



1st INTERNATIONAL ONLINE JAZZ CONTEST OPEN TO MUSICIANS OF EVERY AGE

7 Virtual Jazz Club begins search for undiscovered jazz talents from all walks of life. A 4,000 euro prize will be awarded to the talented winner

Milan, Italy, 15th April 2016

On April 15th, the 7 Virtual Jazz Club starts its worldwide search for emerging musical talent from all ages and backgrounds. The winner will be rewarded with a 4,000 euro prize. Second place will receive 2,000 euros and third place will be paid 1,000 euros.

To enter the contest, soloists and groups will pay a small registration fee and simply submit a video performance of no more than 7 minutes. Entries will be judged by a panel of international jazz experts comprised of some of the most respected journalists, musicians and educators in the field. The president of the judging panel is **Filippo Bianchi**, Director of Musica Jazz from 2000-2011 and the winner of the prestigious 2003 Django d'Or (The Golden Django).

"Jazz is more than a way of music- it's a way of life," says **Sandra Costantini**, Art Director at the European Jazz Network and member of the 7 Virtual Jazz Club judging panel. "We want to tap into that way of life all around the world and give hidden talents the chance to shine. We are excited to see what people perform and look forward to awarding the winners."

Valerio Pappi, Art Director of the 7 Virtual Jazz Club says, "I am really proud that we have assembled such a unique and talented panel of judges. Entries will have the chance to hear feedback and critiques from music critics from around the world and journalists from magazines including All About Jazz, Jazz Journal, Musica Jazz and Citizen Jazz. I believe that this mix of judges will make sure that the best entry wins."

Michael Pronko, Professor of American Culture at Meiji Gakuin University of Tokyo, and music critic for magazines including Jazz Colours, Jazzin, Jazz, Newsweek Japan and The Japan Times, is enthusiastic about his role in the judging panel, "I think this contest will help push jazz to a broader audience. The competition, the chance to hear people from all over the world, the exposure- all of it sounds quite wild. And, as is often said, everyone's a winner. Very cool."

Walter Kolosky, American music journalist who has lectured at the Cordoba Guitar Festival and is best known for his book about the legendary jazz-rock band the Mahavishnu Orchestra, Power, Passion and Beauty says, "It is about time the worldwide jazz community really took advantage of the extraordinary opportunity the Internet presents for the spreading of jazz music and cultural understanding. I am very honored to be associated with this global jazz adventure."

For further details, please visit our website: www.7virtualjazzclub.net

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• Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/7VirtualJazzClub>

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Additional Notes:**About the 7 Virtual Jazz Club**

The 7 Virtual Jazz Club is a virtual stage devoted exclusively to jazz music. The 7 Virtual Jazz Club website, presented in 8 different languages, will host the first fully global online jazz competition in history. The contest welcomes musicians of all ages. Musicians may be amateurs or professionals. Our aim is to unearth hidden musical talent focusing on the new trends that have emerged in jazz. For more information please visit: www.7virtualjazzclub.net

About “Nick” La Rocca

This inaugural International online competition for jazz musicians is dedicated to the memory of Dominic James "Nick" La Rocca.

"Nick" La Rocca was born from parents of Sicilian origin in 1889 in New Orleans. He was a cornet player, trumpet player, conductor and composer. He put together the first brass orchestra in New Orleans. In 1919, living in Chicago as a member of the Original Dixieland Jass Band, LaRocca appeared on the very first commercial jazz recording.