

# 10 Years of Groove Now



## Celebrate With an Interesting Year of Concerts!

Ten years ago, Groove Now took on the task of presenting the internationally most exciting artists from the fields of blues and soul exclusively in Switzerland. Since then, they have remained true to this mission. The artists are not only hand-picked and committed years in advance, their selection is based on criteria like musical significance, originality, and ultimately their excellence not only at the moment, but over an extended period of time. Another characteristic is the composition of the bands—Groove Now places great importance on the tightness of the band members and values their individual commitment. Thus, they engage only bands in their original line-up, which can have an impact on the cost, as the bands are flown in, almost exclusively, from the United States.

Groove Now has also made a name for themselves by developing, together with the musicians, special and unique new music projects or bringing together different musicians to realize a defined musical concept. A good example of this is the Blues Giants: Based on the model of Showdown (Collins, Copland, and Cray), Groove Now put together a band that was second to none and which went on to tour together with great success. The Big Blues Band is another great example of a defined pure blues project that features the first-rate Groove Now star Mike Zito, framed by a brass section.

Audiences at Groove Now concerts can therefore experience what are surely the most interesting bands on the international scene, as judged by their musical quality rather than their superficial commercial value. All these musicians stand the test of time, each year winning the most important international musical honors and awards.

Groove Now is run by several representatives of Basel businesses who have a high level of musical competence as well as many years of management and marketing experience. However, Groove Now is only viable thanks to the generous support of sponsors and patrons. Since the organization's inception, the BLKB—with their slogan "Was morgen zählt" (What counts tomorrow)—has been the main sponsor. Other important sponsors, such as the Merian Iselin Spital, the Hotel Hyperion, the Basler Zeitung, the Swisslos Fonds, and individual donors called the Groove Now Friends, ensure that the non-profit association Groove Now has the means to finance their high-caliber music program and present world-class musicians in an intimate club-concert setting.

### The 10th Anniversary Program

The music program throughout this 10th anniversary year will be continuing along the organization's original mission. Under the motto "Stars & Friends," the organizers will present musicians who are among the friends of Groove Now and selected stars. The first double concert of the year, which will be held on February 21 and 22, will already be a sensation. In cooperation with Albert Castiglia, Groove Now has assembled an all-star band that brings together this

"high-energy" guitarist and singer, the New Orleans legend Johnny Sansone (vocals, harmonica), and the world-class saxophonist Jimmy Carpenter. The most exciting Chicago project you can imagine will follow in March. The Chicago Blues Guitar Summit will feature the three guitarists and singers Dave Specter, Billy Flynn, and up-and-coming talent Guy King, together on stage. The band that will follow in May is another of Groove Now's favorites and certainly must be included in the line-up—the great Rick Estrin with his Nightcats.

Of course, the ladies cannot be left out! In June, two extraordinary female guitarist, Sue Foley and Laura Chavez, will perform at the Atlantis. Groove Now has a long-lasting friendship with both ladies of blues, who will be playing together for the first time in Europe. Playing alongside them will be the "unsung hero" Derek O'Brien, one of the foremost guitarists from Texas. A special project will take place in August: The present and future representative of Chicago Blues, Nick Moss, will perform with his great band featuring Dennis Gruenling, one of the best harmonica players ever. And as if that wasn't already enough—at the request of Groove Now, Moss will bring with him Andrew Duncanson, head of the Kilborn Alley Blues Band and a fabulous singer.

In the latter half of the year, Groove Now will present a real spectacle. For the first time ever, the perhaps best guitarist in modern blues, Kid Andersen (guitarist with Rick Estrin & The Nightcats), will present his Greatest Hits project in Europe, along with his wife, singer Lisa Andersen. Anderson is not only an incredible guitarist, he is also a multi-instrumentalist and has become one of the most important blues producers. In his recording studio, Greaseland, some of the most outstanding productions in modern history have been realized under his aegis. Anderson will bring an all-star troop that leaves nothing to be desired.

In October, Groove Now will present the incomparable Mike Zito with his Big Blues Band featuring two horns from B.B. King's former band. Together, they will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Groove Now in Basel—the organization and city that have become very dear to their hearts.

The absolute highlight of the year will come in November, when Groove Now presents the all-star band that they have assembled of exclusively personal friends and key players from the world of modern blues and soul—Sugaray Rayford's Groove Now 10th Anniversary All-Star Revue. Alongside "Mr. Dynamite" Sugaray Rayford, the band includes Mike Zito, Albert Castiglia, Kid Andersen, Lisa Andersen, John Németh, and the best rhythm group in modern blues, Willie J. Campbell and Jimi Bott. For this very special climax, the band will present a different musical program on the two evenings.

Learn more about the fabulous 10th anniversary program on their website; tickets are available now through [www.starticket.ch](http://www.starticket.ch).

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