



Good day all,

As you know jazzahead! 2026 will be the 3rd and final year of the sponsorship of the Africa Jazz Stand at jazzahead. This must not be the end of this brave initiative by the jazzahead team, which has finally given jazz from the African continent a place to call home, a voice to spread our message, and the opportunity to take our place at the global jazz “table”. The initiative has given us a platform from which we have gained access. No one else has given us this opportunity, and we must make the most of it, and ensure that the Africa jazz stand exists beyond jazzahead! 2026 (otherwise, this will have been a complete waste of time and effort.

The first two years of this initiative has;

- a) brought to the fore artists such as **Alune Wade, AFRO4, Kasiva Mutua, Benjamin Jephtha, Herve Samb, Momi Maiga**, and others. Next year will showcase **Sydney Mavundla from South Africa, Sahad from Senegal** and **Kossi Mawun from Togo**, and others (yet to be seen...)
- b) created the opportunity of jazz enthusiasts and practitioners on the continent to meet for the first time, and jazz organizations on the continent coming together to collaborate
- c) has led to collaborations on the continent with
 - a. **Alune Wade (2024)** and **Herve Samb (2025)** both from Senegal, performing in Nigeria for the first time,
 - b. the African Jazz Concert series (a collaboration between PF Music from Nigeria & +233 from Ghana) which held in Lagos in Feb 2025, bringing **GHJazz Collective from Ghana & AFRO4 from Nigeria**, together on the same stage for the first in what will become a quarterly or bi-annual jazz concert in Nigeria. There is much more to come from this... and
- d) the creation of the **Africa Jazz Network (AJN)**


To be clear, the prime directive of the Africa Jazz Network are;

 **Promoting jazz music by African musicians from the continent and by those in the diaspora**

 **Creating awareness of the incredibly creative and talented musicians themselves**

 **Building bridges for collaboration across the continent**



 **Promoting engagement and dialogue between African Jazz artists on the continent, in the diaspora, and with their fan base**

 **The recognition of African Jazz as a legitimate jazz genre, and no longer under the umbrella of “World Music”**

The first actions of the **AJN** (an initiative started by Lesley Wells and myself) was to get a joint communique with the jazzahead organization. That objective has been achieved. **The 1st edition of the newsletter (co-signed by Sybille Kornitsky, the Head of the jazzahead Team) is attached.** Please share this within your networks immediately.

Going forward, we believe the **AJN** will give us the leverage to gain a much larger footprint on the global platform than any of us (and many have been at this for years, such as Manta, Amro, Walter, Moreira, Dudu.. who have been organizing jazz festivals for the last 10-20 years.

The aim here is to get as many jazz related actioners on continent to register for jazzahead! 2026, on the Africa Jazz Stand at jazzahead, and to join the AJN.

Another action needed is the **creation of a jazz festival calendar for the continent**, that would be accessible online via our domain africajazznetwork.org. This will also be the location of the new (redesigned) **Africa Jazz Network Hub**. The domain will go live before the end of 2025.

Let's get the registration started!! Thank you all

Regards,

The BassMan

For: Africa Jazz Network