



MEDIA RELEASE from April 16, 2023

Warm-hearted Musical Moments at Zermatt Unplugged

In the rain, the snow and the blazing sunshine: 70 musical acts and more than 30'000 visitors came together at the foot of the Matterhorn to celebrate the 14th Zermatt Unplugged Festival. From singer-songwriter sounds to indie rock, from pop to blues, from folk to nocturnal jazz, more than 130 concerts took place on 17 stages located around the village and surrounding mountain stations.

"A festival where people show respect for the music and really listen," is how Mike Rosenberg alias Passenger described his impression of the festival following his sold-out concert at the Marquee Stage. His voice, his guitar and (sometimes not even) a microphone was all that the British singer-songwriter needed to grab and hold the attention of more than 2300 devout listeners. In a completely different setup, Büne Huber and his Swiss dialect band Patent Ochsner connected with their audience in a no less intense way. They took us with vocals, guitar, piano, saxophone and trombone on a trip to Burgdorf and Langenthal to visit "Ludmilla", before moving on to "Bälpmoos" and then singing the delights of the "W. Nuss vo Bümpliz". And at 73, Peter Maffay is proof that the resolution to stay "forever young" doesn't have to remain just a dream – he was joined on the spur of the moment by such fellow musicians as Rolf Stahlhofen (Söhne Mannheims), Laith Al-Deen and Stefanie Heinzmann.

Whether with a view of the Matterhorn on the panorama terraces, in the wind and rain at the Taste Village, or as a pop-up in the alleyways of Zermatt: there were musical surprises and emotional moments with already established artists or young up-and-comers to be had wherever the ear wandered. More than a few were moved to tears when the crowd rewarded their at times profound musical tales with rapturous applause. Visitors to the intimate Sunnegga Winter Evening Concerts at 2000 m were left feeling like they were on first-name terms with Bongeziwe Mabandla, Cam and Joep Beving; the same is true of the crowds at the Vernissage who went to soak up the musical energy of Alice Merton, Vance Joy and Asaf Avidan with his cosmic vocal acrobatics.

Musical Networking at the Mountain Academy

The Mountain Academy Networking Events were dedicated to the next generation of musicians. At seminars or during the "Walk and Talk" from the Gornergrat down towards Riffelberg, festival discovery acts from Australia, England and Southern and Eastern Europe got to chat with music professionals, agents and managers before enjoying an evening of raclette together around a log fire.

Success thanks to active support

"This year's edition of the festival has given unique moments to guests and musicians from around the globe," says Festival Director Rolf Furrer. "Which is why, as always, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all our helpers, to our sponsors, partners and local service providers for their support. Without them, a festival of this kind would be absolutely impossible." He continues: "It is a huge pleasure and confirmation for us all, therefore, that the 2023 festival has been awarded the Valais Culture and Economy Prize by the State Council."

And, in the words of Peter Maffay when summing up the mood of the festival: "That was some great, warm-hearted energy. Many thanks!"

Save the date: the 15th edition of the Zermatt Unplugged festival takes place from April 9-13, 2024.

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