

# Wellington



*Patron:*

*Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand  
GNZM QSO KStJ*

**AUGUST 2024**

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

**Sunday 18th August 2024, 5pm-7pm**

**JESS DEACON & BAND**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We publicised Neil Billington as a virtuoso on harmonica, and he certainly delivered on that promise. Together with his five-piece band, Neil played a diverse – and fascinating – selection of jazz and blues. The numbers traversed jazz standards (Georgia on my Mind, Stardust, Comes Love), Latin numbers (including a wonderful Oye Como Va written by Tito Puente and made famous by Santana), Chicago blues standards (including Elmore James's The Sky is Crying), country blues (e.g. Sonny Boy Williamson's Your Funeral and My Trial) and some rock 'n roll (a great variant of Little Richard's Lucille). One interesting choice was Gary Moore's Still Got the Blues. It's a song that I have heard countless times, but I only learned at the gig that the song is written using the chords of Errol Garner's Autumn Leaves.

Not only was the selection diverse, but so too were Neil's harmonicas and harmonica styles. He used the standard 10-hole blues harp on most of the blues and rockier numbers, then switched to chromatic harmonica – regarded as one of the most difficult instruments to play – for most of the jazz standards. For those who haven't come across one, the chromatic harmonica has a slide that switches the instrument from a standard C major scale to a C# major scale, meaning that the sharps and flats have to be played by pressing in the slide. When playing at speed, as Neil did on many numbers, his slide had to work overtime! He even varied his chromatic harmonica styles, playing in styles pioneered by Larry Adler, then Toots Thielemans (perhaps the most famous of all chromatic harmonica players) and then playing octaves in the style of the Argentinian harmonica player, Hugo Diaz. Most players can master only one of these styles; Neil was a virtuoso in them all!

The band was also superb (though some audience members found the balance to be not quite right). Duncan Haynes played very tuneful and understated keyboards, Patrick Bleakley showed his usual musicality on bass, Nick Granville showed his

versatility with some fiery guitar work while Darren Mathiassen on drums was so energetic that Neil asked at one point “what are you on?!” The ability of the band to adjust to the varied musical styles was a tribute to them all.

As if that wasn’t enough, Cindy Muggeridge (on keyboards and vocals) joined Neil for a couple of beautiful duets. Neil also performed a duet with Duncan Haynes on keyboards, then performed a solo Sonny Boy Williamson number on harmonica and vocals. (Incidentally, Sonny Boy Williamson was a huge influence on the early-1960s British blues bloom playing with people such as a very young Eric Clapton, and heavily influencing John Mayall’s harmonica style).

To cap it off, the band played an encore in response to overwhelming demand, based on a track by Stevie Wonder (himself one of the world’s greatest chromatic harmonica players) ending with a stunning “train” rendition. It was a night for the full house to remember.

Our August gig features Jess Deacon, a superb vocalist who performed a handful of numbers in Geoff Culverwell’s gig last year. We were so impressed with her singing on that occasion that we invited her back to headline a show. We provide further details about her gig later in this newsletter.

Remember to invite non-members along to the gig; they can take advantage of our offer to convert their ticket to membership of the club for the remainder of 2024. Also, you can keep track of other jazz gigs around Wellington via Nick Tipping’s email list; just email him on [wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com](mailto:wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com) to be placed on his mailing list.

I look forward to seeing you at Jess Deacon’s gig on Sunday 18 August at Meow.

**Arthur Grimes**  
**President**

*PS: Two hours after I wrote this piece, I learned that John Mayall had just died. RIP John.*

**BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG**  
**JESS DEACON: 'Things Left Unsaid'**

*A collection of jazz standards with original lyrics and vocalese, and new music from Jess Deacon.*

Jess Deacon's love affair with music began at a young age, from watching her mother and aunty perform opera, jazz and musical theatre to working her way through her parents' eclectic collection of music. Her musical studies have included cello, piano, guitar, composition and jazz performance and she embodies influences from a variety of genres. Jess is most at home on stage as a vocalist, exploring the emotional ebbs and flows of life through song.

'Things Left Unsaid' is a collection of works that include jazz standards with original lyrics and vocalese written by Jess, as well as new music from Jess which uses the familiar 32-bar lead sheet as a structural foundation for expression of all kinds!

Themes throughout address particular things in life and love that we can all relate to. Things we're too afraid to say, and things we think others are thinking. Writing about the human experience and our connection to those around us is at the core of what Jess has become known for as a songwriter.

Jess will be accompanied by a stellar lineup of accomplished musicians, adorning the performance with their flair and flavour.

Duncan Haynes – Keys  
Jon Pirini – Guitar  
Seth Boy – Bass  
Baileigh Sparkes – Drums

*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

15 September	Duke Wellington
13 October	Crayfords play Crayfords
17 November	Erna Ferry

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](mailto: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: <sup>1</sup> .....

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](mailto:mgbain@xtra.co.nz)).

**<sup>1</sup> Newsletters are distributed by email.**

## THE WELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB (INC)

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



Seth Boy – Bass



Baileigh Sparkes – Drums



Duncan Haynes – Keys



Jon Pirini – Guitar