

Wellington



Patron:

Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand

GNZM QSO KStJ

MARCH 2025

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

Sunday 16 March 2025, 5pm-7pm

FIONA PEARS + ANDREW & KIRSTEN
LONDON



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Wellington Jazz Club's 2025 programme is well and truly underway following our February gig which featured David Feehan (vocals) plus a 7-piece band and two guest vocalists. David is a hugely experienced singer having performed in major venues internationally and domestically, and with bands that run the gamut from the iconic 1860 Band to the Rodger Fox Big Band.

His choice of material was eclectic, ranging from blues (such as Albert Collins' *Iceman*) to blue-eyed soul (Bobby Caldwell's *What you won't do for love*) to rock (Buffalo Springfield's *for what it's worth*) and pop (Dionne Warwick's *I always get caught in the rain*). The last of these songs was dedicated to Toni Huata who recently passed away. Toni was a close collaborator with David; she was the first Māori singer to headline at Ronnie Scott's in London.

Alongside these genres was a generous sprinkling of jazz standards including: *The lady is a Tramp*, *Nature Boy*, *Georgia on my Mind*, and *My Favourite Things*, each sung with panache by David. The last of these songs was made famous as a jazz standard by John Coltrane in his 20-minute full-on version; here we instead heard a delicate rendition featuring a lovely solo by André Paris on alto sax.

David's two guest vocalists chimed in with other well-known standards. Sonia Mani contributed *Perhaps, Perhaps Perhaps*, *Whatever Lola Wants* and *Dancing Cheek to Cheek* (in a duet with David). Dawn Elder contributed: *That Lucky Old Sun* and *Exactly Like You* (also sung as a duet with David). Both guest vocalists sang with real feeling and beauty – each could headline their own show.

Even songs that would not be considered as jazz standards had demonstrable jazz links: Steve Gadd (one of the most famous of all jazz drummers) played drums on the original Paul Simon version of *Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover*, while Toots

Thielemans (certainly the most famous harmonica player in jazz) played on Brook Benton's recording of *Rainy Night in Georgia* (which the band played with real gusto). *Love is Blindness* has been covered by Cassandra Wilson. Here, it was sung by Dawn Elder and featured stunning muted trumpet by Chris Selley throughout.

The band was a star lineup from amongst the capital's best jazz musicians: André Paris (alto sax), Chris Selley (trumpet and flugelhorn), Julian Kirgan-Baez (trombone), Greg Crayford (drums), Sian Feehan (congas and percussion), Paul Mouncey (bass) and Zak Dikvert (guitar). Zak was a late replacement (due to illness of the scheduled guitarist) but played as if he had always been part of the band. He will feature as a vocalist in our August gig. All seven members played superbly, including tight horn arrangements on many of the numbers.

The band's choice of material showed the diversity of the artform. Over the rest of 2025 we will be enjoying a diverse range of ('listenable') jazz ranging from a Cole Porter tribute, to jump blues, to gypsy jazz, to a selection of female vocal jazz standards. The March gig features Fiona Pears along with Andrew London playing a gypsy jazz selection (see more details elsewhere in this newsletter).

As we do every year, the interval during the March gig will be used to hold the club's AGM. This year, we have a couple of important matters including formal adoption of a new constitution (required because of legislated changes); members were sent a copy of the proposed constitution in late-2024. We will also be electing committee members. Two of our current committee, Justine Croft and Nik Straugheir, are stepping down after outstanding service to the club so we are looking for at least two new members, including one as Secretary. Our other committee members are happy to be considered for re-election.

Your committee looks forward to seeing you at the March gig and throughout the year.

Arthur Grimes
President

BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG FIONA PEARS + ANDREW & KIRSTEN LONDON

Andrew London is well-known to the WJC audience for his ebullient renderings of swing classics and the quirky and cynical original songs that graced a string of recorded albums during his partnership with Terry Crayford in Hot Club Sandwich. Since 2012 he has released a similar output of recordings under with his Andrew London Trio, with partner Kirsten on bass and a variety of Wellington musicians including Nils Olsen, James Tait-Jamieson and Wayne Mason.

Fiona Pears featured on several early HCS albums after Terry and Andrew gently but firmly co-opted her into collaborating after meeting at a Nelson Jazz Festival in 2003. Their shared enthusiasm for continental 'Hot Club' swing music ensured an immediate bond.

'She set the crowd on fire that day with her ebullience and charisma, so obviously backed up by innate creative genius and technical brilliance. It was a heady mix and Terry and I were determined that she be persuaded play some gigs and record with us' says Andrew. 'Terry was inspired to write several pieces specifically for her which we recorded on our album Toasted, and she played festivals all around the country with us for a couple of years'.

Her skills were also noticed by Hayley Westenra and her management, who appointed Fiona Concert Master of the group Hayley took on several World tours. This brought Fiona into contact with the jazz and classical communities in the UK and continental Europe, and she subsequently recorded her own original compositions with orchestras in Prague and Liverpool.

Now back in her hometown of Christchurch, Fiona has been gracious enough to allow herself to be tempted north for a few days to reunite with the London's and play some rollicking gypsy-style swing music. Strap yourselves in!

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

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2025

13 April	Hannah Griffin Quartet
18 May	Geoff Culverwell
15 June	The Tipet

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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. Members are encouraged to bring a guest to the gigs and invite them to join the Club to help keep 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 to make a booking on 021 239 9674 for **March 2025 gig bookings only** and then can pay by cash at the door.

**PHONE BOOKINGS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AS FROM
APRIL 2025**

At the last committee meeting for 2024 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 very much 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:

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)

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Snippets from the David Feehan & Band February gig