



PRESS RELEASE

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## MONTREUX JAZZ TALENT AWARDS 2019 TWO WINNERS CROWNED

The Montreux Jazz Talent Awards 2019 have been awarded to British saxophone–drum duo RUN LOGAN RUN and Italian–Nigerian singer AFRA KANE. They stood out among the 16 candidates selected by the programmers at the Montreux Jazz Festival this summer. Stanley Clarke, Chilly Gonzales, Carl Craig and Chucho Valdés were involved in choosing the winners.

Between 29 June and 13 July, the Montreux Jazz Festival invited 16 artists to take to the stage at the Coupole for the Montreux Jazz Talent Awards. The candidates – from 13 countries and 4 continents – were selected by the Festival programmers to demonstrate the audacity and diversity of the jazz of today.

The Festival asked the musicians to play two hour–long concerts in order to push their limits and encourage improvisation. They rose to the challenge brilliantly, drawing large audiences and making a real contribution to the musical vitality of the House of Jazz, in its second year of workshops, concerts, photography exhibitions and night–time jam sessions.

During the Montreux Jazz Festival, the sixteen artists performed to a professional jury of journalists, programmers and festival directors, and a public jury of members of the Montreux Jazz Insider community. Stanley Clarke, Chilly Gonzales, Carl Craig and Chucho Valdés made up the committee of artists close to the Festival who evaluated videos of the performances.

### 2019 WINNERS

#### Montreux Jazz Talent Award – Solo

**AFRA KANE (NG/IT)**

Pianist and singer

[mx3.ch/afrakane](http://mx3.ch/afrakane)

This Switzerland–based Italian–Nigerian singer and pianist captured the jury's attention with her voice and her compositions which draw on many influences, from classical music to gospel.

*"It was a fulfilling experience where I got to perform and listen to high–standard jazz musicians. It gave a chance to connect with them and learn from their mastery. A real dream come true. I had always wanted to play at Montreux Jazz Festival and it is also probably the reason I've decided to stay in Switzerland."* – Afra Kane

#### Montreux Jazz Talent Award – Band

**RUN LOGAN RUN (UK)**

Saxophone–drum duo

[www.runloganrun.com](http://www.runloganrun.com)

This Bristol–based drum and saxophone duo impressed the jury with their mastery of improvisation and their exploration of contrasts, between spiritual jazz and raw power.

*"Montreux Jazz Festival was definitely a highlight of our career as a band to date. The format of the gig itself (two one hour sets with a break in between) was unusual and pushed us to be extremely creative with our improvisational approach, which brought out the best in our music. We wish all festivals could be like this!"* – Run Logan Run

## PRIZES AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The winners of the Montreux Jazz Talent Awards receive a cash prize, a residency at La Becque on the shores of Lake Geneva for the "Solo" winner, and personalized audio material for the "Band" winner.

At a key point in their careers, they also get long-term professional support from the Montreux Jazz Artists Foundation (MJAF) and the Festival's large network of contacts. The MJAF is regularly involved in the programming of concerts in Europe. For example, Afra Kane will be appearing at Purple Jazz, an event organized by the MJAF at the Centre Culturel Suisse in Paris, in November.

## AFRA KANE



*Afra Kane is an Italian-Nigerian singer-songwriter and composer who lived in the UK for a long time before moving to Switzerland. She developed her love of songs listening to Aretha Franklin, Nina Simone and Otis Redding. She is a trained classical pianist who composed her first songs at the age of 13, inspired by classical music, gospel, soul and jazz. In January 2019, she released her first EP "Scorpio". Afra Kane was invited to play at the Istituto Svizzero in Rome and as the supporting act for Jack Savoretti's Italian tour.*

## RUN LOGAN RUN



*Run Logan Run are a head on collision of pounding tribal drums and screaming guttural saxophone. Architects of intense contrast, the duo's diverse and precise instrumentation regularly flirts with fragility and raw power. Formed through a shared passion for improvisation, spiritual jazz and heavier experimental music, they have been authoring their own narrative in the new wave of crossover jazz, whilst touring the UK extensively, sharing stages with the likes of The Bad Plus, Colin Stetson, Melt Yourself Down and Shabaka Hutchings. Their debut album 'The Delicate Balance of Terror' was produced by Danalogue & Betamax (The Comet Is Coming) instilling further idiosyncratic dynamics into their already distinctive sound.*

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