

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Organisation

The UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra is a big band with a default setup of sixteen musicians. At the end of the year 2023 the orchestra had 13 permanently employed musicians with a monthly salary. The rest 3 posts were filled by freelancer musicians with production specific contracts. Each year, the UMO Foundation employs a substantial number of musicians on a project basis, soloists, arrangers, composers and other professionals in the event industry: in 2023, the orchestra co-operated with 166 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 communications. The substitute of general manager of the UMO Foundation is Henriika Steidel-Luoto and the artistic director is Ed Partyka.

The year in a Nutshell

In 2023, the audience returned to concert halls. At the beginning of the year, ticket sales were not as good as it was before the pandemic, but in the autumn season the UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra gave concerts to several sold-out or almost full halls and reached its second-best number of visitors since the foundation's founding in 2008 (note: the orchestra itself was founded in 1975). UMO performed in 88 live concerts and had a total of 36,419 visitors. There were 3 online concerts which reached 11,422 viewers. When the number of viewers of online concerts is added to the number of visitors of live concerts, the total audience for the year was 47,841.

UMO premiered 15 compositions, performed 79 arrangements for the first time and released one album in digital format.

UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra aims to be an international, agile and networked operator and a sought-after partner both in Finland and worldwide. In 2023, UMO's international activities included bringing foreign guest conductors and soloists to Finland, as well as ordering

new compositions and arrangements also from abroad. In addition, UMO organized the Helsinki International Big Band Composing Contest and participated in the Jazz Finland Residency.

The customer satisfaction of UMO was extraordinary: during the year 2023, the overall rating was 4,3 (on a scale from 1 to 5). The recommendation index is high: 91 % of customers would recommend concerts to others.

UMO contributes to the implementation of the cultural political objectives of the Helsinki city and strengthens the attractiveness of Helsinki by producing versatile and innovative concerts of high quality for different target audiences. As well, UMO's position as a nationally important jazz orchestra – the only one receiving central government transfers (VOS) – is important.

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 (47 %), and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland (36 %). The self-financed part of the funding (17 %) comes from ticket sales as well as commissioned concerts and festival performances, and is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels. The personnel costs account for two-thirds of the total expenses.

The result of the foundation was +127 049 euros.