

WHO'S WHO:

INTERNATIONAL SPEEDMEETINGS SESSION

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HADLEY AGREZ – MELBOURNE JAZZ FESTIVAL (AUSTRALIA)



Hadley Agrez is the CEO & Program Director of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival, a role he has held since 2018. With a career dedicated to the delivery of large-scale festivals, Hadley brings extensive expertise across curation, programming, operations, and general management. His leadership at the festival reflects a deep commitment to artistic excellence, international collaboration, and the development of emerging talent. Passionate about creating globally connected cultural experiences, Hadley plays an active role in expanding Australia's position in the broader music and arts landscape, collaborating with festivals and organisations across the globe and frequently contributing as an industry panellist at major Australian and international events. His work continues to position the Melbourne International Jazz Festival as a vibrant, world-class celebration of jazz and improvised music.

The Melbourne International Jazz Festival (MIJF) is Australia's largest jazz festival and a major highlight of the national arts calendar. Now in its 27th year, the ten-day festival is held each October, presenting over 140 performances and showcasing 550 artists from Australia and around the world. Attracting 60,000 attendees annually, the festival transforms Melbourne into a global stage for jazz, with a program that balances world-class international acts, the finest Australian talent, and opportunities for emerging artists. Beyond the flagship festival, the organisation leads year-round initiatives focused on international exchange, artist development, education, and community access. As a not-for-profit organisation, MIJF is dedicated to fostering artistic excellence, expanding access to jazz and improvised music, and enriching Australia's cultural landscape through meaningful community engagement, international collaboration and support for the next generation of artists.

JOHN ARCADIUS – COTONOU COULEURS JAZZ FESTIVAL (BENIN)



John Arcadius is a multifaceted Beninese artist — singer, songwriter, guitarist, percussionist, and dancer — known for his dynamic performances and deep commitment to cultural expression. As the Director of the Cotonou Couleurs Jazz Festival, he actively promotes artistic innovation and international musical dialogue. With a career spanning music and cultural management, he is recognized for his ability to bridge traditional African rhythms and contemporary jazz.

Founded in 2012 under the initiative of Vod Records, the Cotonou Couleurs Jazz Festival in Benin offers a unique space where jazz meets the vibrant diversity of African and global musical traditions. After a brief hiatus, the festival returned with a powerful edition featuring 12 exclusive concerts and prominent figures from contemporary jazz and

African music. This festival is more than a celebration of sound; it's a professional and artistic platform for cultural exchange within West Africa and beyond, promoting regional talent while maintaining an international outlook.

ANABELA CUNHA – CONNECTING DOTS (BRAZIL)



Anabela Cunha is a cultural consultant, curator, and artistic producer. She holds a Master's degree in Strategy and Leadership in New Practices from London South Bank University, in London, UK. In 2016, she founded CONNECTING DOTS in São Paulo, Brazil – a pioneering agency in the International Music and Cinema sector with a strong sense of purpose.

CONNECTING DOTS is dedicated to the development of cultural projects that foster international partnerships and exchanges among a wide range of cultural agents, standing out in the following areas:

- **Curatorship and Content Production:** Creating and managing carefully selected cultural offerings and producing content that resonates deeply within the international music and audiovisual scenes.
- **Strategic Consulting for Cultural Projects:** Providing expert guidance and developing strategies that enable cultural initiatives to thrive in a competitive global market.
- **Presence in Both International and Brazilian Markets:** Acting as a vital bridge that connects Brazilian culture to the international community, facilitating intercultural dialogue through music, audiovisual works, and the arts.

The agency is recognized for its strong commitment to expanding cultural appreciation and

understanding through global connections and social impact.

Currently, CONNECTING DOTS is engaged in several projects in development, including the production of a feature-length documentary in co-production with TV Cultura, the co-organization of the international jazz festival AMAJAZZON, and the launch of the world music festival WOMAD in Brazil.

CARLOS BRANCO – [BRANCO PRODUÇÕES](#) (BRAZIL)



Branco Produções is currently the curator and producer of several major music festivals in Brazil, including: Pianístico (Joinville, SC), Poa Jazz Festival (Porto Alegre, RS), Paralelo Festival (São Francisco de Paula, RS), Festival de Choro da Serra Gaúcha (São Francisco de Paula, RS), Harmonia Jazz Festival (Joinville, SC), and Santa Cruz Jazz'n'Blues.

Founded by Carlos Branco in 1994, Branco Produções is a leading cultural production company based in Porto Alegre, Brazil. With extensive experience in concerts, festivals, and music production, the company has brought renowned international artists to the city—such as B.B. King, Paco de Lucía, Buddy Guy, America, Betty Carter, Joe Henderson, Johnny Rivers, Jean-Luc Ponty, Laurie Anderson, among many others—as well as celebrated Brazilian artists including Caetano Veloso, João Gilberto, Djavan, Gal Costa, and Maria Bethânia.

Branco Produções has organized international tours across Latin America, produced over 120 albums, and launched its own label, Barulinho, which has released 25 titles by local artists. The company has also managed artist careers, including pianist Miguel Proença and the group Delicatessen, and was responsible for developing the cultural program for Teatro CIEE in Porto Alegre.

Carlos Branco is a Brazilian music producer, composer, and cultural manager with a background in Artistic Education and Instrument Performance. Formerly a music professor and active musician throughout Rio Grande do Sul, his compositions have been recorded both in Brazil and abroad. He is the author of *A Censura na MPB* (1993) and has contributed to various publications. From 1989 to 1994, he served as Director of the Araújo Vianna Auditorium and Music Coordinator for the Porto Alegre Department of Culture, overseeing over 1,500 events. He later worked with the RBS Group's Mauricio Sirotsky Foundation and has been involved in national projects such as Itaú Cultural's Rumos Musicais and Sesi Nacional. As founder and director of Branco Produções since 1994, he has produced around 120 albums and managed artists like pianist Miguel Proença and the jazz group Delicatessen. Internationally recognized, he was the only Brazilian producer invited to Bafim (Buenos Aires, 2019) and the only Latin American juror for Jazzahead (Germany, 2023).

FELIPE TORRES – [SESC](#) (BRAZIL)



Felipe Torres is a social scientist, cultural manager, cultural producer, photographer, and art educator. He graduated from the University of São Paulo and has worked at major cultural institutions in Brazil, including the São Paulo State Department of Culture, Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo, and Sesc São Paulo. With experience in cultural management, museum education, and music programming, he has led projects nationally and internationally, notably coordinating the Brazilian arm of the 2024 State of Fashion Biennale in the Netherlands. At Sesc São Paulo, he served as a sociocultural programmer and held supervisory positions at two units. His work involves conducting research on artistic languages such as music, theater, dance, and circus arts, developing curatorial projects in these areas, coordinating local production processes, and collaborating in the design of cultural initiatives

aligned with Sesc's educational mission. He currently supervises the performing arts department at Sesc Vila Mariana.

FLAVIO DE ABREU – [SCUBIDU MUSIC](#) (BRAZIL)



Flavio de Abreu est titulaire d'une Licence en Gestion des Affaires de la FGV (São Paulo, Brésil) et d'un Master de Sciences-Po Paris. Flavio a travaillé pour plusieurs entreprises multinationales dans différents domaines et a réalisé des projets dans plus de 15 pays en Afrique, au Moyen-Orient, en Europe et en Amérique du Sud. Depuis 2006, Flavio est de retour dans son Brésil natal et dirige Scubidu Music, une agence musicale spécialisée dans les tournées internationales, les disques et la gestion d'artistes. Actuellement en charge de la carrière de la légende brésilienne Hermeto Pascoal, Flavio a également été responsable de la programmation et de la

production du Festival Virada Cultural Paulista en 2015 et de plus de 100 tournées internationales au cours des 20 dernières années. Depuis 2023, Flavio est Président de BM&A, le Bureau Export de la Musique Brésilienne.

LENILDO GOMEZ – [INSTITUTO DRAGÃO DO MAR \(BRAZIL\)](#)



I am a cultural manager and producer, researcher in artistic languages, writer and teacher. I have a Master's degree in Sociology from the Federal University of Ceará, and I specialize in Cultural Management and Policies from Itaú Cultural/Universitat de Girona.

I have experience in the management of governmental and non-governmental organizations, working in the managerial, administrative, pedagogical and financial execution of projects and courses in the area of art and culture. I worked as a cultural producer with experience in the field of music and audiovisual, including events and career management during my time at the production company Mercúrio.

I am currently the Director of Cultural Action at the Dragão do Mar Institute in Ceará and I am part of Dronedeus, a sound art project.

The Dragão do Mar Institute is a social organization in the state of Ceará that manages 16 cultural, environmental and sports facilities in partnership with the state government. It works with audiovisual, music, dance, theater, food culture, digital culture, heritage, sports training, literature, visual arts, and other artistic and cultural possibilities.

PAULO ANDRES SANCHEZ GIL – [TEATRO COLSUBSIDIO \(COLOMBIA\)](#)



Paulo Andrés Sánchez Gil (Manizales, 1977) is a seasoned cultural manager with over 30 years of experience in the performing arts. He holds a degree in National and International Marketing and postgraduate studies in Creative Cities Management and Museum Sustainability. He founded Corporación Jazz Manizales and directed the Manizales International Jazz Festival until 2009. In Bogotá, he has led key cultural initiatives including the Bogotá World

Music Season, and served as coordinator at Findeter and juror for numerous cultural funding programs. He is the founder of the Colombian Network of Jazz Festivals and director of Distrito Cultural S.A.S. Since 2018, he has been the General Manager of Teatro y Cultura Colsubsidio in Bogotá, where he has overseen over 350 performing arts events and co-produced 15 music recordings.

Teatro Colsubsidio, with over 43 years of history, is one of Colombia's leading cultural venues. Renowned for its diverse and inclusive programming, it focuses on global popular music and the performing arts. Its identity is shaped by exceptional artistic projects, music production, youth education, and a commitment to curatorial excellence across Latin America.

ANOM DARSANA – [ANTIDA MUSIC PRODUCTION](#) (INDONESIA)



Anom Darsana is a renowned Indonesian sound engineer, music producer, and cultural promoter based in Bali. A graduate of sound engineering studies in Switzerland, he founded Antida Music Production in 2004, now one of Bali's top recording studios. Anom has produced numerous notable Indonesian acts and co-founded major music festivals including the Ubud Village Jazz Festival and Bali World Music Festival. Internationally, he has worked with festivals like Montreux Jazz Festival and represented Indonesia at global music events such as APaMM, TMEX, and Bangkok Music City. He is also known for his activism and support for socio-cultural movements in Bali.

Antida Music Production has grown into a multi-division company—Antida Studio, Records, Sound Garden, and Music Productions—and became PT. Antida Musik Indonesia in 2017. It has organized and supported dozens of festivals and concerts, collaborating with both national and international artists and brands, and remains a key player in Bali's creative and music ecosystem.

BAGAS INDYATMONO – [JAZZ GUNUNG](#) (INDONESIA)



Jazz Gunung Indonesia – Jazz festival on the mountain side of Indonesia PT Jazz Gunung Indonesia is an organizer of international jazz music performances featuring ethnic jazz compositions, held annually in mountainous areas and starting in Bromo in 2009 and then in Ijen in 2016. PT Jazz Gunung Indonesia is one of the pioneers of organizing music festivals held outdoors in the mountainous areas of Indonesia. Seventeen years of Jazz Gunung Indonesia's journey have given its own color to ethnic jazz music festivals in the country. PT Jazz

Gunung Indonesia as the organizer of Jazz Gunung has always consistently presented music performances with concepts that continue to develop and are always different every year.

ATSUKO YASHIMA – EIGHT ISLANDS (JAPON)



Atsuko Yashima is a prominent Japanese cultural producer and founder of Eight Islands Co., Ltd (2020), dedicated to connecting Japan with the world through jazz, music, and culture. Formerly a longtime producer at NHK Enterprises, she launched and directed the Tokyo Jazz Festival for over 15 years, bringing global jazz stars to Japan and creating international exchange projects like the Japan-Australia Jazz Orchestra and French Jazz Quarter in Japan. She has curated local festivals, collaborated with major international jazz events, and created the "Music for Tomorrow" initiative after the 2011 earthquake, presenting concerts globally to support affected communities.

Through Eight Islands, Atsuko continues to produce concerts, cultural events, and broadcast content, promote international artists in Japan, and support Japanese musicians abroad. She also curates festival programs and runs Eight Islands Records, spotlighting global jazz. Recently, she launched the "Metropolitan Jazz" series in Tokyo, showcasing both Japanese and international talent.

MITSUTAKA NAGIRA – JOURNALIST (JAPON)



Mitsutaka Nagira (Japan, b. 1979) is a respected music journalist, DJ, and educator. A contributor to *Rolling Stone Japan*, he is best known as the general editor of the acclaimed book series *Jazz The New Chapter*, chronicling the evolution of jazz in the 21st century. He co-authored *Listening to 100 Years of Jazz* and has curated several notable compilation albums, including *All God's Children Got Piano* (Blue Note jazz piano) and *GROUNDUP MUSIC × CORE PORT* (featuring

Snarky Puppy's label). He teaches jazz and American music history at Showa University of Music and conducts workshops for aspiring writers and editors.

SOSUKE ASANO – [PIA CORPORATION / PIA LIVE CREATIVE \(JAPON\)](#)



PIA is one of the Japanese leading companies in the field of entertainment. They provide various kinds of support such as ticketing, publishing, and organizing concerts and events. Sosuke is in charge of operation for Montreux Jazz Festival Japan and other music events in Japan.

MUSTEMBI MACKINLAY – [AFROLECT INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL \(KENYA\)](#)



Mackinlay is a pioneering trumpeter, award-winning bandleader, producer and event curator. He has been influential in bringing to the fore responsible for bringing the horns into the music game on the Kenyan music scene. As founder, composer and Music Director for the award-winning band Nairobi Horns Project, Mackinlay has made many appearances on many musical stages and festivals with all sorts of acts; bands, DJs, solo acts...

the works. Mackinlay is also a producer and recording artist. His work has been featured on stages such as The Safaricom International Jazz Festival and Coke Studio Africa among others. His passion for change and his personal story of overcoming adversity and dedication to personal improvement led to the founding of the Afrolect Academy. His experience has put him in the unique position to see the gaps and barriers to entry for young artist pursuing their creative passion. Mackinlay would like to give the opportunity that he was never afforded growing up, a clear path to a successful career for young musicians and creatives.

The Afrolect International Jazz Festival is a dynamic and inclusive music event held annually in Nairobi, Kenya. Founded by Mackinlay Mutsembi, the festival showcases a diverse blend of jazz, Afrobeat, soul, and roots music. Its mission is to provide a platform for both established and emerging artists, fostering a vibrant live music scene that appeals to a wide audience.

SALAKO – [ABUJA INTERNATIONAL AFROJAZZ FESTIVAL](#) (NIGERIA)



Afrojazz Festival Nigeria Limited is the official body that organizes the Abuja International afrojazz festival. This festival is the biggest celebration of African music that is influenced by Jazz in the capital city of Nigeria. Our festival is in its third year and has played host of internationally acclaimed jazz musician from the African continent as well as from Europe. With series of events like masterclasses, showcases, jazz day celebration and the festival we are gradually shaping the music culture and inspiring the next generation of artiste and musician in Nigeria.

MAWUTO DICK – [TOGO JAZZ FESTIVAL](#) / [LEVEL PRODUCTION](#) (TOGO)



Based in Lomé (Togo), after completing his studies in Management Information Systems with a specialization in Application Development, he obtained CISCO Networking Academy certifications at the Computer and Computing Center (CIC) of the University of Lomé in 2008. He trained in sound engineering techniques and works as a sound technician or sound manager for various festivals and projects. He has also undergone training and internships in Artist Management, Cultural Project Administration and Management, Cultural Entrepreneurship, and in the Organization and Technical Management of Exhibitions at the Louvre Museum in 2018. In May 2022, he received training in

General Stage Management from ENSATT (École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre).

He is the founder of:

- **LEVEL Production** (a Cultural and Creative Enterprise since 2017),
- **Togo Jazz** (a Jazz and World Music Festival since 2015),
- **Espace Culturel LEVEL** (a Togolese Cultural Center since 2013).

Finally, he is also a consultant, trainer, and lecturer in Sound and Lighting Management at the University of Lomé in Togo (Master's program in Theatre and Education).