

Press Documentation, April 27, 2018.

Hand-picked Talent and Discoveries.

The music world is spinning faster and faster, entertainment events keep on expanding, and one “sensation” follows the next. But the Blue Balls Festival remains true to its roots, its motto unchanged: Music and art with a soul – presented over nine days on the shores of Lake Lucerne. For more than 20 years now, the festival has given a stage to hand-picked talent and discoveries. And this year, more than twenty of them appear in Switzerland for the first time – including Keir (who also happens to be this year’s Blue Balls Face), Delgres and Black Pistol Fire. Which isn’t to say that when it comes to inviting the better-known artists to the festival, commercial success takes precedence over artistic quality: The Blue Balls Festival’s roster of indie-rock heroes (like Eels), critics’ favorites (like Rufus Wainwright) or new blues stars (like Gary Clark Jr.) may not top the charts, nor are they likely to sell out your local megadome – on the other hand, there are only very few true music fans who have walked out of one of their performances unimpressed. And that is exactly what the festival is all about. Quality can be found everywhere, regardless of the venue’s size, whether it’s the large KKL, the mid-sized open-air pavilion/bowl or the intimate Schweizerhof Hotel lounge: 120 shows, 8 stages – and 100,000 true fans. Jazz students, graffiti artists, singer-song writers or seasoned rock’n’rollers: they all get on the Blue Balls stage for one thing: to touch the hearts of the festivalgoers. For the festival lineup, tickets and more info, go to: blueballs.ch.

Leonn Ward.

London fashion photographer Leonn Ward has portrayed Keir for this year’s festival poster, and will also curate the Photo Expo on the KKL terrace. The prints on display will be available for purchase, as always. Two years ago, by the way, Ward started shifting her focus toward film, recently completing *The Way We Dress for Nowness*, shown at the Cannes Film Festival as part of the “Voice of Woman” selection.

David Bennett.

Motion designer David Bennett – who lives in one of the world’s music capitals, Nashville, Tennessee, USA – is the artist behind the audio-visual piece you can enjoy at the Video Lounge on the large terrace right underneath the mighty KKL roof, an experience that may be further enhanced by the mellowing effect of a refreshing cocktail.

Street Art.

Andreas Mattle, BustArt, Clara Cabrera, DrüEgg, HNRX, Joram Roukes, One Truth, Phist and The Krank will join forces (i.e. paintbrushes, tubes and spray cans) to make Lucerne’s festival summer even more colorful, creating a total of 18 live paintings along Lake Lucerne’s shoreline. All works will be available for purchase after the festival.



Talk Show.

Our nightly pre-show "Meet The Artists" event, where host Hannes Hug asks musicians to join him on the stage of the KKL Auditorium to "talk shop", is yet another, if small, festival highlight. All you need to have access to it is a concert ticket valid on the relevant day, or a Blue Balls Festival lapel pin.

Eric Clapton: Life in 12 Bars.

Everyone knows Eric Clapton, or do they? In her riveting documentary, a Blue Balls exclusive not scheduled for theatrical release in Switzerland, famous film producer Lili Fini Zanuck shines a pretty merciless light on the blues hero's eventful life. This is certainly a "gig" not to be missed.

Young Talent Stage.

The Young Talent Stage at the KKL Seebar, meanwhile, is reserved for the jazz students from Switzerland's music academies who have responded to the festival's invitation. This platform, which features a new band/artist every day, is supported by "Migros-Kulturprozent" (blueballs.ch).

Tickets, Festival Pass, Locations, Hotels.

Please purchase your concert Tickets only at KKL or from Starticket. Starticket outlets (Post, Manor, etc.), phone 0900 325 325 (CHF 1.19/min., land line), or online at www.starticket.ch. Ticket prices range from CHF 75 to CHF 140 (advance sale and box office).

A concert ticket valid on any given festival day also give access to the same day's KKL events (Plaza concerts, Seebar concerts, Video Lounge, art exhibits, Photo Expo, talk show, film showings), the open-air pavilion/bowl concerts and art exhibits, and the Schweizerhof concerts. The CHF 20 Blue Balls lapel pin, available on the festival's premises, gives access to all the above except the KKL concerts. Every true-blue fan wears one!

Festival pass: Each Premium Supporter is entitled to benefit from the following services, and to receive the following special items: 1 festival brochure, 1 festival (limited edition), 1 festival lapel pin, 1 concert ticket per day (personal, non-transferable). Tickets can be ordered until 12 noon on the day of the relevant concert by e-mail and picked up at the info desk. Price: CHF 1'000. If you need more information, Nereida Beqiraj (nerei-da.beqiraj@blueballs.ch) will be happy to help you.

The festival's venues – KKL, outdoor pavilion/bowl und Schweizerhof Hotel – are all located on Lake Lucerne and within five minutes' walking distance of one another, as are Lucerne station and various parking facilities. For hotel reservations, please contact Luzern Tourismus AG, phone 041 227 17 27, or online at www.luzern.com, e-mail hotels@luzern.com.



Special Thanks.

City of Lucerne, Luzern Tourismus, RKK Luzern, KKL Lucerne, Schweizerhof Hotel Lucerne, Heineken, DIAGEO, Burger Söhne (Dannemann), SCHULER St. JakobsKellerei, Coca-Cola, Red Bull, Habegger, BioCan, KR Motorcycles, Andreas Messerli, Maréchaux, 20 Minuten, SRF 3, Goldbach Media, Audienzz, Luzerner Zeitung, Zentralplus, Radio 3FACH, Radio Pilatus, Tele 1.

Accreditation.

For media accreditation applications and photo and interview requests, please contact Blue Balls Music, Weinbergstrasse 31, 8006 Zurich, phone 043 243 73 23, e-mail nicoline.schaub@blueballs.ch

