



MEDIA RELEASE from April 10, 2022

Five Days of Music and Positive Energy at Zermatt Unplugged

It was a long time coming for artists, audiences and organizers alike: gathering together at the foot of the Matterhorn to celebrate the return over the past five days of Zermatt Unplugged. After a two-year break, and with 18 stages hosting over 140 shows, some in the spring sunshine, others in the driving snow, the 13th edition of the festival attracted in excess of 25'000 visitors to Upper Valais.

"Unplugged for me means letting life live," is how Nena described her feelings shortly before hitting the stage as the first headlining performer at this year's festival. And her fans took heed of this adage by celebrating their idol from note one of this eagerly anticipated show in Zermatt, the first and only one to take place in a good long while after the star cancelled her previously announced tour. Her set list included the anti-war hit "99 Luftballons" – complete with a few over-dimensional ones! Aloe Blacc was also overcome with emotion when putting his feelings about his third invitation as a guest performer to Zermatt Unplugged into words: "Nothing beats coming to Zermatt to play in this beautiful scenery," stated the soul musician, who projected his positive vibes onto the crowd from the stage at "The Alex".

Whether Ellie Goulding or Rea Garvey, Sam Ryder or Edoardo Bennato, Black Sea Dahu or Luke Sital-Singh, jazz sessions or DJ sounds until the early morning hours – the diversity of music on offer and the proximity of the crowds to the artists are what made the 13th Zermatt Unplugged Festival the unique event that it was. One of the extraordinary highlights was the solo acoustic concert by Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke. For two hours, his complex-emotional music filled the marquee stage.

A spontaneous "get-well concert" for James Bay

The impromptu "founding" of the "Zermatt Unplugged All Stars" was also the capturing of the true spirit of Zermatt Unplugged. When James Bay was forced to cancel his show just a few hours before the start due to illness, several bands got together for a super-spontaneous jam session inside the Foyer Marquee. The unique setting saw the crowd enjoy acts like Aloe Blacc, Alex Diehl, gentleman pianist Toni Farris and Nena's band together with the Swiss blues musician Philipp Fankhauser, as well as discovery acts like Amistat, Jules Ahoi and Andreas Kümmert – all helmed by Rolf Stahlhofen (Söhne Mannheims). Each sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery to their unwell musician friend James Bay.

A massive thanks to everyone involved

"We were able to welcome more guests during the day on the first two days of the festival than usual," says the festival's Managing Director Rolf Furrer. "That shows just how happy people are that we're up and running again." Many of our artists and co-workers are also feeling grateful. "We would like to express our sincerest thanks to all the helpers, sponsors, partners and local service providers who remained loyal to us during the Covid crisis," continues Rolf Furrer. "Without them, the festival would not have been able to go ahead as planned." Rolf Furrer also thanks all those who donated money during the charity concert on Saturday with the Ukrainian artist Postman. More than CHF 100'000 was raised for the "Music Saves UA" organization.

With his amusing and captivating charm, Rea Garvey delivered the following moving words during his sell-out acoustic show inside the festival marquee: "With everything that's happening at the moment, we must not forget to live. I want to look forward. The future will be beautiful."

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Save the date: the 14th edition of Zermatt Unplugged takes place from April 11-15, 2023.

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