



European Union

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PRESS RELEASE

THE EU CELEBRATES THE 12TH EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL WITH A SPECIAL VIETNAMESE GUEST BAND

Over the past eleven years, the European Music Festival in Vietnam has developed a remarkably diverse series of concerts in November in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

This year's Festival will feature musicians from **Austria, Wallonia-Brussels (Belgium), Germany, Hungary, Poland, Sweden** and for the first time a **Vietnamese guest band "Diva Club"**, embracing classical music, jazz, and pop. **14 performances** will be staged throughout the festival in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City and **10 out of these** will showcase interaction between European and Vietnamese musicians.

H.E.Mr Franz Jessen, Ambassador – Head of the Delegation of the European Union said, *“The event is an annual celebration of music excellence that makes the joy of music accessible to all. Whether your primary interest is in serious contemporary music, world music, jazz, international cultural development or just enjoying fantastic entertainment, the European Music Festival offers unforgettable concerts to connect with. The extensive experience with the combination of improvisation by European and Vietnam on stage during the festival will guarantee great entertainment for audiences”*

Bringing together musical talents from the European Union, the European Music Festival aims at reaching a diversified audience with a varied repertoire to celebrate the richness of European culture. This year, the Festival once again welcomes artists and audiences to experience music in established settings, exploring the combination of classic and contemporary rhythms.

Cultural exchanges and public diplomacy activities are an important part of EU-Vietnam relationship. Events such as the European Music Festival showcases the European Union *“unity in diversity”* and contributes to a better understanding between the EU and Vietnam.

The Festival will open in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on **22 and 24 November** respectively, with a performance by the German guitarists **Katona Twins**. The twin brothers Peter and Zoltan Katona with their virtuoso guitar music have won great international success. The Katona Twins will also present a performance of Astor Piazzolla together with musicians from the Hanoi Philharmonic Orchestra in Hanoi and the Conservatory of Music in Ho Chi Minh City.

The Festival continues with performances by Austrian musician **Harri Stojka and his band**, saxophonist **Fabrice Alleman** from Wallonia Brussels and **Grzegorz Karnas Quartet** from Poland that will take audiences into sophisticated jazz melodies with great passion.

Harri Stojka has achieved what many would wish for – creating his own guitar style and being recognized as Harri Stojka after only a few notes played. What makes Harri Stojka unique is the mixture of virtuosity and blues feeling, the special drive, phrasing and sound of his gipsy jazz acoustic guitar.

Fabrice Alleman is a jazz musician that has received acclaims both in Belgium and internationally and he will perform with the **Hanoi Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of Vietnamese conductor **Pham Ngoc Khoi**.

Concerts by **Grzegorz Karnas Quartet** are energy-filled, groovy, acoustic music-making with a hefty dose of improvisation, at times almost bordering on musical nonchalance. **Vietnamese saxophonist Quyen Thien Duc** and **pianist Vu Trong Hieu** will be improvising on stages with the Quartet in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City respectively.

For fans of classical music, a piano concert by Hungarian pianist **Gábor Eckhardt** will no doubt captivate their musical soul with remarkable compositions. Pianist Gábor Eckhardt will perform some pieces for piano four hands with **Vietnamese pianist Ta Quang Dong** from the Vietnam National Academy of Music.

The Festival will close in Hanoi on 1 December with **Swedish singer and song writer Ludwig Bell** who has made a name on the Swedish pop scene since 2007 with the band Dreamboy, where Ludwig was the lead singer and song writer. Dreamboy received massive acclaim for their album, with special praise given for the quality of the songs and the melodies.

In the meanwhile, the Festival will close in Ho Chi Minh City 30 November with a **Vietnamese band "Diva Club"** who is also the guest of this year's festival. **Diva Club** presents two famous opera singers Ngoc Tuyen and Trieu Yen who will sing operas on electronic music by well-known Vietnamese music DJ Hoang Anh. It is also the first time ever that the European Music Festival welcomes a guest Vietnamese band who promises to be an enchanting experience.

Full information about the event can be found at: <http://www.eumusicfestival.com/>

Photos of the bands can be found at: www.flickr.com/photos/eudelvietnam

Admission is free. Tickets can be reserved and collected from 19 November 2013 onwards at:

Hanoi:

Goethe Institute/Viện Goethe
56-58 Nguyễn Thái Học,
Tel: 04- 3 7 34 2251/52

HCMC:

Goethe Institut/Viện Goethe
18 Đường số 1, Cư xá Đô Thành, Phường 4,
Quận 3
Tel.: 08 36009587

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