DAS FEST welcomes international star Passenger
Joris returns to Mount Klotz / Double feature on the Classical Morning / The Sunday line-up is complete / Tickets are only left for Friday and Sunday

To begin with: there are still DAS FEST tickets left for Sunday and Friday. Just not an unlimited amount. What is unlimited, however, is the DAS FEST creators’ excitement. That’s because they have a wonderful announcement to make concerning the Sunday programme of DAS FEST: world star and global traveller Passenger will stop by for the DAS FEST 2020 finale on 26 July 2020 at Mount Klotz. He will follow the performance of Joris on the main stage at the Günther-Klotz-Anlage. “We spent three years trying to convince Passenger to join us at Mount Klotz, and now we’ve finally succeeded in getting him to play at DAS FEST. His performance will surely be a highlight”, says Martin Wacker, CEO of the organising company Karlsruhe Marketing und Event GmbH. “On top of this, Joris is returning to the hill, where he gave a sensational performance in 2015, back when he had his breakthrough. We’re delighted and the anticipation within the team is steadily rising.”

And since we’re making announcements, we can now share the complete Sunday line-up on the main stage: Mono & Nikitaman will play at 5:30 p.m. Presented by the Jazz Club Karlsruhe, Organ Explosion will liven up the stage at 4:00 p.m. – which has basically become the traditional jazz slot. Fans of classical music can enjoy a double feature at the Classical Morning: presented by the Badischen KONServatorium, the Young Classic Sound Orchestra and the Extrachor Badisches Staatstheater have joined forces and will be kicking things off at 10:00 a.m., followed by the Kammerakademie Nordbaden at 12:00 p.m., who will be celebrating their DAS FEST debut.

Michael David Rosenberg has been touring the world as Passenger since 2003, although he played at much smaller venues back then. Ten years later, everything changed with “Let Her Go”: the song won the Ivor Novello Award and turned Passenger into an international star. His breakthrough hit saw him touring continuously for two years and boasts an unbelievable 2.6 billion views on YouTube. But Passenger also changes his way of working with every album: in 2018, he released “Runaway”, which he recorded together with his band. Last year, he followed this up with “Sometimes It’s Something, Sometimes It’s Nothing at All”, a chamber music opus featuring Passenger on the guitar as well as a string quartet. Because he keeps mixing things up, Passenger’s songs are always exciting, whether recorded or live at DAS FEST Karlsruhe.
Bittersweet desire and painfully beautiful melodies – Joris composes music full of hope, sung by an incredibly expressive and soulful voice, sometimes loud and scratchy, at other times delicate and gentle. “I see myself as a storyteller, and music serves as the medium for my stories. These are stories I’ve experienced myself or which have inspired me”, Joris once said. Of course, his performance at DAS FEST in 2015 remains an unforgettable experience: as he sat at the piano, the entire hill sang with him, and nobody wanted to stop. With “Herz über Kopf”, Joris not only captured the hearts of the DAS FEST audience back then, but of the entire nation. Now he’s returning to DAS FEST.

“Guten Morgen es brennt”: this is the title of the sixth studio album recorded by Mono & Nikitaman, released in 2018. It shot straight to number 13 in the German charts and was celebrated over the course of a lengthy tour and at about 30 festivals, but we at DAS FEST definitely haven’t had enough. M&N draws an audience as colourful as the poster announcing the tour. Their shows offer everything from mosh pits and seas of lights through to abrupt stops and uplifting vibes. M&N – the duo made up of Mono from Linz, Austria, and Düsseldorf native Nick – carry us off into their world full of “canned beer and tenderness”. They sing about the necessity of breaks and the need to reboot your own system every now and again.

Jazz brings plenty of weight to the hill this year: Organ Explosion will arrive with a fleet heavily loaded with vintage instruments – including a Hammond organ and Moog synthesisers, an old Fender bass and a classic Ludwig drum set. Once more, the trio has proven that they can coax new, unheard-of sounds out of their old instruments again and again: ranging from rattling glissandi and outrageously casual grooves through to psychedelic clouds of noise. In autumn, they released their new album “La Bomba”, and now the three retro-futurists from Munich are on the go again with their extra dose of playfulness. Their version of the western classic by The Shadows, “Apache”, is one of the countless highlights of the new album. Eight notes sound like a signal. Then the Hammond starts hissing, the bass crackles, the drums roll in – relentlessly, like a cavalry in the searing heat. The three members, Manfred Mildenberger (drums), Ludwig Klöckner (bass guitar), and Hansi Enzensperger (keyboard) are bringing heavy equipment, but they come in peace to DAS FEST 2020.

The Classical Morning is also offering something new in the form of a double feature: before the Kammerakademie Nordbaden celebrates its debut at DAS FEST, a collaboration between the Young Classic Sound Orchestra and the Extrachor Badisches Staatstheater, presented by the Badisches KONServatorium, will delight the audience. For over 10 years, the Young Classic Sound Orchestra, led by Lahnor Adjei, has fascinated concert goers in Karlsruhe. The orchestra mainly focuses on music from films and video games, but also performs pieces from musicals and cross-over projects with pop and rock music. The 90-member ensemble consists of ambitious amateurs, exceptionally talented music students, and professional instrumentalists. The Extrachor des Badischen Staatstheaters originally formed purely as an amateur choir and helped strengthen the professional opera choir for
large opera productions. Over the past 25 to 30 years, this choral community has developed into a high-quality group of choral performers. Currently, trained singers set the standard of the Extrachor, which now features a total of 70 members. The choir has assisted in productions of the operas Othello, Macbeth, La Gioconda, Lohengrin, Parsifal, and Faust, as well as many symphony concerts. Chor and music director Ulrich Wagner has led the Extrachor since 2009. Together, they will kick off the Classic Morning at DAS FEST 2020.

Here is an overview of the DAS FEST Sunday:
10:00 a.m.: Classic I: Young Classic Sound Orchestra and Extrachor Badisches Staatstheater
12:00 p.m.: Classic II: Kammerorchester Nordbaden e.V.
4:00 p.m.: Organ Explosion (jazz)
5:30 p.m.: Mono & Nikitaman
7:00 p.m.: Joris
9:00 p.m.: Passenger

Tickets for DAS FEST 2020, which takes place from 24 to 26 July at the Günther-Klotz-Anlage in Karlsruhe, are now only available for Friday and Sunday. These can be purchased online at the DAS FEST online shop run by Eventim or at the DAS FEST ticket offices throughout the region. You can find a direct link as well as the complete overview on the DAS FEST website. On Friday, the top act Revolverheld will play on the main stage, while Erwin & Edwin will perform at the Friday Night Club. The newly founded Kammerakademie Nordbaden will breathe fresh air into the legendary Classic Morning. Many other bands will be announced between now and the summer. However, Saturday tickets for the hill area at DAS FEST are already sold out. But more than 70% of the programme at southern Germany’s biggest family festival is free and accessible without a ticket on all DAS FEST days. This means that nothing stands in the way of a great festival outing, even without tickets.

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