

The 54th Manawatu International Jazz and Blues Festival 2021

May 28 - June 07, 2021

Friday May 28 7.30pm

Jazz on your Feet” Swing Dance with MJC Big Swing Band

Aqaba Restaurant & Bar, 186 Broadway, Palmerston North \$10 (Doors sales only) Cash Bar

Saturday / Sunday May 29 & 30

Fielding Cafe Scene 11am – Late

Free live Jazz in venues around Town Centre

Tuesday June 01 8.00pm - Dave Wilson Quintet + String Quartet

Dave Wilson presents his latest project of original music featuring his performance on tenor saxophone and bass clarinet in an ensemble joining his quintet with a string quartet. Growing up in the Chicago area, building his career in Los Angeles, and working as a performer and researcher in eastern Europe, Dave's music flows out of his experience in styles of jazz, popular music, and beyond. During his doctoral studies at UCLA, Dave studied under the mentorship of legendary jazz composer and flutist James Newton, and recorded three albums *On the Face Place* (with North Macedonia group CSPA Ensemble, 2016), *In Passing* (with oud player Gabe Lavin, 2017), and *SLANT* (with classical improviser-pianist Richard Valitutto, 2019).

Drawing on bebop, modal jazz, the blues, the *maqam* traditions of the Middle East, and more, this project brings together some of Aotearoa's leading musicians in an improvising ensemble, including Callum Allardice (guitar), Chris Beernink (bass), Hikurangi Schaverien-Kaa (drums), Mike Taylor (trumpet), and a string quartet led by Amy Brookman (violin) of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. The multifaceted musical experiences of these musicians come together in the Quintet + Quartet, generating a sound inspired by musicians from Elis Regina to Eric Dolphy, from John Coltrane to Umm Kulthum.

TICKET PRICE: ADULT \$32.00 JAZZ CLUB \$26.00 STUDENTS\$22.00

Wednesday June 02 8.00pm - Kevin Downing's 101 Lab Band

Always a popular concert for the Manawatu Jazz & Blues Feature.

The 101 Lab Band is a 17-piece guitar orchestra run by Kevin Downing who is an internationally recognised guitar education specialist. The band plays a mixture of jazz and blues and has a reputation for backing some of the world's greatest jazz and blues guitar players and singers. Some of the tunes being played are also written by Grammy nominated artists especially for the band.

The band has been running for 32 years and has propelled many players coming through it into successful professional careers in music. This band is a one of its kind in New Zealand, and all the players in the band are current students or teachers at Kevin's guitar school in Palmerston North.

Special Guest: TBA

TICKET PRICE: ADULT \$28.00 JAZZ CLUB \$22.00 STUDENT \$20.00

Thursday June 03 8.00pm - THE JAC

The Jac is back! A year on from the COVID-enforced online release of their third studio album 'A Gathering', the high-octane modern jazz octet is reforming in 2021 to tour Aotearoa once again, with a follow up album: 'Walking Spirits'!

Featuring material from The Jac's 2017 collaboration with Korean quartet Black String, plus a swathe of brand new original compositions, these albums represent a milestone in their sound. Recorded at Roundhead Studios in Auckland, they are a beautifully produced capture of a band at the height of its powers, showcasing their intricate and immersive compositions, tight ensemble playing and assertive, individual improvising voices.

'Tūi', one of the titles from 'A Gathering', was awarded the APRA NZ Best Jazz Composition award in 2020. The Jac has performed the music for no less than 5 other winners and nominees of the same award since 2014. They have headlined the Wellington Jazz Festival and featured in the Jarasum International Jazz Festival (KOR), Bukchon Music Festival (KOR), National Jazz and Blues Festival (NZ) and performed throughout Aotearoa, Australia and South Korea.

Described as being "on par with any global contemporary jazz bands (The Jac) is an exquisite slice of NZ jazz and one that deserves to be heard", the band also features musicians bringing influences and expertise from outside the jazz spectrum.

Notable among these are Wellington jazz stalwarts Jake Baxendale, Chris Buckland (saxophones) (who hails from Palmerston North), Callum Allardice (guitar), Nick Tipping (bass) and Shaun Anderson (drums) are joined by the NZSO's Matthew Allison (trombone) plus special guests Daniel Hayles (piano) and Michael Taylor (trumpet) for this very special concert as part of the 2021 Manawatu International Jazz & Blues Festival

"It is all too rare to see such configurations in New Zealand and I wish more would surface."

This is a band that commands your attention, with catchy melodies, rich harmonies, and driving grooves. The tunes are designed to take you on a journey; the long form, almost through-composed arrangements seamlessly weaving from the organised to the improvised and back again.

TICKET PRICE: ADULT \$32.00 JAZZ CLUB \$26.00 STUDENTS\$22.00

Friday June 04 - Blues Night – The Flaming Mudcats

Formed in 2009, The Flaming Mudcats are fronted by Craig Bracken on vocals and harmonica along with guitarist Doug Bygrave, while bassist Johnny Yu and drummer Ian Thomson form the tight rhythm section. Regarded among the country's premier Blues outfits, they have released three albums, performed in festivals and clubs around New Zealand as well as Australia, the Pacific

Islands and remarkably taken their Blues back to its source.... the US.

The band played twice at the Crossroads Blues Festival in Illinois, alongside the likes of Lil Ed and The Blues Imperials and Tad Robinson. They also played in Austin, Texas and at two of Chicago's oldest and most iconic clubs, Kingston Mines and B.L.U.E.S. the pure beating heart of Chicago Blues.

Their energetic sets blend original material and covers drawn from their eclectic influences. Killer grooves, blazing licks and harp wizardry. Dance your socks off to butt-shaking beltors, soulful grinders with everything in between ... welcome to the Flaming Mudcats show.

Meet The Band.

Craig Bracken. Vocals / Harmonica / Saxophone

Craig began playing harmonica in the late 80's after hearing some of the greats like Little Walter, William Clarke and Junior Parker. Prior to becoming a Mudcat in 2008. According to Craig who writes a lot of the band's material "It's all about the groove", and his playing can also be heard on several TV ads and guest tracks on other albums.

Doug Bygrave. Guitar

Back in the 80's, Doug hosted a university Blues radio show. On one occasion he rang and chatted on air with his hero, Jimmie Vaughan (Stevie's older brother.) So inspired, Doug headed off to Texas to catch up with Jimmie and meet some of the great blues guitar slingers around Austin at the time. These experiences forever shaped and forged Doug's inventive playing style and tone, the all-important rhythm / lead guitar Mudcat sound.

Ian Thomson. Drums

Ian began his long drumming career back in High School "in the 60s" and played in several notable Auckland Blues and Roots bands over the years. "Blues is really the only music I ever wanted to play, especially after hearing that first Paul Butterfield album. Ian enjoys being in the "Engine Room" holding down those shuffle and swing grooves with Johnny, preferring to leave the fancy stuff to the guys out front.

Johnny Yu. Bass / Vocals

Born and raised in Hawaii, musically educated in San Francisco, Johnny joined the Flaming Mudcats in late 2017 after moving his family to Auckland. He has performed, recorded and toured internationally with several Californian bands and artists including Daniel Castro. Johnny's driving bass playing and vocal harmonies, has provided a new dynamic to the band, as can be heard on the band's latest album "Cut Loose."

"I'm so pleased to be playing with these guys. We're having so much fun writing and performing our songs.

TICKET PRICE: ADULT \$32.00 JAZZ CLUB \$26.00 STUDENTS\$22.00

Saturday Jun 05 8.00pm - Jazz Gala

"Frank meets Peggy" is the working title for a new project which involves the writing, arranging, producing and staging of a theatre show celebrating the songs of The Great American Songbook, seen through the eyes of three iconic artists from the era - Franks Sinatra and Miss Peggy Lee, accompanied by the sound of the Count Basie Orchestra. A show set in the grand era of a style of music that has never lost its lustre, woven together by a moving narrative, original musical arrangements, imagery and snapshots of the day.

Frank Sinatra - 'The Chairman of the Board', 'Ol' Blue Eyes', 'The Voice' defined the Great American songbook with songs like "Come Fly With Me", "That's Life", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "Mack the Knife", "I've Got the World on a String", "You Make Me Feel So Young", "My Way", "The Lady is a Tramp" and "New York New York".

You will hear all your favourite Sinatra tunes – brought to life through the outstanding talents of **Mr. Eugene Wolfin**.

Add to the mix, songs of the incomparable Miss Peggy Lee such as "Fever", "Love Me Or Leave Me", "Black Coffee", "Is That All There Is", "Manana" and "I Don't Know Enough About You".

Performed with love and affection by **Ms Erna Ferry**.

Accompanying these world-class vocalists is the sound of the Count Basie Orchestra, performed by New Zealand's own **Rodger Fox Big Band**.

TICKET PRICE: ADULT \$38.00 JAZZ CLUB \$28.00 STUDENTS\$22.00

Saturday June 05 9.30am – 3.30pm - High School Jazz Competition and Workshops.

This event is always well supported and will take the same tack as the 2020 event and will be presented used the Globe Theatre facility

Big Bands in Globe One and Combos in Globe Two.

Free Entry

Sunday June 06 2.00pm - Big Band Bash:

- Great Lake Big Band
- River City Big Band
- MJC Big Band
- Swamp City Big Band

TICKET PRICE: \$15.00

ALL CONCERTS TAKE AT THE GLOBE THEATRE – 312 MAIN STREET, PALMERSTON NORTH

TICKET BOOKINGS AT THE GLOBE THEATRE BOX OFFICE - [Phone: 06-351 4409](tel:06-351-4409)

FURTHER INFORMATION: MANAWATU JAZZ CLUB - WEBSITE www.mjc.org.nz

THE JAZZ CAFE SCENE - Artists to be Advised. (FREE ENTRY)

FEILDING: Saturday – Sunday May 29 & 30

PALMERSTON NORTH: Saturday June 05 – Sunday June 06 - Monday June 07