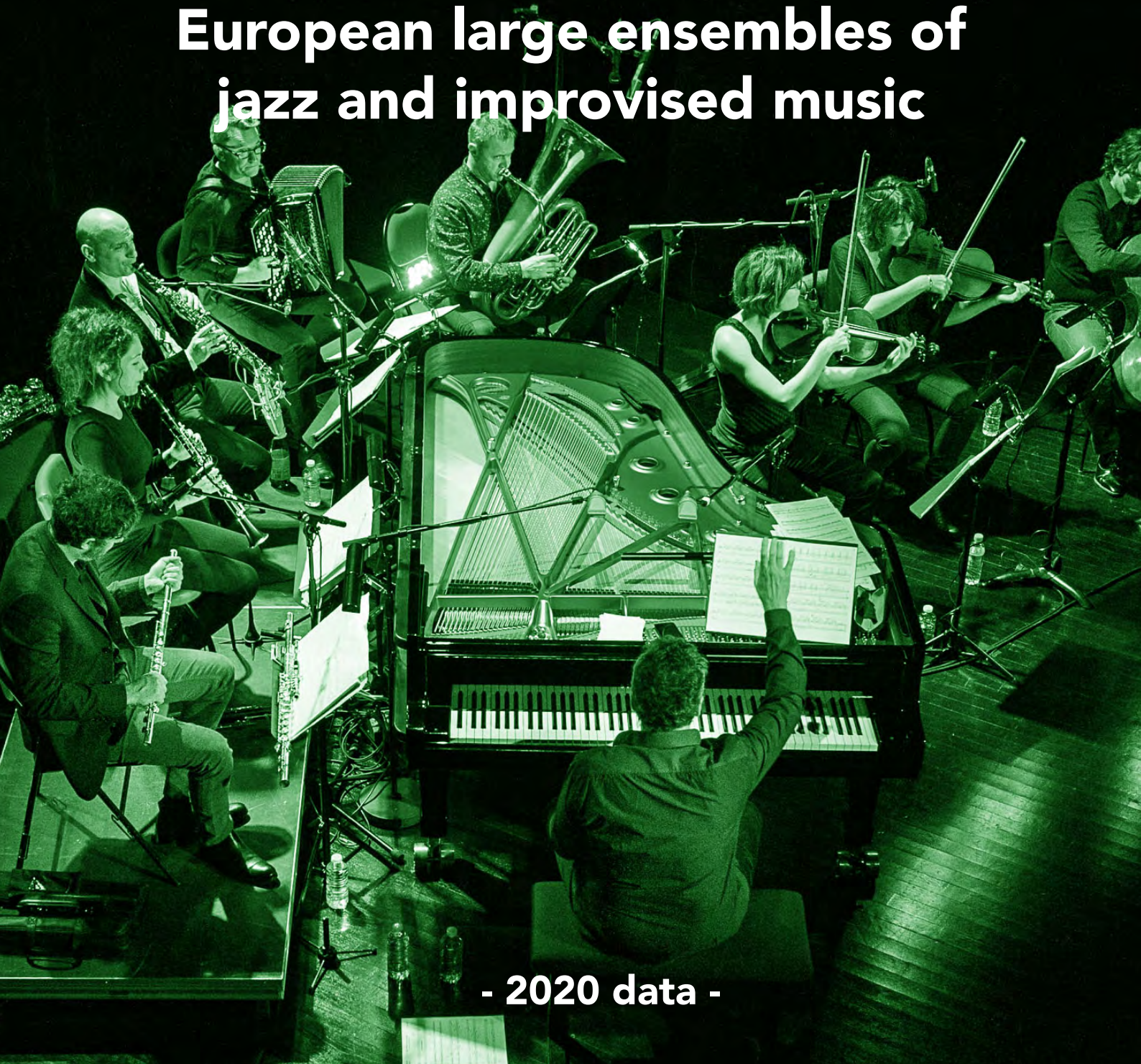


COVID - 19

Impact of Covid-19 crisis on European large ensembles of jazz and improvised music



- 2020 data -

A survey realized by *Think Big!*
European network of large ensembles of jazz and
improvised music

THINK BIG!

In Spring 2018, the French federation Grands Formats launched *Think Big!*, European network of large ensembles of jazz and improvised music, around a dozen ensembles from five different countries : Germany, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland and the United Kingdoms.

This network aims at:

- Bringing together artists from all over Europe in a spirit of exchange and solidarity
- Developing collective endeavours to strengthen the outreach and visibility of music performed in large ensembles
- Encouraging the circulation of artists and new artistic collaborations
- Making the voice of artists heard in debates regarding culture at the European level

The ensembles involved in the network keep in touch throughout the year to exchange information, resources, and develop communication tools to raise awareness for large ensembles music at a European scale. They regularly discuss the projects they have in common, exchange data to demonstrate how large ensembles operate, and clarify the situation of artists in Europe.

METHODOLOGY

These data are related to the activity of ten large ensembles which currently make up *Think Big!*, European network of large ensembles of jazz and improvised music. Members are based in Germany, Belgium, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

These data were collected as part of a survey this summer and an update was carried out at the beginning of December 2020 in order to have more recent data on key elements.

Without being exhaustive on this subject, these results reveal the main difficulties encountered by large ensembles and artists.

More information [about the network *Think Big!* here.](#)

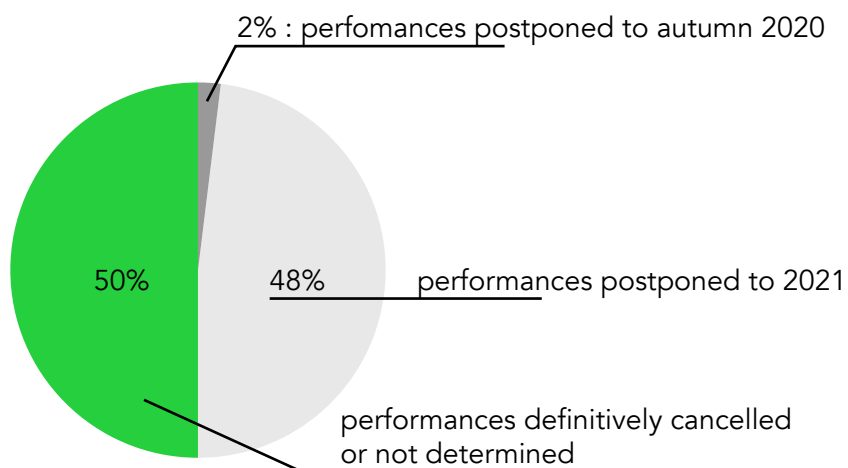
RESULTS

CANCELED ACTIVITIES :

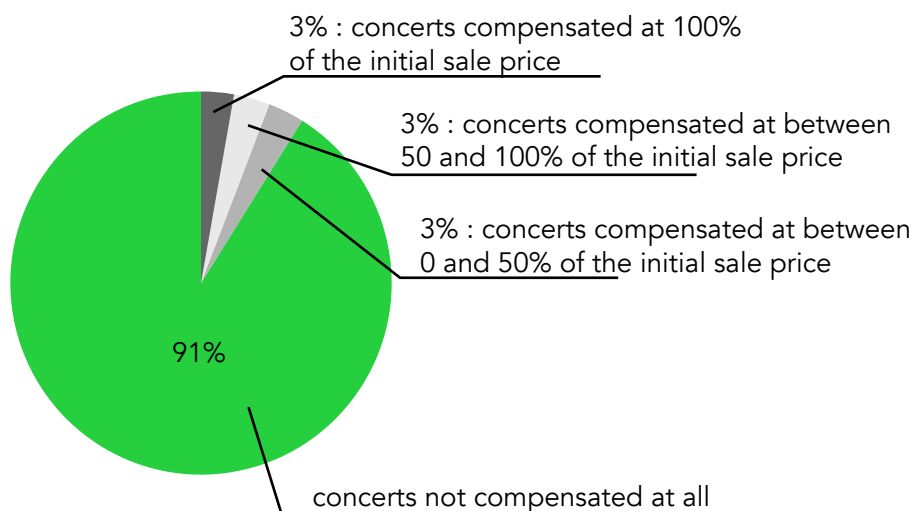
77% of rehearsals of large ensembles surveyed planned for 2020 have been cancelled.

85% of performances of large ensembles surveyed planned for 2020 have been cancelled.

PERFORMANCE POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS :



COMPENSATION :



RECORD RELEASES :

67% of record releases of large ensembles surveyed were cancelled.

UNCERTAINTY :

75% of the large ensembles surveyed have no clear idea of when their musical activities will resume in their country.

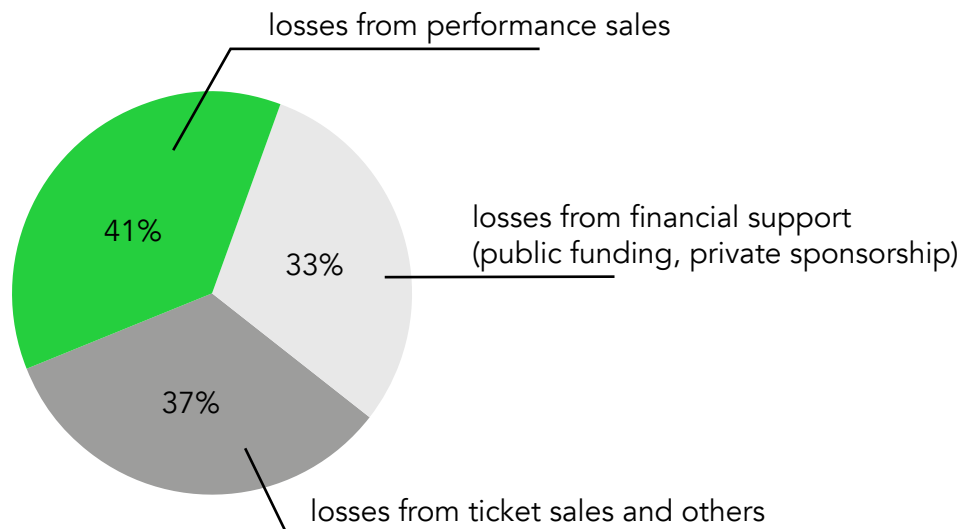
Where concerts are possible, large ensembles specify that the authorisations are theoretical, that this often does not concern the whole country and that the conditions imposed are very difficult to reconcile with the logistics of organising concerts. Moreover, the measures taken are constantly changing from one week to the next, making it virtually impossible to organise anything at all.

DOUBLE PENALTY FOR LARGE ENSEMBLES :

According to **88%** of large ensembles surveyed, the sanitary measures taken in cultural spaces (social distancing, wearing a mask...) are very difficult to adapt to activities of large groups.

FINANCIAL LOSSES :

50% of large ensembles surveyed estimate that their general budget will have a decrease of between **50 and 100%**.



LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES :

In July 2020, **83%** of large ensembles surveyed were already feeling the effects of the crisis on their 2021 activities. This was mainly characterised by postponement of concerts initially planned in 2021 to 2022 and by the cancellation of large ensemble concerts by programmers who don't want to take the risk due to sanitary measures.

The main problems encountered by the major jazz and improvised music ensembles in 2021 and 2022 will be :

- The lack of foreseeability concerning the revival and how it will work, which affects the activity initially planned in 2021 and 2022
- The lack of foreseeability regarding the means of revival, in particular for the large ensembles whose number of musicians is identified by the programmers as a problem related to the physical distancing measures to be implemented and about which many unknowns remain concerning the propagation of the virus (numerous wind instruments and singers in the large ensembles),
- The absence of the prospect of broadcasting because of the «traffic jams» created by the many reports, accentuated by the cancellation of trade fairs and informal meetings between artistic teams and promoters,
- The absence of prospects for record releases due to the «traffic jams» created by the numerous postponements,
- The cancellation of options or dates currently being contracted, amplified by the cancellation or postponement of orders and creative residencies,
- The difficulty in finding co-producers for new projects,
- The absence of financial prospects for the organisations carrying the projects,
- The drop in concert fees.

The members also report the obligation facing them to redirect their activities in order to survive and adapt.

THINK BIG!

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