



MELBOURNE JAZZ CO-OPERATIVE

Presenting original jazz & improvised music in Melbourne since 1983

May & June

Sundays 7:30PM-10:00PM at The JazzLab
27 Leslie St. Brunswick - off Victoria St.
\$25 & \$18 Con. Unless otherwise noted



EUGENE BALL QUARTET

May

Sunday, 2nd

International Jazz Day: ASRC 1 2 3 Benefit

Some of Melbourne's finest jazz musicians will unite in celebration of both International Jazz Day 2021, and in support of the world's refugees and asylum seekers. From its beginnings, jazz was a force for social change. Continuing on this tradition, local artists will perform solo, duo and trio dedications to those fleeing war and persecution in search of peace. Curated by Jackie Bornstein, musicians include Luke Howard, Cheryl Durongpisitkul, Stephen Hornby, Flora Carbo, Maddison Carter, Isaac Gunnoo, Jackie Bornstein, Mina Yu, Ben Charnley, Oscar Neyland, Fem Belling, Mirko Guerrini, Niko Schauble, Tony Hicks, Anthony Schulz and Adrian Sherriff. All proceeds go to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). This event is kindly sponsored by the Melbourne Jazz Co-op.

Sunday, 9th

Jordan Tarento Sextet - Premiere

Known for his versatility across an eclectic range of contemporary and improvised music, bassist Jordan Tarento has performed with Refraction, La Influenza, Barney McAll and the Brenton Foster sextet. After a year-long, intensive writing period, Jordan presents his debut as composer and bandleader, with an album's worth of never-before heard, original compositions, channelling influences as wide-ranging as Skuli Sverrison, Kurt Rosenwinkel's 'Caipi', Nik Bartsch and The Pat Metheny Group. Detailed and intricate, these compositions blend elements of jazz, chamber music, Brazilian and Afro-Cuban music, and tie it all together with densely orchestrated harmony, tight, polyrhythmic grooves and soaring melodies. This debut performance will be delivered by a six-strong ensemble, featuring Amy Valent-Curlis (marimba, xylophone & glockenspiel); Darryn Farrugia (drums & percussion); Adelaide-based Hugh Stuckey, and Harry Tinney (guitars); Darrin Archer (piano & keyboards); and, Jordan Tarento (double bass & bass guitars).

Sunday, 16th

Eugene Ball Quartet

Trumpeter, composer and eternal sideman Eugene Ball took almost 20 years for to form a quartet under his own name, so it comprises some significant talents in drummer James McLean (winner of the 2017 Freedman Jazz Fellowship), and electric bassist Mick Meagher. Since the release of their debut album, Hi(gh) Curious (which John Clare described as "one of the most startling jazz records"), the Eugene Ball 4tet have performed at the Wangaratta, Stonnington and Perth jazz festivals. With trombonist James Macaulay (winner of the National Jazz Award 2017) now based in Tokyo, this is a unique opportunity to hear this ensemble during this visit to Melbourne. For this performance, the 4tet will perform new material, which will soon be released as From Down Here on Nambuko records. Meanwhile, Hi(gh) Curious can be found lurking at <http://bandcamp.com/>

Sunday, 23rd

Unbroken Trio - Debut/Cd Launch + Joe O'connor (Solo)

Led by trombonist and composer Scott van Gemert, the Unbroken Trio plays original music that focuses on the collective sound of the ensemble. Also featuring Theo Carbo (guitar) and Maddison Carter (drums and percussion), these three unique musical voices come together to create an array of improvised sounds in a highly interactive setting, focussing on a unified and melodic approach to music creation. For this special MJC performance they will present their recently released 9-movement suite 'SPARK'. Stimulating pianist/composer Joe O'Connor, winner of the 2013 National Jazz Piano Award and recipient of the 2016 PBS Young Elder of Jazz Commission, will perform a middle solo set.

Sunday, 30th

James Sherlock & Ben Hanlon - CD Launch Merinda Dias-Jayasinha & Isaac Gunnoo - Debut

Guitarist James Sherlock and M.S.O. double bassist Ben Hanlon bonded over their shared passion for jazz and backgrounds in classical music. As such their performances combine improvisation, dynamic interplay and genre-straddling arrangements of jazz standards, classical repertoire, modern orchestral, chamber works and the occasional popular work. Their debut duo recording (released in 2019) is a collection of 10 compositions, combining interpretations of works by Massenet, Chopin and Schubert alongside jazz composers such as Jimmy Rowles and Sonny Rollins and songwriters Sting and Jack Lawrence. Tonight they launch their second album, Stravinsky, featuring two suites based on the larger scale ballet works of iconoclastic composer Igor Stravinsky with one on The Rite of Spring and the other on Petruska. As well as arranging the main themes there are open improvised sections based on the melodies, rhythms and harmony of the original work. Also featured on the album are works by Debussy and Gershwin. There will be an opening set from the young duo of Merinda Dias-Jayasinha (voice) and Isaac Gunnoo (double bass).



UNBROKEN TRIO

June

Sunday, 6th

Mirko Guerrini's Horizontal Quartet – CD Launch

Mirko Guerrini's Horizontal Quartet, which premiered for the MJC in 2018. It also brings together four bandleaders and composers, with saxophonist Guerrini joined by pianist Andrea Keller, double bassist Tamara Murphy, and drummer Niko Schauble. Since moving to Melbourne from Italy in 2013, Guerrini has had the chance to play with some of Australia's outstanding jazz musicians, choosing this personnel for their special skills. In Mirko's words, "this band is everything about melody. Horizontality as the main musical approach. You will hear all original music, where the four players are treated like single voices, part of a polyphonic ensemble. Harmonic content is created by the horizontal movement of the voices, and the high degree of interaction between the four musicians will blend everything together". They have released an album from their 2020 MJC Online concert, available on Bandcamp.

Sunday, 13th

Keller-Wilson-Macaulay – CD Launch

Acclaimed pianist/composer Andrea Keller and saxophonist/composer Tim Wilson's live duo CD, Consider This, (recorded at a MJC performance) won the 2017 Australian Jazz 'Bell' Award for Best Australian Instrumental Album. This concert launches their new album, Outside In, featuring special guest, trombonist James Macaulay (winner of the 2017 National Jazz Brass Award). Recorded live at The Jazzlab in 2019, the album features 7 original compositions, which are based in the jazz tradition, yet informed by contemporary 'classical' music, world music and the avant-garde. Outside In is available through Bandcamp (<https://twakduo.bandcamp.com/>), and online/streaming platforms (Spotify, Youtube Music, Apple Music etc). Visit www.timwilsononline.com/twak for more info.

Saturday June 26th, 7.30PM \$25/\$18 con.

Christ Church, 8-10 Glenlyon Rd. (near cnr. Sydney Rd), Brunswick
Tickets via www.trybooking.com

Ball Hanlon Schulz – CD Launch Support by Helen Svoboda (solo)

This unconventional trio of highly credentialed improvisers - Eugene Ball (trumpet), Ben Hanlon (double bass) and Anthony Schulz (accordion) - performed for a MJC's 2019 co-presentation at The Salon in 2019, and in our 2020 Online Series. The trio draw from their collective experience in classical, jazz and folk traditions to reveal something not quite any of the above, and hitting the mark as something entirely their own. The Land of If is a playful foray into intimate moments of our everyday lives and an inquiry into quotidian truths. Very much an acoustic-based ensemble, they are launching their debut album, The Land of If, in the wonderful acoustics of this church space. There will be an opening solo set from Helen Svoboda (double bass & voice).

Sunday, 20th

Svoboda/O'Connor/Green (Brisbane/ Melbourne) – CD Launch

This trio brings together three innovative artists, all originally from Brisbane (with two now based in Melbourne). Time and again, Brisbane has been a breeding ground for inventive improvisers who choose the path less travelled. Svoboda/O'Connor/Green brings together three such musicians who turned to jazz esoterica in their formative years: drummer Tim Green (Brisbane), double bassist Helen Svoboda and pianist Joe O'Connor. This will be the trio's first performance since Helen Svoboda, winner of the 2020 Freedman Fellowship, returned to Australia. The trio's lyrical approach is inspired by the innovations of Paul Bley, Garry Peacock, Paul Motion, Andrew Cyrille and Kris Davis. Their expansive ensemble flow is underpinned by simmering counterpoint and a compositional sensibility - Svoboda/O'Connor/Green patrol the quiet underbelly of free jazz. Their album will be released through 577 records, a Brooklyn label.

Sunday, 27th

Paul Williamson Quintet: The What-If's

Trumpeter and composer Paul Williamson has established a very strong reputation for producing distinctive recordings of his originals, documented on his eleven CDs (most on the Jazzhead label). With this performance he unveils a new project featuring the innovative and acclaimed artists Dylan Van der Schyff (drums), Helen Svoboda (double bass & vocals), Scott McConnachie (alto and soprano saxophones), and Miro Lauritz (vibraphone). This performance will feature the premiere of new works from the ensemble members. A taste of Paul Williamson's music can be found here: <https://paulwilliamson.bandcamp.com>

Friday, July 30th, 8PM, at The Salon, MRC
Southbank Blvd. & 31 Sturt St. Southbank
\$31/\$25 concessions (MJC co-presentation)

Flora Carbo's Ecosystem- Premiere

Flora Carbo premieres her imaginative new project, combining three alto saxophonists (herself, Bernard Alexander and Zac O'Connell) with three voices (Hannah McKittrick, Mel Taylor and Merinda Dias- Jayasinha).



Jazz News

Dingo Jazz Journal Launched

The first edition of Dingo: Jazz Journal will be launched on April 30, with two annual editions available to subscribers via the website: <https://www.dingojazz.com/subscribe>

The Sydney Con Jazz Festival

This annual all-day event will be staged on Saturday, May 30, featuring over 120 musicians, including Linda May Han Oh, Fabian Almazan, Jo Lawry, Will Vinson, and Nadje Noordhuis (all usually New York-based), plus many projects, such as Fiddes Vs. Tinkler, This World, Paul Cutlan String Quartet, Luke Howard, and Svoboda/Keller/Dasika, amongst others. Full program at www.sydneyconjazzfestival.com

Memberships & Acknowledgements

Support the co-op in 2021

M.J.C. Associate Membership

MJC Membership for 2021 is available in three tiers: Gold level is \$75, while Silver level is \$30 (\$20 concessions), and Bronze level is \$10 for musicians. Membership benefits include free entry for one MJC 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 melbournejazzcooperative@gmail.com or write to 16 Geel 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 the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and an APRA/AMCOS grant of \$5000 over 2020/2021

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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