

Wellington



Patron:

Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand

GNZM QSO KStJ

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Sunday 15th September 2024, 5pm-7pm

DUKE WELLINGTON



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jess Deacon's August gig for the Wellington Jazz Club was titled: '*Things Left Unsaid*'. While some things may have been left unsaid, they were not left "unsung". We were treated to a night of magnificent singing from Jess with wonderfully sympathetic playing from her band.

The first set comprised a selection of (mostly post-war) standards. Numbers included 'Remember Me' by Joe Henderson, 'Little Sunflower' (Freddie Hubbard), 'ESP' (released by Miles Davis, though written by Wayne Shorter) and 'Footprints' (also written by Wayne Shorter). Footprints is written in 6/8 time so has a different feel from the standard 4/4 time so common in jazz (and other) tunes. Jess had written her own lyrics to each of these songs (the "things left unsaid") which were both playful and poignant; she certainly displayed great skills as a wordsmith.

The first set also included a stunning version of the 1935 Duke Ellington classic 'In a Sentimental Mood'. The piece has been recorded by countless artists as varied as Ella Fitzgerald and John Coltrane. While every great female vocalist has no doubt performed the tune, I doubt that I have ever heard a more beautifully sung version. Jess did the composer proud!

The second set were jazz-style compositions written by Jess herself. They included a jazz ballad, 'Endless Love'; another 6/8

tune, 'Love Me the Right Way'; and a terrific blues number, 'I Won't Let You Get Me Down'. All were impressive compositions, beautifully sung.

Throughout the gig, we heard subtle and – as Lester Young would say – “beautiful” backing from the band. Duncan Haynes on keyboard was enjoying his second gig in a row at the club and was as good as ever. Jon Pirini's guitar playing was delightful, especially his exquisitely musical acoustic guitar work. Baileigh Sparkes is a young drummer who was ideal for the occasion, with delicate brush and stick work that fitted the songs beautifully. On bass, Seth Boy was completely in tune with the mood of the occasion; it is easy to see why he is making such a name for himself in the Wellington jazz community.

As an encore, the band performed a storming version of Route 66 which had the audience in raptures. The reaction of the audience to my opening comment at the end of the show: “What a Voice!”, showed the audience's huge appreciation for Jess and her superb band.

Our September gig features Duke Wellington, featuring in a return visit following their very popular gig last year. This tight 8-piece band, plus vocalist, plays superb arrangements of great jazz numbers ranging from well-known swing numbers, to Latin, to ... (a few surprises). We provide further details about their gig later in this newsletter. We have a great lineup of gigs for the rest of 2024 and have already pencilled in three acts to start off 2025 in style – so plenty to look forward to.

At each gig, non-members can take up our special offer to convert their ticket for the gig to club membership for the remainder of 2024, and I am pleased to say that we have attracted many new members this way through the year. Please do keep inviting your friends along to enjoy a great night's music and persuade them to sign up; a healthy membership helps ensure the ongoing vitality of the club.

You can keep track of the many other jazz gigs around Wellington via Nick Tipping's email list; just email him on wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com to be placed on his mailing list.

Finally, I would like to thank the lovely staff at Meow for their hospitality and give special thanks to the sound technician (Mike Ainsworth) who ensured Jess Deacon and her band sounded so great at our August gig. I look forward to seeing you, and to hearing Duke Wellington, on Sunday 15 September at Meow.

Arthur Grimes
President

BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG DUKE WELLINGTON

The lively, high spirited and effervescent Duke Wellington return to the Wellington Jazz Club after 18 months to present another evening of when the Roarin' 20s never hit so hard!

Duke Wellington, the Capital's little big swing band, promises to enforce nothing shy of a great time. Playing traditional tunes from the American Songbook, as well as hot takes of modern classics, this nonet will occupy your night like no other!

Featuring the talents of Andrea Robinson, Greg Rogan, Amity Rose Alton-Lee, Dan Reeve, Hannah Goodin, Jonathan Woolley, Kali Barton, Maurice Phillips and Dan Reeves.

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

THE WELLINGTON ALLSTAR YOUTH BIG BAND

The Wellington Jazz Club provides funding for sectional tuition for the student body at whole band rehearsals. They are in many ways the most important component of the preparation process. The student members have access to top jazz/big band musicians in Wellington. As evidenced by the great take-up at festivals, competitions and workshops in the region and nationally, Wellington produces a good proportion of high-quality big bands, combos and soloists within the jazz genre. Oscar Laven, Greg Crayford and Liam Boyle, in association with Musicworks and Wellington Jazz Club, are happy to continue this auditioned ensemble, representing the best of these young capital-based performers, and named **The Wellington Allstars Youth Big Band**. They will feature at a Jazz Gala Concert performance at **MusicWorks Ensemble Festival 2024**, to be held at 7pm on **Tuesday 24 September at Wellington College**.

The concert will be launched by The Wellington Allstars Youth Big Band, followed by the Royal NZ Airforce Jazz Orchestra.

Admission for Musicworks Ensemble Festival Aotearoa attendees is free and members of Wellington Jazz Club are encouraged to attend as guests.



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.

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 Kevin Clark	John Joyce Paul Dyne Margaret Layton	Erna Ferry Colin Hemmingsen
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	wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com