



World Club Dome Takes The Lead

By Gideon Gottfried

STEVE AOKI LIGHTS UP Commerzbank Arena in Frankfurt during last year's World Club Dome.

German promoter Bernd Breiter of BigCityBeats is on a roll. Since launching flagship festival World Club Dome in 2013, the brand has been on a meteoric rise – or, should we say, a stratospheric one, given that one of the many WCD spinoffs takes place on a Zero-G plane.

But first things first: the original World Club Dome is happening at Commerzbank Arena in Frankfurt, Germany. Every year, Breiter gathers notable figures of the electronic music world and beyond and puts them on some 25 stages spread across a total dance area encompassing 700,000 square meters in the stadium and its surroundings. The 2019 edition, which occurred June 7–9, sold a record 180,000 tickets and grossed \$21,967,797, which places WCD atop this year's Magna Charta.

Breiter originally founded BigCityBeats as a radio station in 2004, and the first World Club Dome in Frankfurt was organized in celebration of the station's ninth anniversary. His knack for creating special events earned the BigCityBeats founder an investment from Beyond Capital Partners, which acquired a 51-percent stake in the company in 2018. WCD spinoffs include the WCD Pool Sessions at Frankfurt's Stadionbad, the WCD Island Edition in Malta and the WCD Winter Edition at Düsseldorf's Merkur Spiel-Arena.

Last year, BigCityBeats hosted an intimate gathering at the Jungfrauoch in the Bernese Alps, where the company converted the highest railway station in Europe into a 100-capacity club, as well as the second edition of its aforementioned Zero-G event, where DJs and guests boarded and danced on a special plane that simulated weightlessness by flying in a parabola.

Pinkpop, last year's leader in the Magna Charta festival ranking, is this year's runner-up. The festival's 50th edition in 2019, which featured a lineup including Mumford & Sons, The Cure, Fleetwood Mac, Soham De, Nada Adjoa, David Keenan, Syml, Laura-Mary Carter, Indian Askin and more, sold 80,500 tickets and grossed \$13,258,063.

Coming in third and fourth are FKP Scorpio's flagship German festivals Hurricane and Southside. With a lineup that included Foo Fighters, The Cure, Interpol, Christine And The Queens and many more, both events contributed to the most profitable weekend in company history – a weekend where it also promoted Ed Sheeran's biggest solo concerts yet at Hockenheimring, elsewhere in Germany. All in all, the company turned over close to \$57 million that weekend. FKP will launch Limestone Festival, a second event in South Germany, at Moosburger See this June, where Post Malone will stage his only German concert of 2020. ★

magna charta **EURO** TOP 25 FESTIVALS

1	\$21,967,797	World Club Dome	Frankfurt, GERMANY
2	\$13,258,063	Pinkpop	Landgraaf, NETHERLANDS
3	\$11,928,743	Southside Festival	Neuhausen ob Eck, GERMANY
4	\$11,384,729	Hurricane Festival	Scheessel, GERMANY
5	\$11,256,080	Paleo Festival	Nyon, SWITZERLAND
6	\$8,659,817	Longitude	Dublin, IRELAND
7	\$8,239,636	TRNSMT	Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM
8	\$5,949,263	95.8 Capital FM Summertime Ball	London, UNITED KINGDOM
9	\$5,493,944	Werchter Classic	Werchter, BELGIUM
10	\$5,185,822	Glasgow Summer Sessions	Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM
11	\$3,031,888	Oktoberfest Frankfurt	Frankfurt, GERMANY
12	\$3,021,193	Montreux Jazz Festival	Montreux, SWITZERLAND
13	\$2,827,959	Summer In The City Dublin	Dublin, IRELAND
14	\$2,537,558	Edinburgh Summer Sessions	Edinburgh, UNITED KINGDOM
15	\$2,341,562	Lucca Summer Festival	Lucca, ITALY
16	\$2,305,118	Highfield Festival	Grosspoesna, GERMANY
17	\$2,294,803	Independence Music Festival	Cork, IRELAND
18	\$2,246,875	Life Festival	Mullingar, IRELAND
19	\$2,092,424	VOA Heavy Rock Fest	Lisbon, PORTUGAL
20	\$1,938,471	Belfast Vital	Belfast, UNITED KINGDOM
21	\$1,829,299	Schlagerfestival	Hasselt, BELGIUM
22	\$1,795,948	Country 2 Country Festival	Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM
23	\$1,647,427	Night Of The Proms	Cologne, GERMANY
24	\$1,536,894	Sea Sessions	Donegal, IRELAND
25	\$1,516,704	Country 2 Country Festival	Dublin, IRELAND

All figures are for tickets sold in Europe as reported to **POLLSTAR** for shows played between 2/1/19 and 1/31/20.