

This year European Jazz Orchestra 2011 started its tour in Herning on the 14th of April at the regional venue, Fermaten.

Before this date, the 17 musicians led by the conductor Jere Laukkanen had had a 3 -day -rehearsals-period and was playing a dress rehearsal of Vildbjerg Sports and Culture Centre.

On 15th of April the orchestra went to Germany where EJO played a concert at AP Miller School of Schleswig before a large audience.

Then the orchestra went to Gorzow, Wielkopolski and Szczecin in Poland, making sold-out performances. The performance in Szczecin was planned so that EJO could catch the evening ferry from Świnoujście in Poland to Ystad in Sweden, and thus starting the second part of the tour with a concert in Kristianstad already the day after.

Organized by local jazz clubs, EJO played in very different venues in Karlskrona, Ljungskile, Lillehammer and Karlsborg: The organizers were movie theaters, an organization behind old military barracks, a hotel and a community center. It was very inspiring for both musicians and for the crew to experience such local interest and local interaction between associations, volunteers, organizers and audiences.

After one day off and a great ferry ride from Stockholm to Riga, the last part of the tour started in Liepaja in Latvia on the 25th of April. The atmosphere was wonderful as EJO played at the great concert hall of the City Theatre. Once again the local audience and local organizers warmly welcomed the orchestra.

EJO also played in Riga during the famous Riga Ritmi Festival. It gave kick to the musicians and put a mark on the music to be part of a larger event where great and renowned jazz musicians came to play on the same stage. It was a fantastic start to the last part of the tour moving on to Tallinn, Estonia and Turku, Finland.

Being European Culture Capitals, Tallinn and Turku, the concerts were of great importance to the European project of EJO. The concert in Tallinn engaged the largest audience on tour and turned out to be the most successful performance as well. The huge old and very beautiful concert hall of the Russian Theater made the best conditions for the music and the audience was engaged from the very start to the very end.

EER recorded the concert for both radio and television and on stage the 2nd composer Raul Sööt was given appropriate recognition by the audience and by EJO.

The concert in Turku was recorded by FIYLE and it was a fantastic end of a great tour made by outstanding young musicians and fantastic music binding Europe together.

The tour did also form a new beginning for EJO as a major upgrade of production around the concerts were made.

The new Swinging Europe have arranged for a major upgrade of production around the concerts, and, in many ways, it holds great promise for the future work of EJO, in regard to meeting audiences, collaborators, organizers and participants on tour.