

## Jazz on the Danube 2005 — a festival of superlatives 2005-07-18

The Jazz on the Danube festival in Straubing, which ran this year from the 16th to the 18th of July, offered a host of musical highlights, **including performances by Diana Ross, Al Jarreau, David Sanborn and George Duke, consolidating its reputation as one of the largest and most important events of its kind in the world. A high quality sound reinforcement system from EVI Audio ensured that none of their artistry was lost**

**Straubing, July 2005.** For 19 years now, the Jazz on the Danube festival ('Jazz an der Donau' or 'JAD' to the natives) has been attracting world class stars to Lower Bavaria, making the list of artists to have left their visiting cards there (B.B. King, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Manhattan Transfer..) a veritable Who's Who of Jazz. After this year's **appearances by Diana Ross, Al Jarreau, George Duke, David Sanborn, Terence Blanchard** and other high calibre acts, the list just got longer...

That these artists are major draws was evident from the turnout:: with over 8,000 visitors, organizers Heinz and Ralph Huber were happy to report that last year's attendance record had been beaten

Although the JAD has long been regarded as one of the world's top ten jazz festivals, somehow it has succeeded in preserving its charm and intimacy. One couldn't help noticing how much the performers enjoyed being so close to the audience, as they responded to the frenetic applause with exuberant performances and prolific encores.

**Even Diana Ross, who had given the organizers a few headaches in the run-up with a gallimaufry of whims, left her airs and graces in the dressing room and let her hair down on stage: the legendary soul singer who gave the world Chain Reaction and Upside Down set the packed marquee on fire with a set that combined passion with musical sophistication — one of the absolute high points in the entire history of the festival.**

But it wasn't just the proximity between artists and audience and the charm of the setting that conspired to draw the very best from these much-travelled and much-acclaimed artists: it was also the quality of the sound. As six times Grammy award winner David Sanborn explained: "Whether a show goes off well or less well depends to a large extent upon the sound. In Straubing, it was perfect. Absolutely everything was right. For us, this performance, which was the culmination of a successful European tour, really put the cherry on the cake"; and the same sentiments regarding the quality of the sound equipment and the systems from EVI Audio were expressed by other musicians as well. According to Ralph Huber "All the performers — whether instrumentalists or vocalists — were delighted with the sound. You can't ask for more than that."