March

Sunday, 3rd

**Makarrata - Premiere**

Makarrata (pronounced more like McArthur than macarena) is an autonomous cooperative featuring saxophonist Julien Wilson and two Sydney musicians who have called New York and LA home for the past decade. Recently relocated to Melbourne, drummer/producer Felix Bloxsom and guitarist/songwriter Cameron Degeyll have collaborated with artists including Sia, Lior, Sam Sparro and The Presets. Makarrata is a complex Yolngu word (roughly translated as treaty) that embodies the concepts of conflict resolution, peacemaking and justice. The group embraces Makarrata musically as a deep desire for egalitarianism and unity, representing the eternal struggle to balance individual determination and collective resolve. For the true potential of Makarrata to be realised all parties must accept equal responsibility to seek truth and embrace solidarity. Makarrata seeks to express in musical terms that which often cannot be adequately conveyed with words alone.

Sunday, 10th

**Nat Bartsch’s Lullaby Project & Melville/Fräter/Macdonald**

In 2017 Nat Bartsch released a solo album of lullabies (on ABC Classics) that blends post-classicism and improvisation. Influenced by music therapy research, Bartsch now returns her work to a jazz context, performing the pieces with various artists with a focus on the musical parameters of simplicity, repetition and lyricism. For this concert she will be joined by Robbie Melville (guitar & loops), Zoe Fräter (electric bass) and Dan Macdonald (drums). Melville, Fräter and Macdonald usually perform together as the rhythm section of Melville’s quintet cleverhorse. As a trio, they explore the cleverhorse catalogue, which stretches back over a 15 year period, placing as much emphasis on group conversation and sonic texture as they do on melodic and rhythmic development. The result is a body of work that contrasts the melodic and cinematic with the frenetic and quirky.

Friday, 15th, 8 pm, at Primrose Potter Salon, M.R.C.

**Mike Nock’s Electro-Acoustic Project (Sydney)**

At 78, Sydney-based pianist/composer Mike Nock is simply a legend of Australasian jazz, with an international profile based on a 25-year career in the U.S.A., and recordings with artists such as Michael Brecker, on international labels such as ECM (and the recipient of the 2009 ‘Bell’ Australian Jazz Awards ‘Hall of Fame’ award). As a founder of the seminal fusion group, The Fourth Way, he was an early pioneer in the use of electric keyboard and electronics (as acknowledged by Herbie Hancock). He has also regularly produced solo acoustic piano recitals, with acclaimed solo albums on US, European and Australasian labels. In this Electro-Acoustic Project, Mike brings together the electronic and acoustic elements to create a unique sonic journey.

“... When Nock turned to synthesiser – an instrument to which he, too, brings a unique approach, but very seldom plays – the combination made the whole sound world suddenly more capricious and marvellously intangible. It was both magical and exhilarating.” – John Shand, The Sydney Morning Herald, December 14, 2014

Sunday, 17th

**Tim Stevens Double Trio**

This double trio (piano, bass, drums, violin, viola, cello) performs music written in 2014 to blend the ‘classical’ trio with the ‘jazz’ one. A chamber sensibility pervades the score, which is not merely about string accompaniment of established jazz practice. The seven movements of the piece with whom you can be who you are dedicated to friends of Stevens’, and they work to develop new formal contexts for improvisation. The CD with whom was released last year on Rufus Records. The ensemble features Madeleine Jevons (violin), Phoebe Green (viola), Naomi Wileman (cello), Ben Robertson (bass), Tony Floyd (drums), and Tim Stevens on piano, and the performance will open with a trio set.

Sunday, 24th

**David Rex Quintet**

Alto saxophonist David Rex makes a welcome return to the MJC roster after some extended forced breaks from performing (due to medical conditions). Since bursting onto the scene as a 17-year-old jazz saxophone prodigy, Rex had firmly established himself on the Australian Jazz scene, working with artists such as James Morrison and Barney McAll. In 2012 Rex released his third album, Tour of Fate, which was recorded in New York, and featured Aaron Goldberg (piano), Reuben Rogers (bass) and Gregory Hutchinson (drums) performing Rex’s compositions. On this performance he will be showcasing new originals with his latest group, which reunites him with longtime colleague, pianist Mark Fitzygibbon, bassist (and sibling) Philip Rex, and drummer Luke Andresen, plus trumpeter Mad Jodrell.

Sunday, 31st

**Tripataka & Daryl Pratt**

Following their successful collaborations last year with Indian tabla master Pandit Abhijit Banerjee, and then Sandy Evans and Sari-Sorangan Ravichandhirra, Tripataka are presenting a concert with another special guest, Sydney vibraphone maestro Daryl Pratt. Together they will perform original compositions by the ensemble, including world premiere performances. An expatriate American, since migrating here in 1985, Pratt has worked in both contemporary classical music and jazz. In addition to his jazz quartet, Sonic Fiction, He was also a member of the Australian Art Orchestra (1994-2001), AtmaSpheres (1991–2003), and the Chad Wackerman Group (1997-2006). Adrian Sherriff (bass trombone, percussion), Jonathan Dimond (electric bass guitar, percussion) and Adam King (drums, percussion) together with special guest, Daryl Pratt (vibraphone). Visit https://sydney.edu.au/music/staff-profiles/daryl.pratt.php & http://tripataka.net
April

Sunday, 7th

Jamie Oehlers / Julien Wilson Quintet (Perth-Melbourne)

Two of Australia’s most-acclaimed tenor saxophonists, Perth-based Jamie Oehlers and Julien Wilson, join forces once again to present a collection of their original music, combined with some of their eclectic favourites from the jazz canon, that will pique anyone’s interest. With an unparalleled exploratory rhythm section in Steve Magnusson (bass), Chris Hale (drums) and the recently returned expatriate Felix Bloxsom (guitar), this music will literally go anywhere and everywhere – and is sure to land somewhere magical. Oehlers won the 2003 World Saxophone Competition at the Montreux Jazz Festival, while Wilson won the 1994 National Jazz Saxophone Award at the Wangaratta Festival.

Sunday 14th

Steve Barry Trio (Sydney)

Barry’s recent trio/quartet and solo projects traverse the boundaries of jazz and classical art music, balancing the intricately composed with free-wheeling ensemble interplay. His 2018 quartet release Blueprints & Vignettes receive a 4-stars review in The Sydney Morning Herald and was longlisted for the 9th Australian Music Prize. The Blueprints trio - featuring the emerging talents of bassist Jacques Emery (recently touring with Australian Art Orchestra) and drummer Alex Inman-Hislop - continues to mine the terrain established by this record, replete with lyrical chromatic improvisation, exploratory rhythm section in Steve Magnusson (guitar), Chris Hale (drums) and Alex Inman-Hislop - continues to mine the terrain established by this record, replete with lyrical chromatic improvisation, and his own projects. He will be joined by colleagues Joe O’Connor (piano), Hiroki Hoshino (drums) and Luke Andrea (guitar).

Visit: www.niran-dasika.com

May

Sunday, 5th

Coursed Waters (Sydney) - Debut/CD Launch

Coursed Waters is a contemporary quartet featuring Melbourne’s Freedman Fellowship winner James McLean on drums, together with three Sydney-based musicians: Sam Gill (alto saxophone); Novak Manojlovic (piano) and Jacques Emery on (double bass).


Around The Scene

Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & 2 at Hamer Hall

Wynton Marsalis & JLCO (USA)

Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO) perform with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for the very first time.

June 8 & 9 at Hamer Hall

Herbie Hancock (USA) As part of the MJF

See www.jazzlab.com & www.uptownjazzcafe.com for more gigs

Jazz News

Wangaratta Festival Of Jazz & Blues

Festival Board’s new Chair, Miriam Zolin, has announced that the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues will be postponed this year, to return in 2020 to celebrate its 30th year, over the weekend of October 30 - November 1. The combination of reasons include lack of funding (including an unfortunate lack of funding from the Australia Council) and the need to find an Events Manager, Artistic Team and some new Board members. For more details, go to www.wangarattajazz.com

Australian Jazz Bell Awards

Nominations by Australian Jazz Academy members for the 2019 Australian Jazz Bell Awards will open in early March, and close on Monday, April 8. Winners will be announced in Melbourne at a function at Bird’s Basement in June. Celebrating its 17th year in 2019, the Jazz Bell Awards are the only jazz-specific awards in Australia to acknowledge excellence in performance, creativity and presentation, with each award carry $5,000 prize money.

International Jazz Day: April 30

April 30 is International Jazz Day, which was founded by Herbie Hancock in collaboration with UNESCO and The Thelonious Monk Institute. Sydney has been chosen as the Host City for the 2019 concert (featuring Herbie Hancock and Kurt Elling), which will be staged at the Sydney Opera House. In Melbourne, the Paris Cat team have organized an impressive showcase event, Melbourne Jazz Roots Festival, on Sunday, April 28 at The Malthouse Courtyard, featuring Perth’s Jamie Oehlers’ Soultrane Project; The Meltdown; The SPIRE Ensemble; Emma Donovan and The Putbacks; Black Jesus Experience; Toshi Clinch Big Band; and, VCA and Monash Jazz Ensembles.

Memberships & Acknowledgements

MJC Associate Membership (Support the Co-op in 2019)

MJC Membership for 2019 is available in three tiers: Gold level is $75, while Silver level is $50 (20% concessions), and bronze level is $30 for musicians. Membership benefits include free entry for one MJ C performance by a Victorian act; concession entry to all MJC performances for Gold members; special member deals on selected events; and, semi-regular giveaways through the e-newsletter. Visit our website, email membership@mjc.org.au or write to 16 Giel Street, Bentleigh 3204, for more details.

Sign Up To Our E-News

Keep up to date by joining our free mailing list. Emails are sent once a fortnight with the latest gigs, albums and giveaways. Sign-up online at www.mjc.org.au or email melbournejazzcooperative@gmail.com

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council and its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria, and APRA/AMCOS.

Founding Artistic Patron: the late Brian Brown, OA

Artistic Patrons: Mike Nock, ONZM, & Professor Tony Gould, OA

MJC Chairperson: Eugene Ball

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