

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Organisation

The UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra is a big band with a default setup of sixteen musicians. At the end of the year 2022 the orchestra had 12.5 permanently employed musicians with a monthly salary. The rest, 3.5 posts, were filled by freelancer musicians with production specific contracts. Each year, the UMO Foundation employs a substantial amount of musicians on a project basis, soloists, arrangers, composers and other professionals in the event industry: in 2022, the orchestra co-operated with 157 professionals altogether.

In addition to the orchestra and the freelancers, the UMO Foundation has four employees in charge of the administration, concert production, audience development as well as marketing and communication. The substitute of general manager of the UMO Foundation is Henriika Steidel-Luoto and the artistic director is Ed Partyka.

Highlights of the year

For the UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra, the year 2022 was a year of reconstruction. We continued our strategy work and strived to meet the objectives set by the City of Helsinki even more efficiently. UMO contributes to the implementation of the cultural political objectives of the city and strengthens the attractiveness of Helsinki by producing versatile and innovative concerts of high quality for different target audiences.

Starting in 2022, UMO has received supplementary funding for national operations from the Ministry of Education and Culture. The funding has made it possible to arrange concerts more broadly around Finland: a third of the operations have been outside of Helsinki. UMO's position as a nationally important jazz orchestra – the only one receiving central government transfers (VOS) – is important.

Highlights of the year were the many festival concerts, among others at the Torino Jazz Festival in Italy, the Flow Festival and Helsinki Festival. UMO began co-operating with the Oulu Symphony Orchestra, continued working on magnificent co-operative projects such as the AUF project and Jazz Finland Residency and intensified the co-operation with

different music schools. As the COVID-19 pandemic abated, the orchestra appeared at several audience development performances and could once again make visits to for instance assisted living facilities and schools.

Operations

After the event shutdowns in the beginning of the year, we were able to return to doing live concerts and events in March. The amount of events returned to so called normal levels and the use of digital services online dropped accordingly. From March to December, UMO arranged 66 live events with a total attendance of 23 876.

In addition to the live events, we produced a lot of other, mainly digital, content, like online concerts, TV concerts, radio concerts, recordings and other online content. UMO premiered 19 compositions and performed 67 arrangements for the first time. The orchestra released three albums and recorded one album to be released at a later time.

The customer satisfaction of UMO was extraordinary: during the year 2022, the overall rating was 4,3 (on a scale from 1 to 5). The recommendation index is high: 89 % of customers would recommend concerts to others.

UMO's objective is to be carbon neutral by the year 2025 and to gradually cut emissions by 70 % by the year 2035. This will be achieved by avoiding and reducing emissions across the whole operations according to the plan. The objective is to use money to compensate only the emissions that aren't avoidable.

Funding and finances

The orchestra is funded by the UMO Foundation, which in turn is funded by its owner, the City of Helsinki (44 %), and the Ministry of Education and Culture (41 %). The self-financed part of the funding (15 %) comes from ticket sales as well as private performances and festival performances, and is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels. The personnel costs account for 68 % of the total expenses.

The result of the foundation was -19 503 euros.