



Press Release

German jazz band FAVO opens 4th Katara European Jazz Festival

Doha, Qatar; 6 November, 2017: Germany has the honour to officially open this year's Katara European Jazz Festival with a performance of German jazz trio FAVO. The concert takes place at Katara Cultural Village on 8 November 2017 at 7 pm. It is organized by the German Embassy and the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region in cooperation with Katara Cultural Village and support of Qatar Airways. It marks a highlight of the calendar of Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture this fall.

The 4th edition of this cultural event is once again organized by the Cultural Village Foundation – Katara in partnership with several European embassies which are: Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Romania, and Switzerland in Doha. Katara European Jazz Festival has been organized in Katara as an annual event since fall 2014 bringing European jazz groups to perform in Qatar. The festival is supported by Qatar Airways, the official airline of the event. Beside the concerts the band gives workshops for young musicians in cooperation with the Qatar Music Academy.

The German Ambassador to Qatar Hans-Udo Muzel considers it a privilege that Germany is opening this year's Katara European Jazz Festival that has grown to 11 participating states. *"I am extremely grateful to Katara for organizing this event with the European embassies. The festival is an excellent example for the scope of cultural diversity in Europe and the intense cooperation between the European states. The public in Qatar has the opportunity to listen to a broad variety of jazz styles from the whole European continent. Come to the opening concert of Germany's FAVO, part of Qatar Germany 2017 Year of Culture on 8 November 2018 at 7 pm in Katara."*

FAVO was founded in 2009 by German saxophonist Volker Schlott and clarinetist Falk Breitkreuz who had been playing together in various ensembles. After touring through East Africa as "FAVO" with the Goethe-Institut in 2010, they have recorded two albums as an ensemble. In 2013 FAVO was joined by Belgian singer Sander de Winne and they played small stages and festivals in Germany. In 2015 Volker Schlott and Falk Breitkreuz started working on their first album with Sander De Winne which they performed during its release tour in Germany and Belgium in 2016. In Doha they will perform their own compositions as well as adaptations of A. Piazzolla, The Beatles, Johann Sebastian Bach, Bobby McFerrin and many more.

The German Jazz band FAVO travels to Doha to open the festival with their performance and to give a workshop for students of Qatar Music Academy on 7 November 2017. The three musicians will give an introduction to free improvisation in jazz music. They also prepare selected students to play with them on stage during their opening concert. The workshop is open to students of the Qatar Music Academy who can register at the academy to participate. Furthermore they also give a rhythm workshop for students of the German International School Doha on 8 November 2017.

Volker Schlott, member of FAVO who has already performed in Doha a few years back, on his upcoming visit to Qatar, *"It was quite simple, because when people or, in this case, musicians come together to make music it mostly results in a very straightforward way to communicate and compromise. This kind of communication cannot be achieved with any other medium. That is why I am particularly excited to visit Doha this time with my own band and to bring our version of music and jazz. I am really very much looking forward to coming!"*



Qatar
Germany 2017 Year of

Culture is a year-long program designed to deepen understanding between nations through the mutual exchange of arts, culture, heritage and sport, developed by Qatar Museums in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region, the German Embassy in Doha and the Embassy of Qatar in Germany.

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About The Goethe-Institut:

The Goethe-Institut is a world-wide organization working to promote German language and culture. With a network of 159 institutes in 98 countries around the world and 12 institutes in Germany, the Goethe-Institut acts on behalf of the German Government to implement its cultural relations policy. The Goethe-Institut Gulf Region offers German language courses and organises cultural events in the Gulf Region. Together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany the Goethe-Institut Gulf Region arranges the programs of Qatar Germany Year of Culture 2017.

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About Katara:

The Cultural Village Foundation is an exceptional project of hope for human interaction through art and cultural exchange – a project made possible thanks to the inspired vision, solid faith and wise leadership of HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

Keeping pace with the emerging global culture that emphasizes the importance of diversity in human development, Katara Cultural Village is the largest and the most multidimensional cultural project of Qatar. It is a place where people come together to experience the cultures of the world. With beautiful theatres, concert halls, exhibition galleries and cutting-edge facilities, Katara aims to become a world leader for multi-cultural activities.

In line with the goals set forward by the Qatar National Vision 2030, Katara serves as a guardian to the heritage and traditions of Qatar and endeavors to spread awareness about the importance of every culture and civilization and as such, Katara hosts international, regional and local festivals, workshops, performances and exhibitions.

About Qatar Music Academy

Qatar Music Academy, a member of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, was established in 2011. It offers two musical educational programmes to more than 500 local students. Its Academic Music Programme offers 5 to 18 year olds an intensive series of one-to-one music lessons, group theory classes and ensemble practice, all conveniently scheduled after school hours. Its Music for All Programme offers a diverse and flexible range of musical activities for the whole community. QMA is also actively involved in community outreach initiatives.



About Qatar Museums:

Qatar Museums connects the museums, cultural institutions and heritage sites in Qatar and creates the conditions for them to thrive and flourish. It centralises resources and provides a comprehensive organisation for the development of museums and cultural projects, with a long term ambition of creating a strong and sustainable cultural infrastructure for Qatar.

Under the patronage of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and led by its Chairperson, Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, QM is consolidating Qatar's efforts to become a vibrant centre for the arts, culture and education, in the Middle East and beyond. Since its foundation in 2005, QM has overseen the development of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, and the Al Zubarah World Heritage Site Visitor Centre. QM also manages the QM Gallery at Katara Cultural Village, QM Gallery AL RIWAQ and the Fire Station: Artists in Residence. Future projects include the launch of the highly anticipated National Museum of Qatar and the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum. QM is committed to instigating Qatar's future generation of arts, heritage and museum professionals. At its core is a commitment to nurturing artistic talent, creating opportunities and developing the skills to service Qatar's emerging art economy. By means of a multifaceted program and public art initiatives, QM seeks to push the boundaries of the traditional museum model, and create cultural experiences that spill out onto the streets and seek to involve a wide audience. Through a strong emphasis on originating art and culture from within and fostering a spirit of national participation, QM is helping Qatar find its own distinctive voice in today's global cultural debates.