



Patron:
Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand
GNZM QSO KStJ

APRIL 2024

Meow Event Venue, 9 Edward St, Wellington
Members - \$20; Public - \$25; Students - \$5.

Sunday 21st April 2024, 5pm-7pm

HIP-TOWN BANGERS



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The musicians and sold-out audience at our March gig again demonstrated that the Wellington Jazz Club is in fine fettle. Our featured act, the *Liberty Swing Band*, displayed wonderfully tight ensemble playing with many big band favourites, especially from Count Basie's repertoire. As well as other old favourites such as Bye Bye Blackbird and Mack the Knife, the band ventured into interesting takes on some more modern numbers including three of my favourites – Smooth (Santana), Baker Street (Gerry Rafferty) and Moondance (Van Morrison). The last of these has become a real jazz standard and, of course, Van started out as an alto sax player! We had excellent vocals from Jo-Anne Gibbs and Caleb Tawa, while John Jones (Musical Director) led the band expertly.

The March gig also included our AGM which saw the following officers and committee members elected: Arthur Grimes (President), Graham Kelly (Vice-President), Michael Bain (Treasurer), Justine Croft (Secretary), Brian Vincent (Committee member), Nik Straugheir (Committee member), and Helen Thompson (Committee member). Helen has agreed to take on the Newsletter editing role - which has been so ably conducted by Brian Vincent for many years. Nik remains as joint gigs coordinator (with assistance from myself). I am immensely thankful to my predecessors as President over the past year – Justine Croft and Michael Bain – and to the rest of the committee, for ensuring that the club is now in such great shape. I also wish to thank our patron, The Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand for his entertaining address to the AGM (see later in the Newsletter).

BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG HIP-TOWN BANGERS

Our April gig features *Hip-Town Bangers*, a stand-out act from the 2023 Wellington Jazz Festival. The band, led by Ben Hunt (trumpet), will re-create Art Blakey's blues-soaked classic album, *The Big Beat*. Art Blakey (and the Jazz Messengers) recorded the album in 1960, with the band comprising Lee Morgan (trumpet), Wayne Shorter (saxophone), Bobby Timmons (piano), Jymie Merritt (bass) and Blakey on drums.

Ben Hunt is joined at Meow by an all-star line-up of Chris Buckland (tenor sax), Anita Schwabe (piano), Emma Hattaway (double bass) and Michael Jensen (drums). In 2022, Ben Hunt presented the *Kind of Blue* (Miles Davis) album recreation at the jazz club, with a similar lineup of musicians – a performance which then President Mike Bain described as “a brilliant performance”. If you missed their show at the last jazz festival, or if you missed their 2022 show, make sure you get along to Meow on 21 April – you will not be disappointed!

As always, I wish to thank Meow for hosting our gigs – it's a great space for jazz gigs. I encourage members to join Nick Tipping's distribution list that publicises upcoming jazz events; his email address is 'wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com'. I also encourage members to invite non-members along to gigs. Non-members can benefit by converting their (non-member) entry ticket for a gig to an initial free membership of the club for the remainder of the calendar year.

Please remember to book early for the April gig through Moshtix. There are some tickets available at the door each night, but these are sold on a first come, cash only, basis. I look forward to seeing you on 21 April at Meow.

Arthur Grimes

President

**SPEECH BY PATRON SIR ANAND SATYANAND TO THE AGM
17 MARCH 2024**

'Today, the 17th day of March is the 77th day of the year and St Patrick's Day as well as being the day for the AGM of the Wellington Jazz Club.

That provides, by convention, an opportunity for me as its current patron, to endorse the fine chemistry that our hard-working committee work at providing for our interest and enjoyment. Please join me in a suitable round of applause for Justine, Mike, Dr Arthur, Graham, Brian, Nick and Nik.

*The Jazz you all manage to identify here in Wellington is part of a stream caused more than marginally by the Great American Songbook, which, it has been said, works at offering hope of better days, helps build social bridges within our culture, and whistles beside us during times of economic growth. As was once said by jazz musician and bandleader (now 83) Herbie Hancock, the composer of *The Watermelon Man*, "Jazz is about being in the moment".*

To this can be added these warm hearted and quirky premises of the Meow Club and their staff which completes the picture.

Those then are my few words – to which I add the note of agreeing that there is something in the library stack of law books behind the stage which has one book upside down. I shall remedy that before leaving the stage!

Thank you for your kind attention.

Remember that a members' 10% discount is available at Music Works in Ghuznee St on production of Club Membership Card.

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2024

19 May – Nick Granville Quintet

Nick Granville - Guitar, Louisa Williamson -Saxophones,
Leonardo Coghini -Keyboards, Umar Zakaria - Bass, Mark
Lockett – Drums

16 June – Anita Schwabe and friends

21 July – Neil Billington and friends

18 August – Jess Deacon and band

Further details about each of these gigs will appear in
subsequent Newsletters.

FINDING OUT ABOUT WELLINGTON'S UPCOMING JAZZ GIGS

We encourage members to join Nick Tipping's distribution list to be informed about upcoming jazz events in Wellington. His email address is wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com

ENCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS

The Jazz Club is an excellent venue for entertaining friends and celebrating special events while enjoying some great jazz. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to come together and to support the excellent jazz musicians who are keen to perform for us. We would also like to see an increase in membership as it all helps to support live jazz in the Capital and keep the finest jazz musicians engaged. Members are encouraged to bring a guest to the gigs and invite them to join the Club to help keeping the live jazz ball bouncing along.

MEOW BOOKINGS - MOSHTIX

Meow uses booking service “Moshtix”.

Please go to <https://moshtix.co.nz> to make your bookings.

Those **members who do not have access to the Internet** can phone the Club Secretary Justine Croft on 021 239 9674 to make bookings, and then can pay by cash at the door.

Door sales (cash only) will normally be available, however members will need to take a chance with seating.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the Wellington Jazz Club (Inc.) complete this form, add payment, and return to:

Michael Bain
Treasurer, WJC (Inc.) 12 Albert Street, Island Bay, Wellington 6023.

Name(s)

Address:

Ph:

Email: ¹

Student \$10 (include photocopy of ID), Single \$25, Double \$35

Payment may be made direct to the Wellington Jazz Club
Account No. 030531 0533738 00 (confirmation of payment to
mgbain@xtra.co.nz).

¹ Newsletters are distributed by email.

THE WELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB (INC)

Patron	Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ	
Honorary Members:		
Terry Crayford	John Joyce	Rodger Fox
Kevin Clark	Paul Dyne	Colin Hemmingsen
Erna Ferry	Margaret Layton	
President	Arthur Grimes	027 248 9389
Secretary	Justine Croft wjcsec@outlook.co.nz	021 239 9674
Treasurer/Membership	Michael Bain	021 299 0785
Vice President	Graham Kelly	027 277 0069
Joint Gigs Manager	Nik Straugheir	021 297 2928
Joint Gigs Manager	Arthur Grimes	027 248 9389
Newsletter Editor	Helen Thompson	021 1370946
Committee Member	Brian Vincent	022 3530563
WJC Website	Nik Straugheir	wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz
Email information distribution	Nick Tipping	wgtmjazzclub@gmail.com



Art Blakey 11 October 1919 – 16 October 1990

Arthur Blakey was an American jazz drummer and bandleader. He was also known as Abdullah Ibn Buhaina after he converted to Islam for a short time in the late 1940s. He made a name for himself in the 1940s in the big bands of Fletcher Henderson and Billy Eckstine. He then worked with bebop musicians Thelonious Monk, Charlie Parker, and Dizzy Gillespie. In the 1950s Horace Silver and Blakey formed the Jazz Messengers, a group which he led for the next 35 years.

Blakey was inducted into the Down Beat Jazz Hall of Fame (in 1981). Posthumously, he was inducted into the Modern Drummer Hall of Fame in 1991 and the Grammy Hall of Fame (in 1998 and 2001). He was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005.