

Wellington



Patron:
Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand
GNZM QSO KStJ

OCTOBER 2024

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

Sunday 13 October 2024, 5pm-7pm

CRAYFORDS PLAY CRAYFORDS



FROM THE PRESIDENT

At our September gig, we were privileged to hear Duke Wellington, “the Capital’s little big swing band”. The 8-piece band (plus vocalist) played a wonderful selection that ranged from Duke Ellington (*East St. Louis Toodle-OO*) to Lorde and Dua Lipa.

The band’s numbers feature beautiful arrangements, many by Andrea Robinson, that make the lineup sound like a true big band. So it was most unfortunate that Andrea was ill and couldn’t make it along. In her place on piano, we had the wonderful Duncan Haynes – by coincidence, the third consecutive gig he has played for the club.

The band featured vocalist, Hannah Goodin, whose voice shone across all the genres that the band performed. Her performance of Leonard Cohen’s *Dance me to the end of love* reminded me of a gorgeous rendition of the song by Madeline Peyroux that I often listen to. I also loved her singing on the band’s version of Lorde’s *Royals* – it was wonderful to hear perhaps New Zealand’s biggest selling pop song of all time given a jazz treatment (and, if you liked this version, check out the version by Flash Mob Jazz on YouTube.)

The rest of the band was also terrific. The rhythm section of Maurice Phillips (drums), Dan Reeves (bass) and Wade Reeve (guitar) ensured that the band’s playing was tight, while the 4-piece horn section showed beautiful ensemble playing with some very nice solos.

One way to make an 8-piece band into a much larger sounding outfit is to have several multi-instrumentalists in the mix. Kali Barton played trombone and trumpet, Jonathan Woolley played alto sax and clarinet, and Greg Rogan was kept busy changing between soprano sax, flute, clarinet and cornet. Amity Rose Alton-Lee stuck to playing tenor sax, with some gorgeous solos; one that stood out for me was her solo on Duke Ellington’s *Do Nothing till You Hear from Me*.

The quality of Andrea Robinson's arrangements was apparent when listening to a song such as Ahmad Jamal's *Poinciana*. While the original number is superb, Andrea's arrangement had a real lushness that sets it apart from Jamal's version. Other highlights in terms of Andrea's arrangements were her version of Nina Simone's *Love me or leave me*, Dave Brubeck's *The Duke*, and the 1936 Benny Carter and Spencer Williams song, *When Lights are Low*. Amity's tenor sax solo on this number really stood out; Andrea's voicings were beautiful and Amity's tone was luscious.

All in all, it was a great night, despite Andrea not being able to make it to the gig. Her enforced absence was especially unfortunate because it appears this may have been the band's last gig – we certainly hope that that is not the case!

Later in this newsletter, we advertise the three remaining gigs for this year, two of which feature Honorary Members of the club (Terry Crayford in October and Erna Ferry in November). **Please note that the October gig is on the *second* Sunday of the month (13 October), to avoid clashing with the Wellington Jazz Festival (which runs from 16-20 October).**

The jazz festival has some superb international and domestic acts, so do try to get along to some of the gigs, many of which can be quite relaxed affairs at cafés in town where you can have a drink and a bite to eat while listening to some established and some up-and-coming jazz musicians. You can find details of the festival at: <https://www.jazzfestival.nz/>

I look forward to seeing you at our 13 October gig – 'Crayfords Play Crayfords' and perhaps at some of the many jazz festival gigs in the following week. Don't forget to invite non-members to our Meow events and encourage them to become new members. The more the merrier when it comes to keeping the club humming!

Arthur Grimes

President

BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG CRAYFORDS PLAY CRAYFORDS



This concert is built around the music of one of Aotearoa's great jazz composers, Terry Crayford, as performed by members of his whānau and those very close to him. Terry is a New Zealand jazz legend. As both pianist and bass player, he has toured and recorded with high profile New Zealand and overseas jazz stars. He is one of the country's most frequently heard composers, being responsible for television's "Fair Go" theme.

Many of his compositions are named after his children and grandchildren.

The Crayford Trio is an ensemble of stalwarts of the NZ jazz scene, featuring Miles Crayford on piano, Patrick Bleakley on bass, and Greg Crayford leading the group from the drum kit. The trio has performed at venues far and wide, including successful stints at The Wellington Jazz Festival, the Manawatu Jazz Festival and the Wellington Jazz Club. They play well-known jazz standards, and the catchy, original music of Terry; father to Greg and grandfather to Miles. Patrick and Terry first played together decades ago so it really is a family affair!

For this gig they will be joined by James Tait-Jamieson – very well known to jazz club audiences – and Terry's granddaughter, Georgia-Grace Crayford, performing as GiGi Crayford.

The repertoire will include originals by other family members in today's programme.

Band Members:

Miles Crayford – Piano, Organ

Miles is a third-generation pianist from the Crayford family. He draws on both Jazz and Latin-Jazz influences and has spent some time in South America performing. Miles now resides in Kapiti Coast and is focused on playing the Hammond organ as well as the piano.

Patrick Bleakley – Double Bass

Patrick is one of the busiest and most-loved musicians in the New Zealand music scene. He began his bass playing career with legendary Kiwi group Blerta and has since performed with a who's who of New Zealand jazz including Jonathan Crayford, Alda Rezende, The Troubles, Ben Wilcock and many more.

James Tait-Jamieson – Saxophone, Vocals

Trained in Wellington and Las Vegas James is a jazz saxophonist and sometimes singer based in Manawatū. He is a full-time music teacher at Freyberg High School, Palmerston North. James performed with Terry for several years in the very popular 'Hot Club Sandwich'.

Georgia-Grace Crayford – Vocals, Guitar

GiGi is mokopuna in the "Crayford Jazz Dynasty". A multi-instrumentalist, singer/songwriter, carver and practitioner of Taonga Puoro (traditional Māori instruments). She weaves story, song and poetry into spellbinding performance in Te Reo Māori and English. GiGi has recently released her first EP of original music 'Ka Mua Ka Muri'.

Greg Crayford – Drums, MC

Greg has been performing for more than thirty years as a jazz/show/rock musician in NZ and as support for international acts. Greg's involvement in musical theatre as musical director/drummer/keyboardist/guitarist/percussionist, has included Jesus Christ Superstar, Footloose, West Side Story and Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and many more. Greg plays in a significant number of Wellington-based bands and ensembles.

As well as performing, Greg is an educator by profession – currently Head of Music at Rongotai College - and as the former Events Facilitator for the NZ Jazz Foundation and other youth jazz initiatives he has nurtured hundreds of tomorrow's musicians. Greg has been running live jazz on a regular basis at The Realm in Hataitai for the last nineteen years, making it Wellington's (NZ's? the world's?) longest-running jazz residency.

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2024

13 October	Crayfords Play Crayfords
17 November	Erna Ferry
8 December	New Orleans Joymakers (Auckland based)

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.

Please note that a members' 10% discount is available at Music Works in Ghuznee Street on production of Jazz Club Membership Card.

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
mgbain@xtra.co.nz
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

Please email confirmation of payment to mgbain@xtra.co.nz

¹ Newsletters are distributed by email.

THE WELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB (INC)

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