



JM Jazz

ORCHESTRA
WORLD



JAZZ

THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL JAZZ TALENT

The **JM Jazz World Orchestra** is the planet's premier international youth jazz big band, comprised of **amazingly talented jazz musicians from over 15 different countries**, all **under the age of 26**. Selected annually through a competitive global audition, the orchestra is formed and led by acclaimed conductor, trombonist and educator Luis Bonilla (USA). Since its inception in 2007, the **JM Jazz World has toured annually, performing with renowned musicians** such as **Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Renne Manning, Jim Rotondy, Karl-Heinz Miklin, John Riley, Hector Martignon, Andy Mc Kee, Alex Sipiagin, Dick Oatts, Famoadou don Moye, Boris Kozlow**, collaborating with the **Brussels Jazz Orchestra, Maria Schneider** and many others.

The orchestra has performed on some of **Europe's leading jazz stages and festivals** while collaborating with internationally recognized artists, composers, and ensembles. These performances are part of a broader artistic vision — one that **combines high-level performance** with **mentorship, cultural exchange**, and **professional development**, allowing young musicians to grow both musically and professionally in an international setting.

The JM Jazz World Orchestra is a flagship program of **JM International (JMI)**, the world's largest youth music non-profit. Founded in 1945, JMI is active in more than **60 countries** and works across genres and cultures to use music as a tool for education, intercultural dialogue, and social impact, creating long-term opportunities for young artists worldwide.



MEET OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LUIS BONILLA

Luis Bonilla is a US **trombonist, composer** and **educator** is an internationally recognised force in several musical worlds. He was mentored by the great Lester Bowie during his time as trombonist in Bowie's Brass Fantasy. He has played as a member of the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra under Arturo O'Farrill, the Mingus Big Band and in Dave Douglas's Brass Ecstasy.

As a sideman Bonilla has worked with the likes of McCoy Tyner, Dizzy Gillespie, Tom Harrell, Freddie Hubbard, Astrud Gilberto, Willie Colon and Toshiko Akiyoshi. As a composer, bandleader and recording artist, Bonilla's records have been praised by major jazz publications, with 2010's *Twilight* (Planet Arts) described by All About Jazz as "a well-balanced feast for the aural senses". In the pop world, Bonilla has recorded and toured with such icons as Tony Bennett, Alejandro Sanz, Diana Ross, Marc Anthony, La India, Mary J. Blige and, most recently, Phil Collins on his European and Latin American tours.

On top of this Luis Bonilla has worked in music education at such institutions as Temple University, the Manhattan School of Music and the New England Conservatory. **His dedication to the JM Jazz World Orchestra again demonstrates that, as well as having worked alongside some of jazz's historic greats, he is committed to nurturing its future.**



OH THE PLACES WE'VE PLAYED!

Every year the orchestra tours, appearing at major European jazz festivals and events. Here are just a few of them:

- **Montreux Jazz Festival** (Montreux, CH)
- **North Sea Jazz Festival** (Rotterdam, NL)
- **Young Euro Classics** (Berlin, DE)
- **Brosella Festival** (Brussels, BE)
- **Jazz is Back Festival** (Groznan, HR)
- **Kongsberg Jazz Festival** (Kongsberg, NO)
- **Jazz Middelheim** (Antwerp, BE)
- **Gaume Jazz Festival** (Rosingol, BE)
- **Liburnia Jazz Festival** (Lovran, HR)
- **Jazz in der Aula / Musikzauber Franken** (Lauda-Königshofen, DE)



PRESENTING JAZZ POPS / POP SWINGS

Under the artistic direction of renowned US/Costa Rican trombonist Luis Bonilla, the JM Jazz World Orchestra brought its educational and creative work to life in the debut album ***Jazz Pops / Pop Swings*** — a reflection of what can emerge through international collaboration, mentorship, and collective creation.

Recorded by **musicians under 26 from around the world**, the album spans ten tracks that reinterpret popular music from the past century alongside original compositions by Bonilla, giving young artists hands-on experience in professional performance and recording.

Artists such as **Roberta Flack, Donny Hathaway, Carole King, George Michael, Patsy Cline**, and **Ariana Grande** appear as points of reference — not only as repertoire, but as a way for participants to connect jazz tradition with contemporary musical culture. The project stands as a snapshot of the orchestra's development over more than 15 years, highlighting how international exchange and high-level mentorship translate into tangible artistic outcomes.

As Bonilla reflects, "***The eagerness and desire to perform at the highest level has little to do with age or experience***" a perspective that continues to guide the JMJO's mission to support the next generation of global jazz artists.



WHAT ARE THE PARTICIPANTS SAYING?

"This programme is one of the most incredible things I've ever done!"

"The musicians throughout the band are all of a high caliber pushing me to be a better musician."

"Bonilla is a great Big Band leader who motivates people to give their best, be professional, have fun with the music, and be a nice colleague."

"Very impressive venues and some of the biggest crowds I've ever performed for."

"I have really enjoyed this experience. I meet friends again from the last edition and I have met new ones."

CMII
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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2026?

In 2026, the **JM Jazz World Orchestra returns** with a new international ensemble of outstanding young jazz musicians aged 18–26. Selected through a global audition process, participants take part in an intensive artistic program that combines collaborative rehearsals and workshops in **Grožnjan, Croatia**, with a European concert tour across leading festivals and cultural venues.

How to get involved:

Musicians are invited to apply by submitting:

- A short musical CV
- Two performance videos (theme + improvisation)
- A recommendation letter
- Confirmation of travel coverage to/from Grožnjan
- A copy of passport/ID

Deadline:

March 2, 2026 (23:59 CET)

Read more & apply:

<https://mubazar.com/opportunity/jm-jazz-world-orchestra-2026>



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JM International



JM Croatia