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Gent Jazz Marks 25 Years of Music and Discovery.

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Gent Jazz celebrates its 25th anniversary from 2 to 18 July 2026. Set against the historic backdrop of De Bijloke, the festival combines international stars, Belgian talent and emerging artists in fifteen days of music, culture and summer atmosphere.

Over fifteen days, Gent Jazz presents seven to eight performances daily across the Main Stage and Garden Stage. The alternating schedule allows visitors to enjoy every concert without overlap, a format that has become one of the festival's trademarks. This anniversary edition welcomes major names including Van Morrison, Patti Smith Quartet, Suzanne Vega and John Hiatt, alongside Belgian favourites such as Selah Sue & The Gallands, Warhaus, Tamino, Stavroz, Lady Linn & Her Magnificent Seven and Axelle Red. Food and drink stands throughout the festival grounds complete the experience, turning De Bijloke into a lively meeting place for music lovers.

A central theme of this anniversary edition is the centenary of Miles Davis, whose influence continues to shape contemporary music. The festival pays tribute to the legendary trumpeter through several performances that highlight both his legacy and ongoing impact. A key event is "We Want Miles!" on 10 July, led by bassist Marcus Miller, a former Davis collaborator who helped shape albums such as Tutu and Amandla. Joined by Bill Evans, Mike Stern, Mino Cinelu and trumpeter Russell Gunn, the project connects classic material with new interpretations. The Davis legacy is also explored by Ravi Coltrane and Terence Blanchard, while vocalist Samara Joy demonstrates how his pioneering spirit continues to inspire a new generation of jazz artists.

Several festival days have already sold out, reflecting strong demand for this 25th anniversary edition. Gent Jazz takes place from 2 to 18 July 2026 at the historic De Bijloke site in Ghent. The full programme, practical information and remaining tickets are available via the official Gent Jazz website: https://www.gentjazz.com/en

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