

Lagrasse, 4 May 2020

Festival En Blanc Et Noir 2020 – Cancellation Announcement

Dear friends,

We hope that you are doing well, despite the circumstances.

It is with great sadness that the Board Members of the EBEN association have decided to cancel the 2020 edition of the festival.

We were waiting for the government announcements of April 28th to make our decision, hoping to have clarifications on the holding of events similar to ours. Unfortunately, decisions regarding "small" festivals have not been made and are postponed to a later date. Too many questions remain unanswered to allow us to properly organize this edition.

In particular, we have many artists, faithful music lovers and patrons coming from abroad.

The questions we have had to ask are:

Will they be allowed to come to France at the beginning of July, and if so, will they have to be subjected to a quarantine?

Will we be able to welcome the public in suitable conditions, knowing that the concerts bring together between one hundred and two hundred people on the Place de la Halle?

Will restaurants, cafés and accommodation be open?

What will the state of health in France be like in two months' time?

The festival **En Blanc Et Noir** is unique in that it is free, accessible to all and in a magical setting. We cannot take the risk of taking part in the spread of the disease, nor of suffering financial losses which would jeopardize the sustainability of our association. We are concerned that the close proximity between the artists, spectators and organizers could pose unnecessary risks.

Therefore we would prefer to postpone it to the following year when we are sure that we can repeat the successes of previous years.

In consultation with our artistic director Bobby Mitchell, we will invite next year's artists programmed for this summer as a priority. We have also decided to financially support these young musicians who are deprived of income for a long period of time. Perhaps you can also help them by buying their records directly on their sites, in stores (when they reopen) or on digital platforms; and of course by attending their concerts when they can perform again.

If possible, we will organize one or more fund raising concerts between now and next summer and will keep you informed of any events.

We know that this cancellation will sadden you, as it will sadden all of us here in Lagrasse, but we hope that this page will turn quickly and that we can welcome you back next year to celebrate music the way we love it, performed by artists whom we will continue to support.

Sincerely, and be well.

The Board Members of EBEN