, successful development work are the live careers of Peter Gabriel, The Cure, Depeche Mode, Erasure, Insterburg & Co, Herbert Grönemeyer, Pat Metheny, The Dubliners, Marius Müller-Westernhagen, Herman van Veen, Klaus Hoffmann, Johannes Oerding, Max Giesinger, Nils Landgren, Michael Wollny and many more, all of whom started at Jahnke. For years, if not decades, the concert agency has accompanied internationally celebrated bands and artists such as Herbie Hancock, Al Jarreau, Randy Crawford, Diana Krall, Jane Birkin, Cassandra Wilson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gianna Nannini, The White Stripes, Foo Fighters, Cypress Hill, Gregory Porter, Tate McRae and a whole lot more, all who have won over German audiences on tours organised by Karsten Jahnke.

Since 2014, the family-run concert company has had Karsten Jahnke's grandson Ben Mitha on the board of directors, who is now in charge of the firm's touring business and the pop, urban, hip hop and new talent units as well as new festival formats. Lined up by Karsten Jahnke to take the baton and run the agency in the future, Mitha is setting himself the goal of linking the past and the future – expanding the market position, reacting to trends and markets while all the while maintaining the values and strengths of the traditional family business.

To this day, the Karsten Jahnke Konzertdirektion has lived without any corporate structure and, with around 45 employees, organises about 1,300 concerts a year, with 900 of these on the company's own tours in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and around 400 as a local partner in Hamburg for other tour partners. Since 1975, the Stadtpark Open Air, the annual programme of the open-air stage in Hamburg's City Park, has also been part of the Jahnke portfolio. And also, self-confessed jazz fan Karsten Jahnke develops and organises innovative concert series and event formats, including the JazzNights, as well as the Elbjazz and Überjazz festivals. In the areas of pop, indie, urban, soul and hip-hop, the fan festivals Way Back When and Campus Spring Break in the Ruhr

region as well as the Baltic Soul Weekender located at a holiday resort at the Baltic Sea are among the formats created at Jahnke. He is also the co-founder and organiser of the world-renowned Reeperbahn Festival.



In 2007, Karsten Jahnke was honoured for his services to music, receiving a Live Entertainment Award (LEA) for his life's work and also received the Senator Biermann-Rathjen Medal from the City of Hamburg. In 2010, Karsten Jahnke was given an ECHO Jazz award as "Promoter of Jazz", and in 2021 received the German Jazz Prize for his life's work.

The major challenges facing the entire live event industry in light of the Corona crisis are being met head on by the company. It offered innovative live streaming formats and pandemic-compliant concert and tour series, such as "Stadtpark Acoustics", "Vor deiner Tür" and "Cruise Inn". In 2020, Karsten Jahnke Konzertdirektion will be the first German concert agency to participate in the Keychange Initiative, which advocates for a better gender balance in the music industry.

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