



Patron: Bill Haesler OAM

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Sydney Jazz Club Newsletter

May 2025

Midweek Jazz In May



JUG A LUG STRING ORCHESTRA

Wednesday, 14 May 2025, 12:30 pm at the
Freeway Hotel, Artarmon.

[Details Page 3](#)

Mid-Week Jazz Review: Geoff Power Jazz Band



From Left: Dave Clayton (Bass), Paul Furniss (reeds) Lawrie Thompson (drums), Robbie Mann (Piano), Geoff Power—trumpet, trombone and vocals.

We were treated to a wonderful mix of laid back jazz covering the entire 20th century. I heard someone say that this was the best performance this year. Let's say it was up there among the best.

Highlights in the music for me (the Editor) were Paul playing "Si Tu Vois Ma Mere" (see in the [clip taken from the](#) performance, Isabelle and Paul performing together) and Robbie's solo "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a letter".

(I had never seen a pianist in Ugh Boots before).

Two great drummers were seen sitting together during one of the breaks between sets—must be 150 plus years of drumming in this picture.



Jimmy Fletcher and Lawrie Thompson sharing secrets.

Geoff led the band with some great songs: "Five and Ten Cent Store", "You Meet the Nicest People", and more waltzes than we have heard on one show since Federation: "Alice Blue Gown" (although there was no three four time in that arrangement), and "Around The World in 80 Days" were two (that I can remember).

[Click here, and also see the Freeway Hotel Ad later in this bulletin for good news.](#)



The President's Report SJC President, Ian McAllister

May 2025

Mid-Week Jazz Concerts.

We had Geoff Power Jazz Band play at the Freeway. Always great to have Geoff and the great musicians that make up his band.

This coming month on **Wednesday 14th May** will have the **Jug A Lug String Band** play for us. Please encourage your friends and come along with you and to join the SJC.

Full details of the May Gig are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jazz Workshop Australia

JWA have commenced regular gigs at the **Freeway Hotel** on the **4th Saturdays** of each month. This, we hope will encourage younger participation in live jazz whether it be as a musician or as an audience member. SJC is looking to support these gigs and to man the door. All proceedings will go direct to the band.

Put these in your diary and enjoy more live jazz.

SJC New Director

I am pleased to welcome **Greg Ghalvalas** as a director of the SJC. Greg has kindly offered his services and as such has resolved the issue of needing a minimum of 5 directors of the club. Dennis has included a profile on Greg in this newsletter so please make yourselves known to Greg at our upcoming gigs.

I am sure that Greg will find the position interesting but definitely not a burden!

SJC Web Site

I am also pleased to advise that SJC Member, **Margaret Margennis** has taken on the role of Web Coordinator for the club working with Dennis who will still remain the Web Site Manager. This will provide great relief for Dennis who also is looking after our Membership and monthly newsletter. Welcome to the role Margaret, and a big thank you for putting your hand up.

p.s. We still could use more assistance on committee to allow us to achieve an agenda of having further live jazz functions throughout the year.

I encourage you to bring your friends along to our function and hopefully join the SJC!

In the meantime,

Enjoy Life "and All That Jazz"

Ian McAllister
SJC President

Editor's Note: *I went to a primary school band concert at which the year 5 and 6 students presented their Jazz ensemble. The kids played jazz standards and 10 YO kids were encouraged to do solo improvisations. The kids in the audience were bopping along to the music too. There is much hope for the future of jazz thanks to some inspired music teachers.*

Introducing Greg Ghalvalas: Director and Committee Member

Greg has agreed to take on wife, Godelieve, who is a the fifth Director position classical organist, is enjoying life on the central coast. required by our Constitution.

Greg started life as a maths and applied maths teacher in South Africa. He changed to computers and emigrated to Australia in 1985.

Greg played piano in dance bands and owns an Allen Theatre organ which is his pride and joy. He retired 16 years ago and along with



Sydney Jazz Club Needs a New/Old Phone

We want to retire our old office landline and move to a mobile device we can pass between committee members. If you have an old phone (simpler the better), unlocked and capable of 4G service, please consider donating it to the Club.

Sydney Jazz Club on Facebook

There is information about gigs in Sydney and beyond on our Facebook Group Site.. [Use the menu item on our Web site.](#)

Currently there are more than 1800 members of the Group site and posts are appearing there about (mostly) jazz but for all kinds of music events in Sydney and Melbourne and as far away as Perth.

Not Trad

I went with friends to Miss Celie's in Ashfield for the first time in April. The band was David Seidel on Bass, Cameron Jones on Guitar, and Marcus Holden on Violin and vocals. It was a jam session. At the end of the night, in a crowded to overflowing room, the band had grown to include piano, violin, three guitars, clarinet, a piano accordion and a button accordion, bass and vocalist. And during the break, Kathy Bluff of Chasing the Moon, put together a band to entertain. It was really worth being there..

SYDNEY JAZZ CLUB PRESENTS:

Wednesday, 14 May 2025, 12:30 to 3:30 pm, Freeway Hotel, Artarmon.

Jug-a-Lug String Orchestra



Stan Velacos

The Juglug Stringband has a repertoire of music which was hugely popular between the late 19th century and



Phil Donnison

the second world war. Stringbands were natural combinations of portable instruments like guitars, banjos, violins and basses. Sometimes a kazoo or a harmonica was added, a washboard contributed rhythmic texture and eventually a blown jug took over the bass role. By the 1920s jigs, waltzes, and polkas had given way to country, jazz, blues, and knees-up novelty music. The Juglug String-



Adam Barnard



Stewart Binsted



Marcus Holden

band covers the waterfront. It has been a while since they last played for Sydney Jazz Club so May will be a highlight for 2025.

\$20 non-members, \$15 for SJC members, pay as you enter.

The Freeway Hotel has great facilities including a large dance floor / extensive food menu, and free under-cover parking.

For the convenience of our members and guests travelling by train, the hotel will provide a free small coach pick up service from the shops side of Artarmon Station every 10 / 15 minutes from 11.30 - 12.30 and return from 3.30 - 4.00.

Come along and listen to the wonderful jazz played by **Jug A Lug**.

Table bookings are not permitted

What's On at Sydney Jazz Club

14 May 2025: Jug A Lug
11 June 2025: Unity Hall Jazz Band
9 July 2025: Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra
13 August 2025: Mulgoa Road Jazz Band
10 September 2025: TBA
8 October 2025: Working on this

1 November 2025: Our annual special at the York Club
12 November 2025: Something different is planned.

Second Wednesday of every month, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Freeway Hotel, Artarmon. Enjoy jazz, good food and companionship with Sydney Jazz Club.



115 Reserve Rd, Artarmon

The Centre of jazz On the North Shore

First Saturday Of The Month: Al Davey and the Groovers

Second Saturday of the Month: Geoff Power Jazz Band

Third Saturday of the Month: Bob Henderson and Friends

Sydney Jazz Club Committee really needs some help with our Publicity and Marketing. We need help in designing and distributing ads for our major events, and for the Club in general. The current committee lacks these skills. Can you help please? Is there someone you know who might take on the task as a volunteer helper.

We also need some new **contributions to our newsletter.** Photos of our gigs and others attended, stories of our favourite jazz musicians, and memories. We would be very happy for someone to take a few photos of our members mid-week gigs, or send us a photo of your table enjoying the music.

Jazz Trivia

1 May 1951: Pianist Bud Powell records Night in Tunisia
2 May 1933: Vocalist Ethel Waters records Stormy Weather
6 May 1924: Cornetist/composer Bix Beiderbecke records Riverboat Shuffle with The Wolverines
7 May 1946: Vocalist Sarah Vaughan records If You Could See Me Now with trumpeter Freddie Webster
8 May 1936: Pianist/vocalist Fats Waller records I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself A Letter

9 May 1941: Vocalist Billie Holiday records God Bless The Child with trumpeter Roy Eldridge
10 May 1927: Louis Armstrong records Potato Head Blues
17 May 1937: Trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie makes his first recordings (King Porter Stomp) with Teddy Hill's band,
21 May 1904: Pianist/vocalist Fats Waller born in New York City
23 May 1910: Clarinetist Artie Shaw born in New York City.

COMING SOON

The 36th Newcastle Hunter Jazz Festival is happening again in August 2025. Stay tuned for updates.



Some 2025 Jazz Festivals

2—4 May 2025 [Newport Jazz Festival Australia](#) , Newport Victoria
2-4 May 2025: [Generations In Jazz](#), Ob Flat, Sa
30 May 2025: [Jazz Festival Weekend](#) Panorama Hotel, St Helens Tas.
6-9 June 2025: [Merimbula Jazz Festival](#) Merimbula NSW
29-31 August 2025: [Newcastle Jazz Festival](#).
19-21 September 2025: [Manly Jazz](#)

It would be good if someone could send us a list of all 2025 Jazz Festivals in Australia.

Merimbula Jazz Festival

6 to 9 June 2025

More information is available from
facebook.com/MerimbulaJazzFestival
instagram.com/MerimbulaJazzFest
youtube.com/@merimbulajazzfestival

And the web site [The Merimbula Jazz Festival - The jazz festival for everyone!](#)

Australian Jazz Convention

26 to 31 December 2025, Mildura, Vic



Django Reinhardt—The Great European Jazz Guitarist

I cannot remember first hearing of and listening to Django Reinhardt's music, but I was told at an early age that he had six fingers on his left hand, and I believed it because of the amazing skill and feel in his playing. It was many years before I learned the truth about that hand. Several gigs I have attended recently have featured rhythm guitar sound that I think is one of the best sound in cool jazz, so I decided to find information for an article on this most famous jazz guitarist (using AI).

Django Reinhardt's real name was *Jean*. *Django* was the Gypsy name his mother gave him when he was born in a caravan on a road in Belgium. At the time, Romany families gave their babies a public name (Jean) and a private name (Django). The Romany word *Django* means "to awake," a fitting name for a revolutionary pioneer in the jazz industry.

Jean Reinhardt was born on January 23rd, 1910 in Liberchies, Pont-à-Celles, Belgium. His father, Jean Eugene Weiss, used his mother's surname while living in Paris to avoid French military conscription. His mother was a dancer.

Reinhardt spent most of his youth in Romani encampments close to Paris with his mother and father. At the young age of 17, Reinhardt married Florine "Bella" Mayer, a girl from the same Romani settlement.

It is in the camps where he was introduced to the world of music. Reinhardt was considered a child prodigy, starting with the violin at a young age and mastering the banjo at twelve-years-old. He was playing music for a living by the time he was only fifteen-years-old. Emerging from a furtive, vagabond, and occasionally criminal background, Reinhardt came across jazz. His first recording, "[Minor's Swing](#)", made in 1928, drew international attention.

Along with Stéphane Grappelli, Reinhardt formed the Paris-based "Quintette du Hot Club de France" in 1934. He was among the first groups to play jazz that featured the guitar as a lead instrument.

The sounds of this happy-go-lucky Gypsy have a lot to do with his success, but, the most memorable contribution to the music industry was his invention of a new way of fingering chords after a horrible caravan fire cost him fingers on his left hand. (*He had three and a half, not six*).

Listen to these songs:

"Swing 42": Listen to this swinging jazz number [here](#).

"Belleville": Hum along to this upbeat number [here](#).

On the night of November 2nd, 1928, just after accepting a job from British bandleader Jack Hylton, Reinhardt knocked over a candle, setting his caravan on fire. Rein-



I think I bought my last used car from these guys.

hardt was hospitalized for 18 months due to injuries from the blaze. Ignoring doctor orders, Reinhardt did not agree to the recommended amputation of his badly burned right leg. While doctors believed he would never play the guitar again, Reinhardt applied himself intensely to music, adapting to his injuries and relearning the craft. This new fingering system he developed was a pivotal moment in his career.

Reinhardt's life was cut short at the young age of 43 when he died from a stroke.

He wrote nearly 100 songs. While interest in Reinhardt's music was minimal in the years directly following his death, a revival of interest in his music developed in the mid-sixties and has continued. The world-renowned Allman Brothers Band made famous a song titled [Jessica](#), a tribute to Reinhardt. Many prominent jazz guitarists credit Reinhardt as having influenced their style, including Charlie Byrd and Wes Montgomery. In addition to the 2017 film *Django*, Woody Allen produced [Sweet and Lowdown](#) in 1999. Allen's film tells the story of a Django Reinhardt-like character with direct mention of the musician and actual recordings of his music included in the film.

Reinhardt briefly toured the U.S. in 1946 with Duke Ellington's orchestra.

Django Reinhardt continues to inspire guitarists. His talents, ability to overcome life-changing challenges and unique style awarded him the title "King of European Jazz."

["Lady Be Good"](#)

["The Sheik of Araby"](#)

Quintette du Hot Club de France in 1937, so that must be Stephane Grappelli with the violin.



Coffee with Miles Davis (I wish)

We could not organise a musician to interview this month so here is something to fill the space. As someone who struggles with the need to classify jazz styles and periods, and really has difficulty with the use of modal scales, I found this article interesting.

Miles Dewey Davis III was a profoundly influential figure in jazz, pioneering new sounds and evolving the genre for over four decades. He defined the sound of modern jazz through his diverse musical explorations, including cool jazz, modal jazz, and jazz fusion. His use of electric instruments, and his diverse group of talented musicians also contributed to his lasting impact.

Davis was influential in the development of jazz from the 1950s. We can trace the development through three stages—Cool Jazz, Modal Jazz and Jazz Fusion.

Cool Jazz:

In the early 1950s, Davis helped define cool jazz, a more relaxed and melodic approach to jazz, contrasting with the frenetic energy of bebop. His *Birth of the Cool* album is a key example. The laid-back rhythms, enhanced chord structures and relaxed presentation made this genre very popular—and it still is.

Modal Jazz:

Davis's 1959 album *Kind of Blue* is a landmark achievement in modal jazz, where improvisation focuses on scales rather than chord changes. This paved the way for more melodic and improvisational jazz. *(From personal experience I can attest that the use of modal scales is a real leap in terms of the richness of improvisation—I wish I knew how it is done.)*

Jazz Fusion:

In the 1970s, Davis embraced rock, funk, and electronic influences, creating jazz fusion, which blended jazz with popular music genres. This broke down barriers between "high" and "popular" art. Sometimes, fusion can stray into modern, but many great recordings and performances of this genre have continued. For a musician, fusion is a challenge and very satisfying as the strong, modern rhythms bring audiences to the dance floor. *(I love fusion.)*

The following is AI Generated

Miles Davis was an extraordinary musician.

Davis's trumpet playing evolved, with a focus on space and suspense in his notes. He used harmony mutes and delicate phrasing to create unique textures. His musicianship was of such high standard and so highly regarded that he was able to build highly talented ensembles, including The National Endowment for the Arts with members like Herbie Hancock, Tony Williams, Ron Carter, and Wayne Shorter.

Beyond music, Davis's style and image influenced fashion and culture. He was a widely recognized jazz musician and social critic.

After a five-year retirement due to poor health, Davis resumed his career in the 1980s, employing younger musicians and [pop](#) sounds on albums such as *The Man with the Horn* (1981), *You're Under Arrest* (1985) and *Tutu* (1986). Critics were often unreceptive to the new Davis, but the decade garnered Davis his highest level of commercial recognition. He performed sold-out concerts worldwide, while branching out into visual arts, film, and television work, before his death in 1991 from the combined effects of a stroke, pneumonia and respiratory failure. In 2006, Davis was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which recognized him as "one of the key figures in the history of jazz". *Rolling Stone* Magazine described him as "the most revered jazz trumpeter of all time, not to mention one of the most important musicians of the 20th century".



Miles Davis

Born: 26 May 1926, Alton, Illinois, United States

Died: 28 September 1991 (age 65 years), Santa Monica, California.

Music:

[So What](#) , [Bye Bye Blackbird](#), [Stella By Starlight](#) , [Summertime](#)



The "Little People" graphic is copyright to our Life Member, Terry Fowler (deceased) and The Sydney Jazz Club.

Please send us reviews and recommendations for jazz performances. Let's publicise good jazz and the musicians who play jazz. Send your contributions to admin@sydneyjazzclub.org.au.

Jazz Clubs Around Australia

Go to [Victorian Jazz Club](#) next time you visit Melbourne.

Go to [Canberra Jazz Club](#) next time you are in the ACT

Go to [Southern Jazz Club](#) When in Adelaide

Go to [WA Jazz Club](#) next time you are in Perth

Go to [Noosa Heads Jazz Club](#) and [The Gold Coast Jazz](#)

[And Blues Club](#) if you go to Queensland

In Tasmania, visit [Hobart Jazz Club](#).

May 2025 Jazz Gig Guide

Email details of your gigs to Hugo Gigs Master at gigs.sydneyblues@gmail.com

Day of the Week	Venue	Contact	Time	Occurrence
MONDAY				
Jazz Blues Open Mic Sessions	Potts Point Hotel, L1 / 33 Darlinghurst St, KINGS CROSS		7:00 PM	Every
Monday Night Confessions	Church Street Studios, 62-68 Church St,		8:00 PM	Every
TUESDAY				
Tuesday Night Jazz Orchestra	Lazybones Lounge, 294 Marrickville Rd, MARRICKVILLE		8:30 PM	6, 13
Jazz Jam Sessions (different Hosts)	Miss Celie's Bar, 17 Hercules St, ASHFIELD		7:00 PM	Every
WEDNESDAY				
Sydney Jazz Club presents: Jug-A-Lug String Band	The Freeway Hotel, 115 Reserve Road, ARTARMON		12:30-3:30 pm	14
Gypsy Jazz Jam	Miss Celie's Bar, 17 Hercules St, ASHFIELD		7:00 PM	7, 21
Arthur Washington Quartet	Cricketers Arms Hotel, 106 Fitzroy St, SURRY HILLS		7:00 PM	Every
THURSDAY				
Aaron Blakey Quartet	Botany View Hotel, 597 King Street, NEW-TOWN		8.30 pm	Every
Don Hopkins Piano Trio	Restaurant Hubert, 15 Bligh St, SYDNEY CBD	02-92320881	12:30-2:00 pm	Every
JR's Jazz Jam with Special Guests	Sean & Dolly's Bar, 220 Williams St, WOOLLOOMOOLOO		8.00 pm	Every
Tilly Street Quartet	Yulli's Brews, 75A Burrows Rd, ALEXANDRIA		6:30 PM	Every
FRIDAY				
Bridge City Jazz Band with Special Guests	Club Ashfield, Level 1, 5 Charlotte St, ASHFIELD		7.30 pm	Every
SATURDAY				
Al Davey & The Groovers	The Freeway Hotel, 118 Reserve Road, ARTARMON		2:00 - 5:00 pm	3
Geoff Power All-Stars	The Freeway Hotel, 118 Reserve Road, ARTARMON		2:00 - 5:00 pm	10
Andrew Dickeson's Blue	Pratten Park Bowling Club, 42 Arthur St, ASHFIELD		7:00 PM	10
Bob Henderson Band	The Freeway Hotel, 118 Reserve Road, ARTARMON		2:00 - 5:00 pm	17
Old Time Jazz Band	Hero of Waterloo Hotel, Lower Fort St, THE ROCKS		2.30 - 6.30 pm	Every
SUNDAY				
Dan Barnett Big Band	Unity Hall Hotel, 292 Darling St. BALMAIN		3.00 - 6.30 pm	4
Bird Yard Big Band	Club Paceway Penrith, 141 Station St, PENRITH		12:00 - 3:00 pm	4
George Washingmachine Trio	Lord Dudley Hotel, 236 Jersey Rd, PADDINGTON		4:00 - 7:00 pm	4, 11, 25
Greasy Chicken Orchestra with	Lazybones Lounge, 294 Marrickville Rd, MARRICKVILLE		6:30 PM	11
Bathtub Gin Orchestra	Jazz At The Pines, Roughly House, 656 Old Northern Rd, DURAL		12:30-4:00 pm	18
Birth Of The Cool Orchestra	Lazybones Lounge, 294 Marrickville Rd, MARRICKVILLE		6:30 PM	18
Geoff Bull & The Finer Cuts	Botany View Hotel, 597 King St, NEWTOWN		5:00 - 8:00 pm	Every
Old Time Jazz Band	Hero of Waterloo Hotel, Lower Fort St, THE ROCKS		3:00 - 7:00 pm	Every
Weekly Jazz Sessions (different	Lord Wolseley Hotel, 265 Bulwara Rd, ULTIMO		2:00 - 5:00 pm	Every

[For weekly updates, check the Sydney Jazz Club website](#)

SUNDAYS

LIVE JAZZ

FROM 4PM 597 KING



FEATURING
GEOFF BULL & FINER CUTS
THE BOTANY VIEW HOTEL

DAN BARNETT

3-6PM \$15



BIG BAND
1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Unity Hall Hotel, Balmain, 3 pm to 6 pm



NEWCASTLE & HUNTER JAZZ CLUB INC. | [jazz](http://jazz.newcastlejazz.com.au)
(newcastlejazz.com.au)

ANDY FIRTH'S SUPERNOVA

25 May 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Wallsend Diggers Club, 5 Tyrrell St, Wallsend NSW 2287, Australia

Dixieland, Swing, Latin



www.illawarrajazzclub.com

Weekly Jazz Sessions held every Saturday at:

Collegians Illawarra Leagues Club Church Street, Wollongong

Music from 2pm – 5pm (doors open 1pm) Admission to each band is \$10* – pay at the door!

3rd May: The Jungle Kings

10th May: Short and Horny

17th May: Chalkies Band (Dubbo).

24th May: Carolyn Packer's Stompin' Rhythm Aces

31st May: Leisa and the Keen Katz (Canberra)

illawarrajazzclub.com | [Facebook](#) for details.



Stephen Washington

Lord Dudley Hotel

Sundays, 4-7pm

First floor in The Guinness Room.

The Bridge City Jazz Band

is at

Club Ashfield

every Friday Night [Jazz Band and Solo Performances](#)



2—5 pm Sundays, PARKVIEW ROOM, CENTRAL COAST LEAGUES CLUB

For more details visit: [Home - Jazz League](#)

11 May: Dennis Walsh Big Band

1 June: Bathtub Gin Orchestra

Sydney Jazz Club Committee

President: Ian McAllister
Vice-President & Special Functions:
Treasurer & Bands Coordinator: Mary Armstrong
Membership Secretary: Dennis Harris

Secretary: Caroline McAllister
Publicity and Marketing:
Committee Member: Greg Ghavalas
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Please clearly note your name (and member number if possible) and ask for advice of payment to be forwarded to:
admin@sydneyjazzclub.org.au

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