

Wellington



Patron:

*Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand
GNZM QSO KStJ*

FEBRUARY 2025

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

Sunday 16 February 2025, 5pm-7pm

DAVID FEEHAN & BAND



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We enjoyed a superb ending to 2024 with outstanding gigs in November and December. The two gigs contrasted wonderfully to showcase the many facets of jazz.

Erna Ferry headed an eight-piece all-star lineup in November with a hugely varied repertoire. The gig began with songs released by Ella Fitzgerald (Miss Otis Regrets, Cheek to Cheek). Erna continued with songs recorded on her first album with (the much missed) Rodger Fox, including Devil May Care, I'm Walkin' (a great Fats Domino number) and Out of My Continental Mind.

There was a strong Peggy Lee influence with songs including Hallelujah I Love Him So, Why Don't You do Right (which Peggy released with Benny Goodman) and, of course, Fever. The instrumentals by Oscar Lavén (tenor sax) and Nick Granville (guitar) on Fever were superb.

The first set closed with jazz arrangements of three Beatles numbers - Get Back, I Feel Fine (together with Lee Morgan's Sidewinder) and Drive my Car – plus a Rolling Stones classic, Honky Tonk Woman. This last song features on Rodger Fox's terrific final album, The Rodger Fox Big Band Live in New York – a stunning album of big band jazz with Rodger and Erna at their finest.

The second set continued with some great jazz standards: Duke Ellington's Do Nothin' till You Hear From Me (based on Carmen McRae's beautiful version), Billie's Blues (Billie Holiday), Baby Get Lost (Dinah Washington), and How High the Moon (Ella Fitzgerald). The last of these pieces even featured an interlude from Charlie Parker's Ornithology. The set also included Darlin' You Know I Love You (recorded by Tina Turner amongst others) and finished with a steaming Jump Jive and Wail (Louis Prima).

Erna's band was on fire all night, featuring Lance Philip (drums), Nick Granville (guitar), Rory Macartney (bass), Dan Hayles (keyboards), Oscar Lavén (tenor sax and clarinet), Cameron

Robinson (trumpet) and Kaito Whalley (trombone). Erna and the band received a standing ovation at the end.

In December, we were just as privileged to hear Brian Kelly and the New Orleans Joy Makers, a seven-piece Dixieland band that we flew down especially from Auckland. And, boy, was the trip worth it!

Brian led the band superbly. The playing was tight and displayed great technique while also showing considerable panache. The age range of the band spanned seven decades with Merv Thomas (trombone and vocals) and Mike Walker (piano) being the senior members, and George Brakovich (drums) and Jessie Douglas (banjo/guitar) at the other end of the spectrum. Carlos Palmer (clarinet) and Will Goodinson (double bass) completed the lineup. Being a sometime clarinet player myself, I was particularly taken with Carlos's beautiful tone on the instrument.

Dixieland favourites included: Wabash Blues, St James Infirmary, The Weary Blues, South Rampart Street Parade, The Original Dixieland One-Step and High Society. The 1960s dixie revival was highlighted with Kenny Ball's Midnight in Moscow. Other genres included ragtime (Scott Joplin's Maple Leaf Rag), an early Duke Ellington number (The Mooche), Mama's Gone Goodbye (made famous by Peggy Lee) and Irving Berlin's All by Myself.

Several of the numbers, including All by Myself, featured Merv Thomas on vocals. Talk about style! He showed real flair and enjoyment in his singing which was reciprocated by huge ovations from the audience. Merv has lost none of his showmanship over the last 60 years!

These two fabulous gigs brought our 2024 programme to an end. Your committee has been delighted to bring such a varied programme of incredibly high standard jazz to you over the year. Members have turned out in large numbers to hear the bands we have been able to bring you and have clearly loved the performances. We look forward to bringing you another superb

programme in 2025, starting with jazz icon **David Feehan (and his band) on Sunday 16 February.**

Keep a lookout for your membership renewal call in the new year and look to bring some friends and family (or even complete strangers!) along to our gigs so they can join and keep the club rolling along in such good heart.

Arthur Grimes
President

<p style="text-align: center;">BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG DAVID FEEHAN & BAND</p>

Heavily involved in the music industry since the age of seven and over nearly seven decades since, David has contributed hugely to the New Zealand and international music scene.

From Church and School Choirs, New Zealand Opera Company, Rock Bands and 25 Years as the lead vocalist in Rodger Fox Big Band, through to international recording, song writer, vocal producer and session vocalist, David is one of New Zealand's most acclaimed male vocalists. He has been a vocal tutor at Whitireia Polytechnic and Massey University as well as teaching privately and has also held vocal workshops all over the country including soon to be, the 50th Singers' Concert which he has been running since 1998. He worked as a guest tutor with the prestigious Tuscany Music Project when they held their NZ clinic in Nelson in 2011 and has attended the Project course in Italy twice, and studied and performed in New York, Havana and San Diego. The top young jazz vocalist prize at the Tauranga Jazz Festival, is the David Feehan Trophy; such is his mana as a jazz singer/tutor in NZ.

His style varies from jazz rock to R&B, to soul to wonderful versions of jazz standards, besides playing Jesus in the acclaimed "Jesus Christ Superstar". He has sung with some amazing world artists (Buena Vista Social Club, Jon Papenbrook, Greg Bisonette and Bill Reichenbach spring to mind) and has

performed at places like Ronnie Scotts in London and the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland (twice) as well as touring throughout the world in places like Poland, Canada, USA, UK, Mexico, China and Cuba. David's fourth album, "Quatro" and his fifth, "5" both made the NZ album charts, "5" reaching number ten which David released to commemorate his 70th birthday, and he is in the middle of recording two albums now one of which will be a jazz album, the other mostly originals.

For this concert David has halved his normal large band and has gone for a stripped back sound with the emphasis on some great jazz favourites with a few tributes thrown in and featuring a couple of his students as well.

Personnel are as follows:

Greg Crayford (Drums)	Chris Selley Trumpet/Flugelhorn and EWI
Andre Paris (Saxes)	Paul Mouncey Bass
Aslan (Guitar)	Guests: Dawn Elder & Sonia Mani Vocals

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2025

16 March	Fiona Pears/Andrew London
13 April	Norman Meehan & Paul Dyne

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

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, **for February and March 2025 bookings only.**

CHANGE TO PHONE BOOKINGS AS FROM APRIL 2025

At the last committee meeting for the year and with the resignation of our much-valued Club Secretary Justine Croft from the committee as from the 2025 AGM in March, it has been decided that from April 2025 gig bookings will only be available through Moshtix or by cash sales at the door. It is hoped that those members who may not have access to the Internet can rely on a friend, family member or one of their jazz club table members, to make the monthly gig booking. Your support regarding this is appreciated and your continued attendance at jazz club gigs valued. *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:.....

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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.

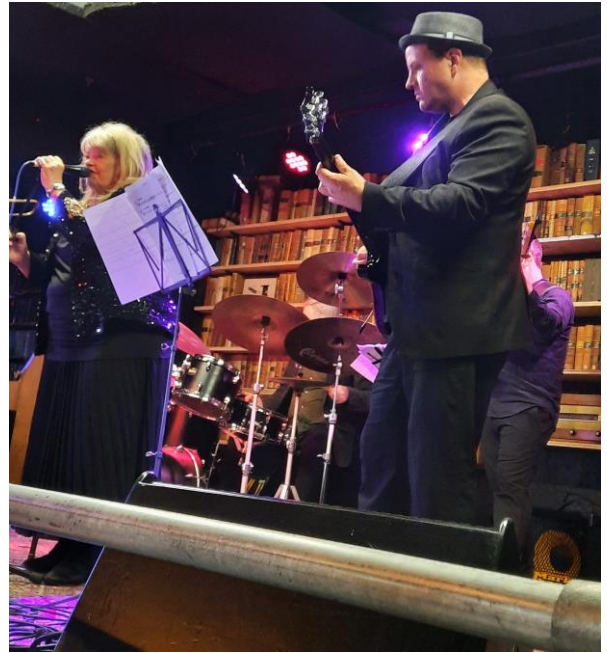
THE WELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB (INC)		
Patron	Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ	
Honorary Members: Terry Crayford Kevin Clark	John Joyce Paul Dyne Margaret Layton	Erna Ferry Colin Hemmingsen
President	Arthur Grimes	027 248 9389
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Committee Member	Brian Vincent	022 3530563
WJC Website	Nik Straugheir	wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz
Email information distribution	Nick Tipping	wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com

The Committee has agreed that with 2025 membership a confirmation letter and receipt for payment will be sent out by email rather than posting out a membership card. This will save considerably on current costs regarding printing and mail-outs.

Members' 10% discount is available at Music Works in Ghuznee St on production of proof of Wellington Jazz Club Membership



Oscar Lavën, Kaito Whalley, Erna Ferry



Erna Ferry & Nick Granville



Brian Kelly



Guest pianist Graham Kelly



Merv Thomas



Mike Walker on piano