



## **GUMBO JAZZBAND MAASTRICHT (NL)**

### **Traditional Jazz**

The Gumbo Jazzband is a New Orleans-style jazz band known for its lively and authentic performances, rooted in traditional jazz music. The band was formed in 2008 and since then the band members have embraced traditional Jazz. They draw inspiration from the rich cultural heritage and musical traditions of the city of New Orleans. Characterized by its lively rhythms, collective improvisation and a mix of influences from African, European and Caribbean music. The Gumbo Jazz Band embodies these elements in their music, delivering spirited performances that capture the essence of the genre.

The name Gumbo Jazzband is taken from the popular dish in New Orleans, Gumbo. The basis of a gumbo is a sturdy roux, similar to the rhythm section of the band. The other components and ingredients of a gumbo differ time and time again, as do the varied solos of the wind instruments and the originality of the songs. The repertoire consists of a mix of well-known and lesser-known traditional jazz songs, where they aim to perform the often forgotten but beautiful verses and vocals of the songs.

Jazz revivals have occurred throughout the history of the genre, often sparked by renewed interest from both musicians and audiences in the traditional styles of jazz. In the case of New Orleans jazz, there have been several revivals over the years. One notable period was in the 1940s and 1950s when interest in traditional jazz was reignited, partly as a reaction to the dominance of swing and big band music. Musicians like Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet, and Bunk Johnson experienced renewed popularity during this time.

Another significant revival occurred in the 1960s with the emergence of the New Orleans Jazz Revival, which was fueled by a desire to preserve and celebrate the city's musical heritage. Bands like the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and the Olympia Brass Band played a key role in this revival, performing in venues like Preservation Hall in New Orleans and spreading the sound of traditional

jazz to new audiences around the world.

Today, there continues to be interest in reviving and preserving traditional jazz styles, including New Orleans jazz. Bands like the Gumbo Jazzband are part of this ongoing revival, carrying on the legacy of the genre and introducing it to new generations of listeners.

### **Specials:**

The Gumbo Jazzband combines often with Lindy Hop dancers from the entire region, and so you get an immersive experience that transports participants back to the vibrant nightlife of early 20th-century America. The infectious rhythms of the jazzband provide the perfect backdrop for the exuberant and acrobatic movements of the Lindy Hop dancers. The improvisational nature of both the music and the dance allows for a dynamic and exciting performance that captures the essence of the swing era. Overall, the combination of the Gumbo Jazzband and Lindy Hop dance creates a nostalgic and electrifying atmosphere that celebrates the rich cultural heritage of jazz music and dance in America.

### **A small selection of the highlights of recent years:**

- From 2014, monthly jazz matinee in café De Pieter (Maastricht)
- 2016 Support act of the British pop band VAN in Paradiso (Amsterdam);
- 2017 10-day concert trip to New Orleans with two performances during the French Quarter Festival, steamboat Natchez, Palm Court Café, Fritzels (4x)
- 2017 Guest appearance by Tricia Boutté, during the Maastricht festival
- 2018 Fete de la Musique (Liège B).
- 2019 Jazzraley (Düsseldorf D) and Jazz Clubs Gladbeck (D) and Jülich (D)
- 2022 Vaux Hall Summer Festival Brussels (B), Lindy Maas Festival (Lindy Hop dance festival), tour Portugal.
- 2023 Lindy Maas Festival, Festival Jülich (D).
- 2024 6 day tour Portugal.
- Annual performance during Ardent Swing Festival (B), Jazz Festival Broukay (B) and Jeker Jazz Festival (NL) and several times a year as a guest at Lindy Hop dance associations in the Netherlands and Belgium to musically enhance their 20s-30s dance evenings.

### **Musicians:**

Hugo Kuijpers, Cornet, Vocals, Bandleader  
Jan Bessems, Alto sax, Vocals  
René Stallinga, Trombone, Vocals  
Pie Houben, Guitar, Vocals  
Jan Lempens, String bas  
Peter Corsius, Drums, Vocals

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