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Sydney Jazz Club Newsletter July 2025

Midweek Jazz In July

A Very Special Event

Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra

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June Mid-Week Jazz Review: Unity Jazz Band

Maybe it is failing memory not recalling much beyond a few P.S. I found this on the Internet: an interview with Dan Bardays past, but each month we seem to outdo the previous nett on Australian JazzNet month for enjoyment and quality of performance. It is getting Quote: Which tune do you wish had been written about you? harder to find new superlatives to describe the band, the musicians and the music each month. Unity Jazz Band is a band of professionals and they play so well together under Dan Barnett's leadership, that it seems like they have been See Dan Barnett's biographical playlist - AustralianJazz.net rehearsing just before the show.

In June we were treated to a wide range of music including a lot of songs we don't regularly hear. Washingmachine, showman, led many songs with his distinctive vocal style, smooth, easy, laid-back and always right on pitch. George's violin solos and improvisations are always entertaining. Dan is of course one of the best trombone players in Australia and with Paul Furniss on clarinet and tenor sax, we had a frontline that would be welcome and enjoyed anywhere at any time. And then Dan Sings-it's pretty rare for us to have two great jazz vocalists in the same

Peter Locke on piano was superb and although I forgot to ask for the mandatory piano solo I ask from every band, he did a wonderful boogie improvisation at one point. Stan Valacos on bass was enjoying being in the company of those musicians because of the energy and life in the bass right through the gig. Andrew Dickeson on drums is refreshingly different from most other drummers—he has a way of being a master at the rhythm but not dominating the stage. I had in fact seen and heard Andrew leading his second year combo at a concert at the Sydney Conservatorium of music just recently.

What a great way to spend a Wednesday afternoon in June.

I didn't have to wish — I am lucky enough to have had a song or two written about me, but you will have to find them.



George Washingmachine, Andrew Dickeson, Paul Furniss, Stan Valacos, Dan Barnett, Peter Locke.





The many dancers on the day enjoyed the music.



The President's Report SJC President, Ian McAllister June 2025

Our leader has been traveling while celebrating a significant Major Event in 2025 birthday so we have no report from him. So you'll have to put up with an editorial.

Mid Week Jazz

We had a good crowd at the Freeway for the Unity Jazz Band in June, and from the reaction on the day, and subsequent feedback, this is a popular jazz band.

Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra

Dr Saul Richardson is leading the Sydney Youth Orchestra for us on 9 July at the Freeway. The orchestra is much bigger than our usual mid-week band so the logistics of the day will be interesting. The orchestra is made up of school-age kids. It is supported by Dr Richardson's Jazz Workshop Australia. We hope to have a good crowd to encourage these young musicians in Jazz.

Please send us reviews and recommendations for jazz performances. Let's publicise good jazz and the musicians who play jazz. Send your contributions to ad-

min@sydneyjazzclub.org.au.

We had planned a major event at Club York during August as we have in the last couple of years but we have been unable to find a band of sufficient difference and interest available on the days that Club York available. We pushed the idea out to November but in the end decided to put the effort and resources into a special event for Australia day in 2026.

Mobile Phone

Many thanks to the member who has donated a used mobile that we can use as our official phone. At present we have a fixed line service which gives us a future challenge when the line and number has to change to a new address. The mobile phone solves that problem.

Stay safe and well and "All That Jazz!"



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

In Julys of the past:

2 July: Pianist Ahmad Jamal born 1930 in Pittsburgh, PA.

4 July: Louis Armstrong's "birthday" 1900 in New Orleans, LA.

5 July: Vocalist Billie Holiday records Them There Eyes, 1939.

6 July: Benny Goodman records Sing, Sing, Sing featuring drummer Gene Krupa.

8 July: Vocalist Billy Eckstine born 1914 in Pittsburgh, PA.

11 July: Tenor saxophonist John Coltrane records The Stardust Session, with flugelhornist Wilbur Harden, 1958.

13 July: Art Tatum records Willow Weep for Me 1949, and Benny Goodman records Body and Soul 1935

The Freeway Hotel on Saturday Afternoons—Let's support these gigs.

We must get these Saturday gigs going for Jazz on the North Shore. We need enough people to attend to warrant the Hotel putting on the shuttle from the station. Therefore Sydney Jazz Club will support Al Davies, Bob Henderson and Geoff

Power in the development of the events, now 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays, with advertising and promotion. Perhaps an earlier start time would sell more lunches and this provide the "critical mass" for the hotel to put on the bus, but the music is worth going for so let's go there and help in the development of this live jazz venue. Click on the Picture.

See the Freeway Hotel Ad later in this bulletin.



Our own Chris Gildersleeve seen at a bar in New York

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.

SYDNEY JAZZ CLUB PRESENTS:

Wednesday, 9 July 2025, 12:30 to 3:30 pm, Freeway Hotel, Artarmon.

Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra



Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra ,or SYJO, is a notfor-profit association established in 2012 to provide high-level music training and performing experience for aspiring young jazz musicians. SYJO provides an opportunity for schoolaged students to play with a group of highly motivated and talented young musicians led by the accomplished Saul Richardson, one of Australia's best jazz educators.

SYJO has a busy performing calendar including regular appearances at jazz festivals such as the Manly Jazz Festival, Merimbula Jazz Festival and Cronulla Jazz and Blues Festival, as well as at jazz clubs like Lazybones Lounge and a wide range of Sydney community events.

SYJO's big band repertoire of serious, dynamic jazz is always popular and showcases the talents of these wonderful young musicians.

The SYJO Big Band program is for the most keen and motivated young students, providing them with the opportunity to extend themselves in a group of like-minded peers. Entry to the Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra ensembles is by audition and/or invitation only for school-aged musicians. New members are welcome when there's a vacancy in the band. Usually, vacancies will be advertised on the SYJO Facebook page and Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra - Jazz Workshop Australia.

Sydney Jazz Club Mid Week Jazz at the Freeway Hotel

\$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.

Table bookings are not permitted



9 July 2025: Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra

13 August 2025: Mulgoa Road Jazz Band

10 September 2025: Greg Poppleton and

his Band

8 October 2025: Greg Englert Jazz Band

12 November 2025: A special event

10 December 2025: Chasing the Moon

14 January 2026: Jive Bombers

26 January 2026: Australia Day

Merimbula 43rd Jazz Festival 2025 (by Margaret Margennis)

Merimbula once again hosted an event packed 4 days of outstanding jazz performances. From big band swing, to high school jazz bands to traditional ensembles, there was something for everyone. What is really significant about Merimbula is the promotion of school jazz band participation. Students not only have the opportunity to listen to live jazz but perform themselves and participate in the annual Jazz Quest competition. Merimbula is held each year over the June long weekend.



RAN Big Band

Always a favourite, the RAN attends Merimbula each year with both a big band and traditional jazz band ensembles.



Banjo and the Boys

Banjo and the Boys, lead by legendary Australian banjo player Michael Young, featured young and old (a 15 year old James E is on sax in the front row). Anthony Green on bass, Jim McGrath and Garry Morley on Washboard.

Some 2025 Jazz Festivals

29-31 August 2025: Newcastle Jazz Festival.

19-21 September 2025: Manly Jazz

13-15 February 2026: Port Fairy Port Fairy, Victoria

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

Australian Jazz Convention

The Australian Jazz Convention is an annual gathering for musicians and jazz lovers to celebrate their music. While the focus is on traditional or "Dixieland" jazz, the convention is also open to groups playing swing, mainstream, bebop, modern, funk, and other jazz genres. Since 1946 the convention has been hosted by different cities and towns across Australia; in 2025 the 79th AJC will be held in Mildura, Victoria, from December 26th to 31st. australianjazzconvention.org.au



Dave Rebecchi Tribute Jazz Band

Friends of trumpeter Dave Rebecchi - John Huf on Double Bass, Andrew Jack on Trumpet, Bill Lawler on Drums, Ezra Kowadlo on Trombone, Gordon Brown on Piano, Ian Christensen on Reads and Peter Milburn on Banjo - belted out some dance numbers. Joined later by Dave's wife Jenny and Son Justin. In front are the Swing Katz dancers from Canberra.





Free 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
Fourth Saturday of the month: Jazz Workshop Australia

You Might Be Interested to know:



pBone plastic trombone comes in several colours and is said to be a real instrument.

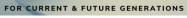
Pianist Hiromi Uehara will be in Sydney at the City Recital Hall in October 2025. See <u>Jazz News</u> for some samples of her music.

<u>AustralianJazz.net</u> - worth looking at for news and gig ads.



Foundry 616 in Harris Street is closing down. There is a move publicized on our Facebook Site to find investors who might repurpose but retain this Sydney jazz venue.

Australian Jazz





The Australian Jazz Museum is the premier Australian jazz museum and home of the largest Australian jazz collection. (Click on the picture above to see the Web Site.)

Proactively collecting, archiving and disseminating Australian jazz.

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.



The Bridge City Jazz Band.

Last Friday Jazz at Club Ashfield

Friday 4 July 2025.

Hoping to be back on 5 September after the Club completes renovation of the upstairs area.

The Band will be at the Newcastle Jazz Festival as a 7 piece on Sat. 30th August. 10-11am & 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Jazz Band and Solo Performances

Sydney Jazz Club Committee needs some help: 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. Any other Jazz news is also welcome.

Coffee with Marcus Holden

The Jugalug String Band made a welcome return to the Sydney Jazz Club for our May 2025 gig at the Freeway hotel, Artarmon, their previous performance being in 2019 at Cheltenham. Having been in hiatus for several years, the regathering of the "Jugaluggers" is sure to delight the members of the SJC and audiences in general.

Under pressure from David Seidel (double bassist, extraordinaire) I journeyed to Miss Celie's in Ashfield to catch Marcus Holden, David and Cameron Jones at their twice monthly Wednesday Night Gypsy Swing Jam. I decided to invite Marcus to coffee for a chat. His stage personality was so engaging and the music so good that I wanted to know more about him. We met for coffee in Burwood and talked for 90 minutes about many things. Every so often I dragged him back to the subject of Marcus Holden, the entertaining musician.

I was intrigued: Why was his web site 10 years out of date, considering the quality of the sample recordings, engineered and produced by Marcus in his own (Bloody Dog) studio? The studio name was inspired by a dog who kept barking during the inaugural recording session at the newly built studio.

I was hoping to buy a CD, one which included "Jalousie" by Jacob Glade but was disappointed to find he hasn't yet recorded the great violin tango. I wait patiently because perhaps the new track will make him update his web site!

Marcus Holden Australian Fiddler Violinist Composer Producer Performer Teacher Violin

The son of a computing pioneer, Marcus, though he liked Science at school in Canberra, chose a musical career. Somehow, those genes hung around to facilitate his interest and skills in audio engineering and production.

From his first recording at EMI in Sydney as a member of the Canberra Children's choir in 1967 and with well other 2000 commercial recordings to his name, he now inhabits his studio in a specially built "double garage" at his home and even though he loves audio production and seems busier at this than playing live gigs, he has not lost the thrill and pleasure of live performance as was obvious at the Jugalug gig last month.

Studying Jazz violin at the Sydney Conservatorium in the late 70s, (the choice of instrument must have set him apart from the mainstream even then) Marcus achieved his first music degree in Jazz studies though his first regular work was in Blue Grass and Country bands. So much for a Jazz career! Since then, he has played with a some of the greats of Australian music: not just jazz, but anywhere a violin is needed.

One of his endeavours was the Fiddlers' Feast—a band of fiddlers who got together in a jam at a Tamworth Country Festival in 1996, toured the globe till 2016 essentially playing emu-

lating the sound of a "Fiddle Big Band".

He still loves playing Irish, Trad Jazz (a la Jugalug) and Gypsy Jazz (a la Rheinhardt and Grapelli) and is well respected as a blues and rock player.; and as we know, he can sing.

I learn much from these coffee meetings with musicians of his calibre and this was no exception. Did you know that Gypsy Jazz uses more of the Harmonic Minor scale while American jazz uses more of the Melodic Minor?

Busy with production and other ancillary work, he laments the falling audience numbers at live gigs and the failure of venues. Involved with the Burwood local government area he believes, as I do (in the Hornsby area), there is a need to develop local council involvement in sustainable venues promoting music.

What does he see as the role and influence of Sydney Jazz Club in the city's Jazz scene? "There would be value in the Jazz Clubs of the Newcastle to Canberra regions getting together, and that we need younger members and players and with a weekend gig and venue. Perhaps the Sydney Jazz Club sponsor and run a competition with a prize".

This is something that was raised by our first "Coffee with" musician, Robbie Mann; and Sydney Jazz Club Committee has been watching with interest the competitions run by other jazz clubs around Australia.

Just on a final note, Marcus is a multi-instrumentalist "if I get bored, I'll play something else." Listen to some of his recordings. I am not really a fan of "jazzed up" classics but there is a quality in the sound and arrangements in his work that makes me smile.

Sydney Jazz Club will have the Jugalug String Band back and we recommend them to one and all.

Listen to some of these recordings. I am not a fan of "jazzed up" classics but there is a quality in the sound and arrangements which protects the classical integrity of these works.

Colonel Mustard in the Study with a Candlestick

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Brandenburg Concerto in G Major



Marcus Holden has appeared on albums, commercials and films: performed at some of the world's great concert venues (including Sydney Jazz Club) and played with the greats of

Australian music, classical, contemporary, jazz, Gypsy and Blue Grass.

Jazz Tragedies Part 2 (By Margaret Margennis)

most famous and enduring of jazz legends. While we listen to their music and appreciate the genius of what they produced, of these great musicians.

The King who was buried in a pauper's grave

In 1918 Joseph 'King' Oliver arrived in Chicago. Born near New Orleans, Louisiana, around 1881 (speculation surrounds the exact date), Oliver learned the cornet having witnessed some of the earliest jazz pioneers in New Orleans (including Buddy Bolden) and playing alongside Kid Ory in his band (It's believed Kid gave him the name 'King'). His move to Chicago (part of the 'great migration' of black Southern jazz players to northern cities) spearheaded the influence of New Orleans Dixieland sound in propelling the popularity of jazz.

The success of his Creole Jazz band came quickly, with travel gigs as far as the West Coast and extended bookings at the popular Lincoln Gardens. However, his greatest contribution to included both names. jazz was to summon a young Louis Armstrong to join him in leaving New Orleans for Chicago. Louis became second cornetist in the Creole Jazz Band in 1922. For Armstrong, the rest is history but for Oliver, the future was to take a different turn.

As early as 1924 the Creole Jazz Band had disintegrated. Oliver would form another band – the Dixie Syncopators and even go on to record a couple of duets with Jelly Roll Morton. But jazz was changing. The small format New Orleans band structure was being replaced by larger orchestras and swing. Oliver's attempts to adapt to new playing sounds and styles may have worked had it not been for gums and teeth failing to produce sound on wind instruments). Oliver's gums were failing due to periodontitis, and with it his ability to play cornet. By the late 1930's Oliver (now in his 50s) could play music no longer. His last known recordings date to 1931.

What happened next is surely one of the saddest of jazz endings. The '30s brought with it the Great Depression and re-

duced support for live bands. Although still touring and bandleading, when his tour bus broke down in South Carolina, he This series of articles explores the tragic lives of some of the found himself broke and stranded in the South. Apart from losing all his teeth he also suffered from high blood pressure. To survive Oliver pawned his trumpet and finest suites. He took we're not so often aware of the troubled lives and sad endings on several menial jobs – working as a roadside vendor, even janitor. He had all but fallen to obscurity and was unable to afford his heart medication.

> He died in April 1938 of arteriosclerosis, in a boarding house room in Savannah, Georgia, he was just 52. Too poor to afford a funeral, his sister (some sources claim his estranged wife) used her rent money to have his body brought back to New York. He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. Without money for a grave, the family of a young boy who had died earlier, Godfrey Moody, generously allowed him to be buried in the same grave, but with no head stone of his own. It is said that Louis Armstrong and Clarence Williams both attended the burial. It was only in 1994 that the New Jersey Jazz Society was able to negotiate the removal of the original headstone for Godfrey Moody and replace it with one that

> A sombre end to the man who had been so instrumental in pioneering jazz in the 20th century and who mentored one of the greatest jazz musicians who ever lived. In remembering his influence, Lil Hardin Armstong claimed of her husband that Louis had "spent days trying to imitate his boss's famous solo on 'Dipper Mouth Blues' but could never quite re-create it... because Joe was his idol and he wanted play like Joe".

PS. Margaret promises a happy article next month.

Information Sources for this article

Gioia, T. The History of Jazz 3rd ed. 2021 Oxford University Press

Louis Armstrong House Museum www.louisarmstonghouse.org)

BlackPast (www.blackpast.org)

The Jazz Trumpet Project (blog) (www.jazztrumpetprojectblogspot.com)

Wikipedia



Joe King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, circa 1922

Credit: Getty Images. Left to right, the members are: Johnny Dodds, clarinet; Baby Dodds, drums; Honore Dutrey, trombone; Louis Armstrong, second trumpet; King Oliver, lead

Headstone for King Oliver



trumpet; Lil Hardin (Armstrong's wife), piano; and Bill Johnson, banjo.

The Monthly Gig Guide Is No Longer Published in our Newsletter.

We have long wondered how many members rely on the monthly guide we have been publishing in this Newsletter. Of the 1600 visits to our Web site in May, 1200 went straight to the weekly gig guide at Jazz in Sydney this week – Sydney Jazz Club which is updated at about 4 pm every Monday and posted each week on the Facebook Site. So this month, there is no Monthly Guide. Our thanks to Hugo for producing the guide each week (and each month).

See Hugo's Gig guide Here

Membership of Sydney Jazz Club as a Gift to a Friend

Give a gift to a friend—membership of Sydney Jazz Club—discounts on entry fees, monthly newsletter, voting rights and Great Jazz every month. Use this QR Code or go to www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au/membership



Two Pianos:

1 October 2025 at Riverhigh Restaurant, **Padstow Heights.**



Bradley Newman and Robbie Mann

Watch this space for more details



MV Blue Room

Departing Kings Wharf #9, Darling Barbout (outside Cargo Bar)
Sunday 10th August 2025 from 12pm - 4pm
(board at 11.45am)

Formed in 1981 by Dr. Adrian Sheen (0AM), <u>Muleoa</u> Road Jazz Band has played for over 40 years at numerous venues in Sydney

This exciting jazz band plays Dixieland Jazz with music from the 1920s to 1960s and never ceases to delight its audience.



This is a wonderful opportunity for friends & family to meet up, support the Charity and enjoy a sublime afternoon of jazz over <u>a leisuvely</u>

2 - course lunch

Drinks available at the bar aboard the magnificent MV Blue R

Tickets from Trybooking here https://www.trybooking.com/DACER

\$125 per seat \$35 Children





Fri Aug 1 - Sun Aug 3, 2025



Arandu
Bird Conference
Black Notes Trio outh Brass 8

Navy Big Band Band South Gippsland Concert Band Todd Sidney Trio

Tickets Division

Jazz at Jamison

LEISA & THE KEEN KATS



- LEISA KEEN, piano/
- ZACH RAFFAN, trumpet
- JOSH HACKWILL, tenor
- ANDREW HACKWILL, baritone sax, alto sax, clarinet, flute
- BEN LANYON, guitar
- SIMON MILMAN, bass
- STEVE RICHARDS,

Swinging, sizzling jazz from

Canberra's littlest big band!

CANBERRA SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB LOUNGE cnr Catchpole & Bowman Streets, Macquarie

SUNDAY 13 July, 2025, 1PM FREE FOR MEMBERS & GUESTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS CLUB

PRESENTED BY CANBERRA JAZZ CLUB





Unity Hall Hotel, Balmain, 3 pm to 6 pm









BATHTUB GIN ORCHESTRA... Sun, 27 July

More info

Sun, 27 July

More info

TAILGATE

JAM BAND...



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! Illawarra Jazz Club book for details.



11 – 37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara NSW 2077 <u>Entertainment - Magpies Waitara</u>

Jazz on the last Sunday of the month, 2—5 pm



Stephen Washington
Lord Dudley Hotel
Sundays, 4-7pm
First floor in The
Guinness Room.

Sydney Jazz Club Memberships expire on 31 August each year. We are presently designing the card for the next membership year. We will contact all members in August to remind you of the renewal date.



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

For more details visit: <u>Home - Jazz League</u>

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:

Newsletter Editor: Web site and FaceBook Admin: Greg Ghavalas Dennis Harris Dennis Harris and Margaret Margennis

The Gig Guide is prepared by Hugo Pfandler

Postal Address: Sydney Jazz Club Co-op Ltd.

P.O. Box 186, Broadway, NSW 2007

Email Address: sydneyjazzclub@tpg.com.au

Website: www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au

Banking details: forward payments to:

Sydney Jazz Club Co-op Ltd., St. George Bank

BSB: 112879 Acct No: 039622683

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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