



# EPFL

■ Cultural  
Heritage  
& Innovation  
Center

M O N T R E U X  
J A Z Z  
D I G I T A L  
P R O J E C T

EPFL



Claude Nobs foundation

Montreux  
Jazz Festival



# Claude Nobs' vision

Record the concerts :

- In the highest quality
- To broadcast the festival





*"It's the most important testimonial to the history of music, covering jazz, blues and rock"*

*Quincy Jones*



- Digitization Project launched in 2007
- Creation of the Claude Nobs Foundation
- Registration to UNESCO in 2013



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



• **The Montreux Jazz Festival Legacy**  
• Inscribed on the international register in 2013  
• **Memory of the World**





# The Archive in numbers

- 6000 concerts
- 14'000 Master tapes, covering 1966 – 2023
- 25 different audio & video tape formats
- Video: 11'000 hours of recordings, in HD already in 1991 !
- Audio: 6000 hours of recordings, including multi-tracks
- Pictures: > 100'000 photos (60'000 digitized at EPFL)



# Storage on S3 hard drive based System





## Montreux Jazz Digital Project - Objectives

---

- **Digitize, preserve, add value**  
to the audio, audiovisual, pictures and related collections
- **Research, innovate, educate**  
with the archives as a research infrastructure

WITH SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS

AUDEMARS PIGUET

*Le Brassus*

Western  
Digital®

ERNST GÖHNER STIFTUNG

logitech®

M O R I A  
M O R I A  
M E M O R I A V  
M E M O R I A V  
M E M O R I A V  
M O R I  
M O R I



Fonoteca nazionale svizzera  
Schweizerische Nationalphonotheek  
Swiss National Sound Archives

Sezione della Biblioteca nazionale svizzera



MILLENNIUM



# Cultural Heritage & Innovation Center (2010)

Operational tasks in digitization of audiovisual collections

- Project management and coordination, archiving strategies
- Competences acquired since 2010, 7-12 people
- Inventory, digitization, quality control, documentation, metadata, database ontologies, long-term storage

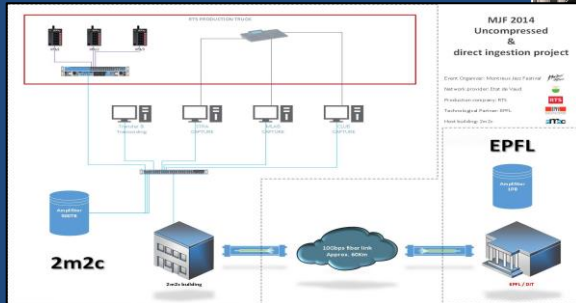
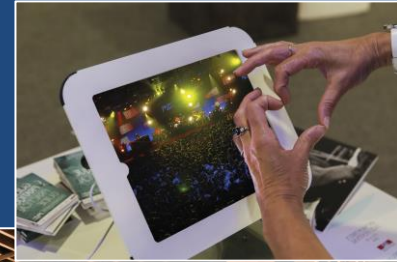
Hub for research & innovation, adding value to the collections:

- in acoustics, signal processing, artificial intelligence, musicology, museology, archiving, design, architecture, neurosciences, social & human sciences, performing arts, ...



# Live Archiving at the Festival

- Live recording of the concert streams onto files
- Storage on Server
- Transcoding in subformats for public platforms
- Song indexing and segmentation
- Check of author's rights
- Public availability during the festival



# MJF Database

[Home](#)
[Concerts](#)
[By day](#)
[Song selections](#)
[Search](#)

## Search

 Search by: 

### Concert

 Concert Name :  Hall :  Genre :  Night : 

 Festival :  Year : 

1 961

2 012

[More...](#)

#### Adele

Preview here

key: 08MDHA24  
 hall: Miles Davis Hall  
 date: 2008/07/12  
 genre:  
 night:

#### Madeleine Peyroux

Preview here

key: 09MDHA40  
 hall: Miles Davis Hall  
 date: 2009/07/16  
 genre: jazz, folk  
 night:

#### Peyroux, Madeleine

Preview here

key: 97MDHA28  
 hall: Miles Davis Hall  
 date: 1997/07/07  
 genre:  
 night:



# ON AIR



QUAND LA MEMOIRE EST BONNE



## EPFL

### La collection du Montreux Jazz La mémoire du festival

Le Montreux Jazz Digital Project a été créé par l'EPFL et la Fondation Claude Nobs, pour numériser la collection audiovisuelle du festival et l'enrichir au travers de projets d'innovation technologique. Inscrite au Registre de la Mémoire du monde de l'UNESCO en 2013, cette collection rassemble 5000 heures d'histoire de la musique. Développé dans la foulée, Montreux Jazz Memories est un projet d'histoire publique dédié à la sauvegarde et à la mise en valeur de la mémoire du festival. Une plateforme collaborative développée avec la FONISART attend nos contributions :

[www.montreuxjazzmemories.ch](http://www.montreuxjazzmemories.ch)

Le Montreux Jazz Memories Studio présenté ici suit deux objectifs. Il s'agit de donner accès aux archives audiovisuelles du festival et de collecter les mémoires des personnes qui, vides, techniciens, festivaliers, artistes, ces personnes ont produit cet événement devenu aujourd'hui incontournable dans le paysage culturel.

En charge du Montreux Jazz Digital Project depuis 2010, le Cultural Heritage and Innovation Center (CHIC) de l'École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne est un centre de compétences dédié à l'innovation dans le domaine des patrimoines culturels. Présenté ici également, l'un des nouveaux projets auxquels il participe concerne les nouvelles technologies de stockage de données sur ADN.

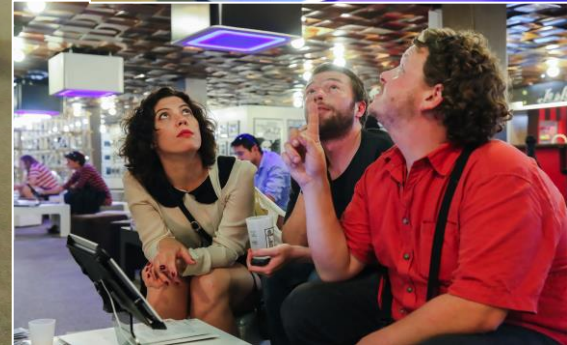


*Claude Nobs Fondation*





# Sound Dots by Hidacs



# Casino Kursaal Revival





# Montreux Jazz Heritage Lab

EPFL+ECAL LAB

## MJHL 1

Specific to digital heritage

Immersion with every formats

Main image never touched

Browsing as part of  
immersion

Materiality of the  
environment

Social interaction

Inside / outside relation







# MJHL 2

Visual augmentation

Audio augmentation

Content augmentation

New screen materiality

Inside / outside relation

Browsing through history

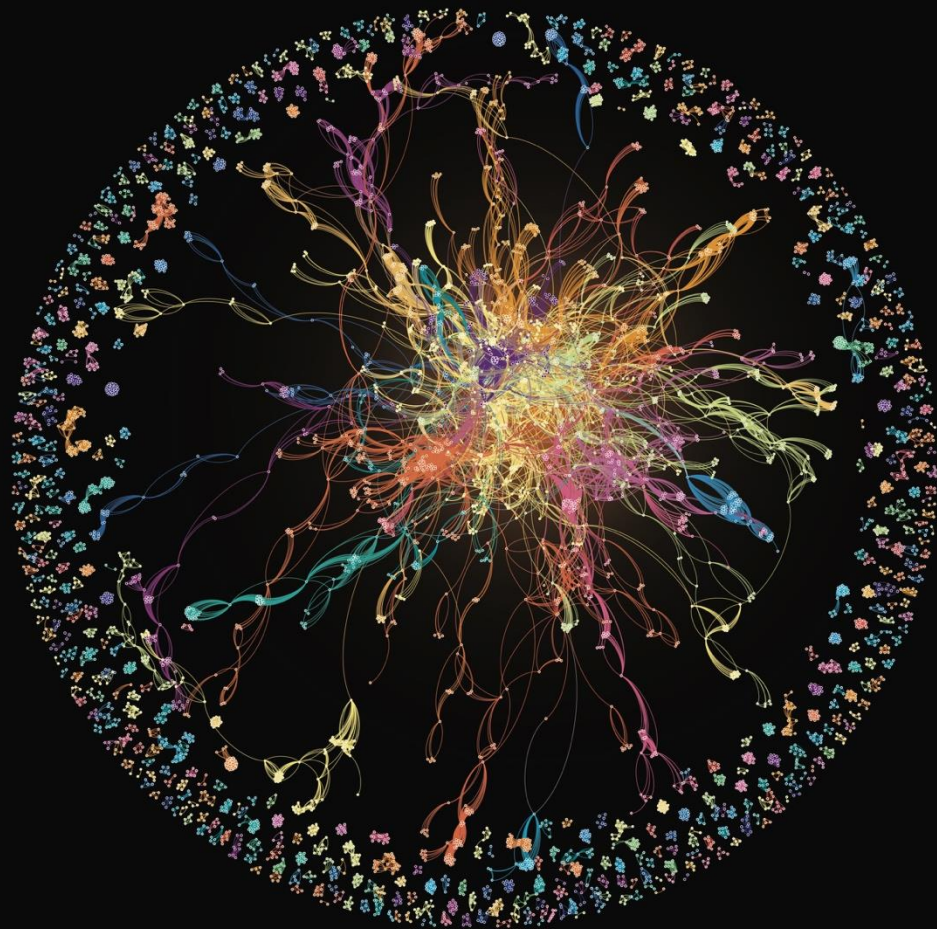






VR  
LITHIUM

Deep Purple  
Smoke On The Water  
091071996  
Auditorium Stravinski  
nina



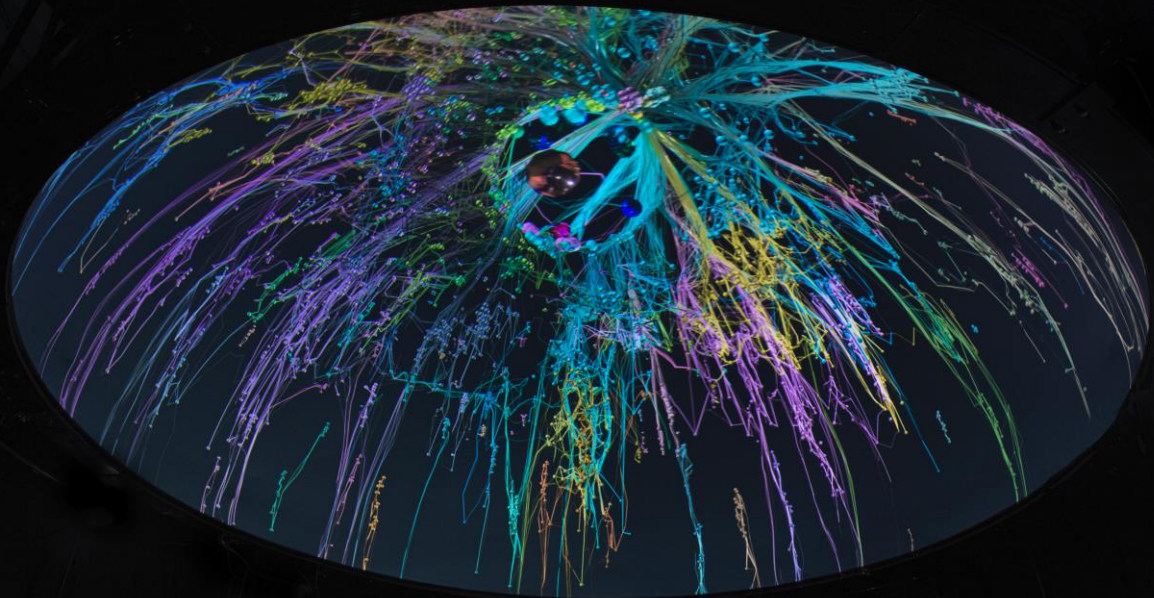




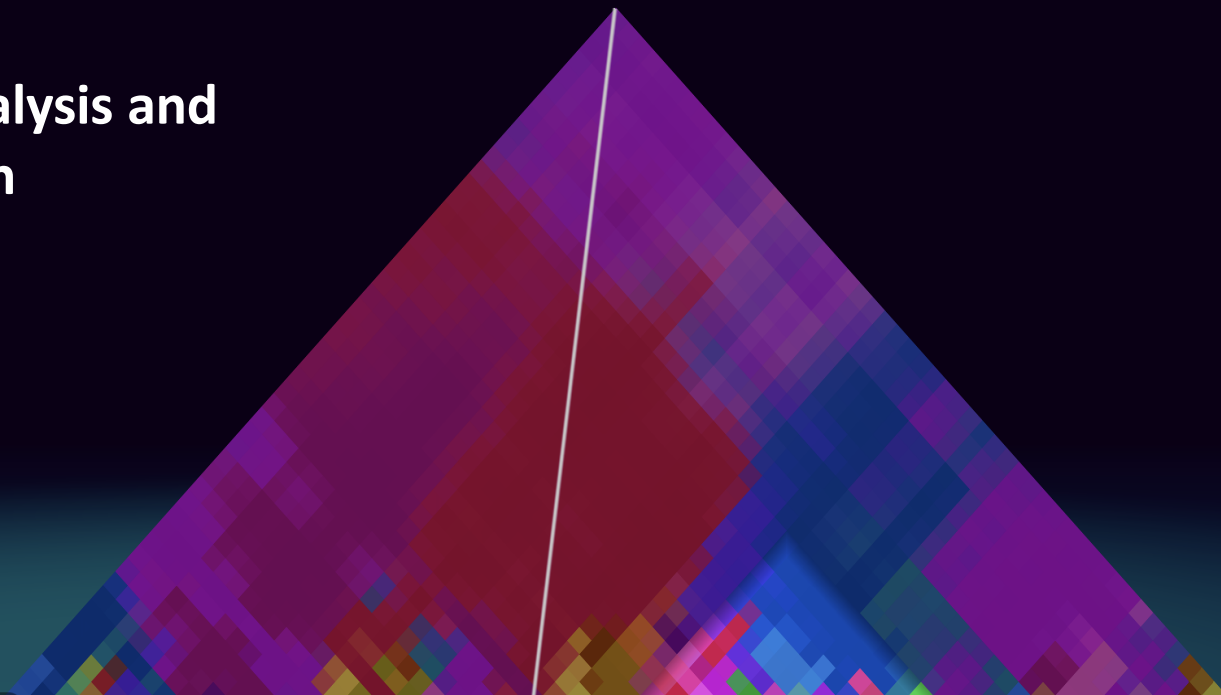
### Winged drones

Winged drones are a type of unmanned aircraft that can fly like a bird. They are often used for surveillance, reconnaissance, and military operations. They are also being used for civilian purposes, such as delivery and search and rescue.





# Musical Analysis and visualization



Michel Petrucciani, Jim Hall and Wayne  
Shorter  
Limbo

Keyscale

shuffle

f



00:00:00



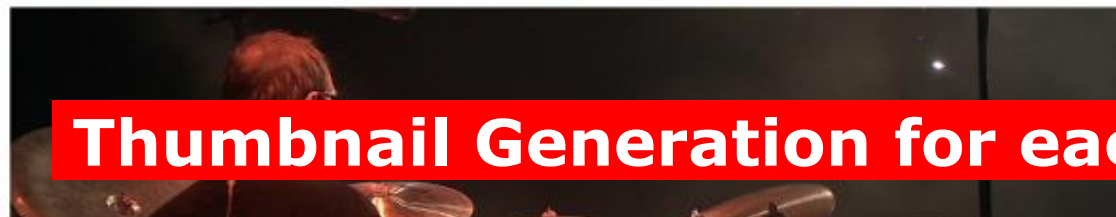


Archive

Lo

La  
me  
to





**Thumbnail Generation for each Song – IVRL lab**

# MONTREUX JAZZ

## ODYSSEY

JOUER

RÉGLAGES

QUITTER





# LIVING ARCHIVE

## RESEARCH GROUP

EDHEA, Ecole de Design et Haute Ecole d'Art du Valais  
Uni Genève, Centre Interdisciplinaire de Sciences Affectives  
ZHdK, Artists in Lab  
EPFL

<https://livingarchivegroup.org>



# Sound Choregraphy



# Wikimedia-CH GLAM on Tour in Montreux, November 2022





---

# MONTREUX JAZZ MEMORIES

---



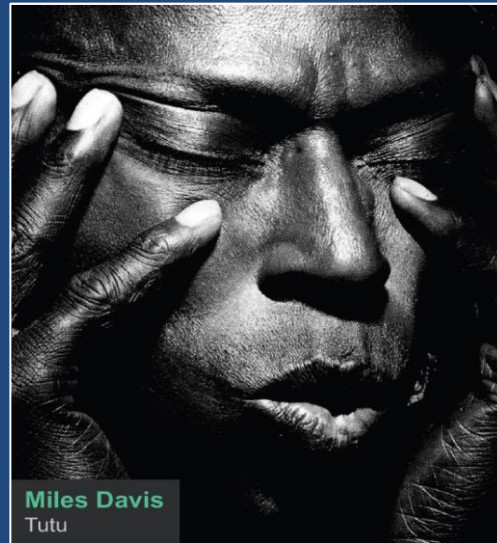


MONTREUX  
JAZZ  
MEMORIES



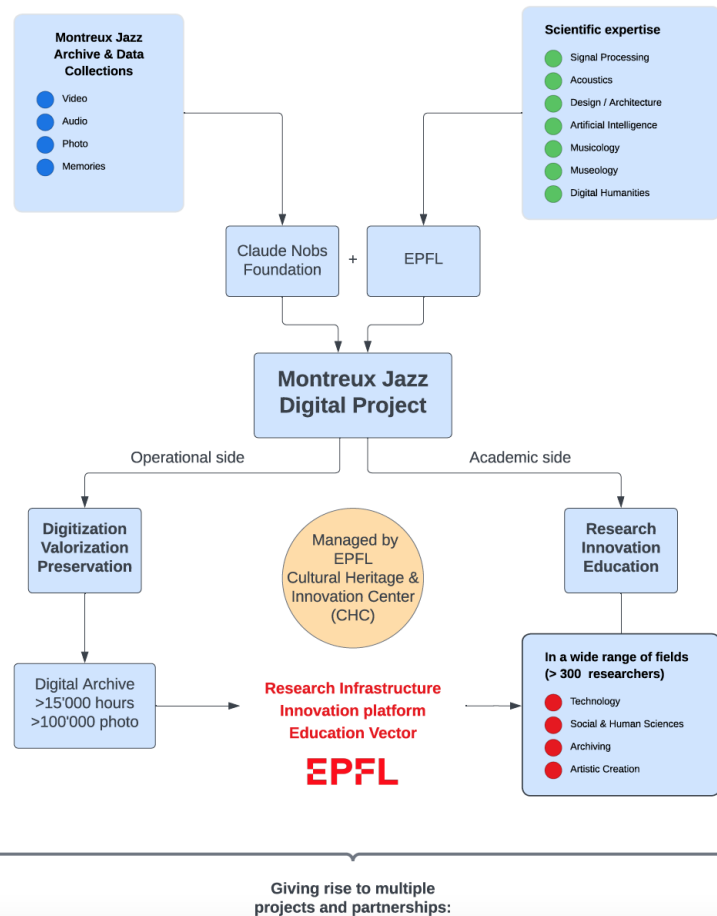
# Long-Term Storage on Synthetic DNA

Iconic Performances of Deep Purple and Miles Davis at Montreux stored on DNA for the first time in September 2017



# CHC Platform

# Concept





## Cultural Heritage & Innovation Center (CHC)

---

How research and innovation can  
help digitize, preserve and add value  
to cultural heritage

Extending the concept  
to other collections



EPFL  
ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE  
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE



EPFL



verbierfestival

((echo))

verbierfestival

en partenariat avec l'EPFL



# MARTIN T:SON ENGSTRÖM

Creation of the  
festival in 1994



## A world unique collection

**Audio** : 30 years of concert recordings : 3'000 hours - 100 TB

**Video** : Professional recordings from 2007: 1000 hours – 100 TB

**Pictures** : + 150'000 artistic shots





Ludwig Van Beethoven, Symphony  
No. 3 in E-Flat Major, Op. 55 "Eroica"



Verbier Festival Chamber  
Orchestra, 2014,  
Conducted by  
Gábor Takács-Nagy







# High Fidelity Digitization

- Digitization in uncompressed or native digital format
- Storage on 3 copies: 1x Active Archive + 2x LTOs tapes
- MD5 Digital signature



Original  
Master tape

digitization



EPFL S3 Active Archive server



EPFL Storage



Cold storage

LTO tapes

# Archive formats

- Uncompressed (level I)
- Broadcast (level II)
- High Quality previews (level III)
- Lower quality version for PC screens
- Protected previews (with time-code)

# Security

---

## Data:

- Preservation strategy → Uncompressed data
- Storage Policy → 3 copies: 1x private server + 2x cold
- IT aspects
  - Private network for media files
  - Controlled access to metadata

## Authors' rights:

- Access to researchers → under contract + personal NDAs
- Public platforms → involving kiosk software

Migration on-going, to EPFL central storage units + private server



# Emergencies / Critical aspects

Most often :

- Public platforms failing (Montreux Jazz Café)  
→ hardware or software issues to be solved

Most critical :

- Discovering original supports in bad shapes (→ check CD-Rs !)
- Discovering problems with LTOs (→ re-read just after writing!)

Most sensitive :

- Live archiving during the Montreux Jazz Festival
- Data storage migration (LTO, IT network re-configuration)

# Strategy

## Redundancies !!

- Copies distributed on different types of supports
- Copies in different file formats
- Use of several approaches in parallel
- Several ways for the signals / file transfers
- Backups and hardware twins (power plug, PCs, ...)
- Overlapped competences in team members

Thank you !



MONTREUX JAZZ CAFÉ @ EPFL