

GOETHE MUSIKLABOR ULAN BATOR

Jazz in Mongolia: Since 2014, the Goethe-Institut has been supporting the training of young jazz musicians at the Music and Dance College in Ulaanbaatar with the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator.



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In every respect, Mongolia is a land of change. After the political transition in 1990, the country opened to cultural influences from the West. Small, yet very **lively music scenes** developed in pop, rock, hip-hop and jazz. But the traditional training centres could not keep pace with this development.

Therefore, in September 2014, together with the **Music and Dance College**, one of the most important training centres for classical and traditional music in Mongolia, the Liaison Office of the Goethe-Institut in Mongolia opened the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator (GMUB).

Under the guidance of German bassist Martin Zenker, the GMUB was the first branch of education for jazz and popular music in Mongolia. After only two project years, a **Bachelor's degree course** was established at Music and Dance College.

In two especially renovated classrooms, young Mongolian musicians are trained in the subjects of harmony, ear training, music history and instrumental lessons. The rooms are equipped with **high-quality instruments** and technical equipment. Nearly a tonne of materials were shipped to Mongolia from Germany.

The lessons at the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator are supplemented by stays by international **guest lecturers** from Germany, Austria, France, Great Britain, Canada, the USA and other countries. Some of them offer intensive multi-day workshops, others teach at GMUB for several weeks. About fifty musicians have been guests in Ulaanbaatar so far.

In the past two and a half years, the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator has thus become the most important **platform for exchange and networking** in the field of jazz music in Mongolia.



ENJI: Mongolian Song

The history of this CD release is inextricably linked to the history of the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator and the intense encounters between Western jazz musicians and talents from Mongolia. The singer Enkhjargal Erkhembayar is one of the first graduates of the GMUB.

The Music and Dance College where the GMUB was launched bears the name of Gonchigsumlaa, one of the most important Mongol composers. He is considered the originator of classical Mongolian music.

The Gonchigsumlaa project, launched by Martin Zenker for the composer's 100th birthday, attempts to produce a symbiosis between Mongolia's musical

tradition and modern jazz, in which the two elements are equally connected.

The arrangements translate the memorable characteristics of Mongolian melodies into new, jazz-specific contexts. In doing so, rhythmic elements are used that are unusual for the classical music of Mongolia. At the same time, many Mongol influences are found in singing in particular.

This musical connection is what makes this CD unique and also tells us about the artistic dynamics that resulted from the intercultural interaction of the musicians involved.



The Jazz Train

The Jazz Train is a band that was founded in September 2016 and emerged from the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator.

The Jazz Train musicians studied for two years at the GMUB under the supervision of international guest teachers.

The band presented its first album, „The Jazz Train“, on International Jazz Day 2017.

Member of the Jazz Train are:

G. Khongor, trumpet
B. Munkhtemuulen, saxophone
E. Shuteen, piano
Ts. Munguntovch, bass
B. Khuslen, drums



International Jazz Series

The Goethe-Institut and the JazzLab Agency unite to bring internationally renowned jazz artists to Ulaanbaatar with the International Jazz Series.

The young jazz musicians of the Goethe Musiklabor Ulan Bator join the international musicians on the stage of the Ulaanbaatar Opera House.

JazzLab Agency is the first and only music agency for jazz in Mongolia. The agency collaborates with a large network of international artists and supports the local jazz scene.

Concerts 2016-2017:

Kenny Washington (USA), 10/2016
Champion Fulton (USA), 12/2016
Ignasi Terraza (Spain), 02/2017
Laurent Maur (France), 03/2017
Jesse Davis (USA), 07/2017



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