

TRAVEL

The world's best music festivals for 2018 travelers

Time your next vacation to a world-class music festival in a coveted destination.

By **SHIVANI VORA** and **JESSICA COLLEY CLARKE** *New York Times* |

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Stevie Wonder performed during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in 2017.

Where will the sounds of music take travelers in 2018? The destination may depend on your favorite song, but whether that means jazz, Afropunk, rock or another rhythm entirely, there's definitely a place to go.

- For blues fans, the [Tremblant International Blues Festival](#) (July 6-15) in the village of Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in a big way. The 10 days of festivities will include more than 100 indoor and outdoor concerts — most of them free — from both blues legends and emerging musicians from around the world (blues.tremblant.ca/en).

- Despite the name, it's not only about jazz: The music and cultural party known as the [New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival](#) (April 27 to May 6) is going all out for the Big Easy's Tricentennial in 2018 with performances from more than 500 bands, playing virtually every style of music ([nojazzfest.com](#)).
- It's also a big year — the 60th, to be exact — for [Festival di Spoleto](#) (June 29 to July 15) in Spoleto, part of Italy's Umbria region. The event includes more than 100 classical and opera concerts at venues throughout town ([festivaldispoleto.com](#)).
- If moving to rock is more your speed, head to Ireland for the annual concert at the 18th-century [Slane Castle](#) (May), north of Dublin and home to a whiskey distillery, Slane Irish Whiskey. Guns N' Roses performed in 2017. ([slanecastle.ie/concerts](#)).
- The dancing is sure to be as much fun at Vivid Music, part of the 10th annual [Vivid Sydney](#) (May 25 to June 16), a festival dedicated to light, music and ideas. The vibrant contemporary music showcases artists known for breaking the mold — Björk, Anohni, Morrissey and Lauryn Hill have performed in previous years ([vivid Sydney.com](#)).
- From contemporary tunes to more traditional ones: [Celtic Connections](#) (Jan. 18 to Feb. 4) in Glasgow is turning 25 this year and will fill the Scottish city with not only Celtic music for two weeks, but folk, jazz and fusion tunes, too ([celticconnections.com](#)).
- There's celebrating a big anniversary, and then there's celebrating diversity: The [Afropunk Festival](#) (December) in Johannesburg, South Africa, celebrates the latter and is a two-day event to honor equality for people of all races, colors, creeds and genders ([afropunkfest.com/johannesburg](#)).

- Yes, there really is a music festival in the middle of a rain forest: The [Rainforest World Music Festival](#) (July 13-15) in Sarawak, Malaysia, in the heart of the Borneo jungle and in its 20th year, draws more than 20,000 attendees ([rwmf.net](#)).
- Music fans may want to visit Utah for the [Moab Music Festival](#) (Aug. 27 to Sept. 13), where jazz and classical music concerts are set among the region's renowned red rock formations ([moabmusicfest.org](#)).
- At the [Bach Festival](#) (June 8-17) in Leipzig, Germany, concerts are held in 40 venues across the city ([bachfestleipzig.de/en/bachfest](#)).