



Presenting original jazz & improvised music in Melbourne since 1983

# March / April

AARON CHOULAI



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

## March

Sunday, 5th

### Holly Moore Quartet - Debut

The Holly Moore Quartet brings together some of Melbourne's finest 'next gen' improvising musicians. They integrate the sounds and textures of Scandinavian jazz, which Holly grew up listening to, into the broader context of modern jazz. Playing original compositions, inspired by love, loss and displacement. This ensemble melds styles with a sense of lyricism and confidence, which provokes both a feeling of reminiscence and a sense of newness for the listener. Featuring Holly Moore (alto saxophone), Harry Tinney (guitar), Angus Radley (double bass) and Luke Andresen (drums).

Sunday, 12th

### Nick Haywood Quintet - Debut

Nick Haywood has been at the forefront of jazz and improvised music in Melbourne and Hobart for almost 40 years, and has constantly searched for new pathways for self-expression and musical dialogue. He is currently dividing his time between Melbourne and Prague, in the Czech Republic, where he has been developing new repertoire and approaches to improvisation. This iteration of the Nick Haywood Quintet features an impressive group of improvisers, all exceptional players of their respective generations, with Eugene Ball (trumpet), Holly Moore (alto saxophone), James Macaulay (trombone) and Lewis Pierre-Humbert (drums) alongside bassist Nick Haywood. There will plenty of risk taking and creative music making as the band ventures into unexplored territory. This is a rare opportunity to hear this exciting new quintet.

Sunday, 19th

### BEKTET - Debut/CD Launch

BEKTET is the brainchild of Melbourne-based saxophonist and composer Jared Becker. The ensemble traverses the energetic and dynamic music of modern jazz, whilst drawing heavily upon the spiritual music of modal improvisation in the release of their debut full-length album, Kinship. The album is an expression of the intimacy that exists between band mates when creating music together, and the emotional world that musicians tap into when entering the shared space of improvisation. BEKTET is Jared Becker (tenor saxophone), Harry Tinney (guitar), Matt Steele (piano), Angus Radley (double bass), Lewis-Pierre Humbert (drums).

"Becker's playing is mature beyond his years - whilst his playing references the greats of the jazz tradition, he has managed to develop an original and mature approach - Paul Williamson

Sunday, 26th

### Jex Saarelaht Trio & Stephen Grant

Melbourne jazz pianist/composer Jex Saarelaht is one of Melbourne's distinctive contemporary jazz pianists, who has been consistently honing his oeuvre over three decades, and for over twenty-five years with his long-time trio compatriots double bassist Philip Rex and drummer Niko Schäuble. With an emphasis on robust interaction, they will continue to explore Saarelaht's distinctive original music, as well as jazz compositions by the likes of Jason Moran, Geri Allen, Herbie Nichols, Andrew Hill, Abdullah Ibrahim and Thelonious Monk. In 2019 Saarelaht reconnected with his heritage, travelling to Estonia, where he performed at Tallinn's Philly-Joe's Jazz Club, and attended the 160th anniversary of Laulupidu, the Estonian Song Festival, one of the largest choral events in the world, staged every five years. Tonight's performance will include new music inspired by that trip (singing not included).

'All three bring such ebullience to bear that the music never treads water, but rather is always picking you up and taking you off on another exhilarating joyride...' - John Shand, review of Jex Saarelaht Trio's CD, 'Liminal', - The Sydney Morning Herald, 23 January, 2015



ASHLEY BALLAT

# April

Sunday, 2nd \$50

## Mary Coughlan (Ireland)

Irish singer and songwriter, touring with "Life Stories"  
(MJC series interrupted for this visiting international artist)

Sunday, 9th. \$30/\$20

## Aaron Choulai Quintet - Premiere

Aaron Choulai is an award winning and critically acclaimed pianist and composer whose work is recognised as innovating new directions in jazz, hip-hop and improvised music. From large scale multi media cross-cultural festival commissions, to beat tapes, Choulai's career spans over 20 years, crossing international borders and intersections between genre and culture. Having spent the last 15 years living in Tokyo, Choulai has become one of Japan's most prominent musical figures, working with artists such as 5Lack, Otomo Yoshihide, Daichi Yamamoto and Kojoe through his association and position at labels such as Jazzy Sort and Oilworks as a producer. Choulai has recently returned to Australia to undertake his appointment as Artistic Director for the Australian Art Orchestra.

In this performance, Aaron Choulai brings together a quintet of long time collaborators to play original compositions that are a lateral extension of some of his best known projects such as Vada, Raw Denshi and We Don't Dance for No Reason. Featuring Holly Moore (alto saxophone), James Macaulay (trombone), Tom Lee (double bass), Sam Bates (drums), and Aaron Choulai (piano).

Sunday, 16th

## Mark Lockett Quartet feat. Roger Manins (NZ/Melb.)

Irrepressible and dynamic New Zealand drummer Mark Lockett is touring Australia to launch his seventh album, 'Swings and Roundabouts'. During lockdown, Lockett penned nine compositions inspired by his love of the late jazz giant Ornette Coleman, and drawing on the modern sound of his contemporaries. Recently recorded in New York, it features a chord-less quartet of NY heavyweights in David Binney (alto sax), Duane Eubanks (trumpet) and Matt Penman (double bass) producing masterful improvisations in a cutting-edge setting. For this Melbourne leg of the tour, drummer Lockett (drums) and great N.Z. tenor saxophonist Roger Manins (National Jazz Saxophone Award winner at Wangaratta in 2002) team with trumpeter Mat Jodrell and double bassist Philip Rex.

Sunday, 23rd

## Gooley Deliria (Adelaide/Melb.)

Gooley Deliria debuted for the MJC last July, and is a collaboration of some of Adelaide and Melbourne's leading "next generation" artists, with Dylan Paul (double bass), Kyrie Anderson (drums) and Flora Carbo (saxophone), together

with the more experienced Dave McEvoy (piano). Anderson and Carbo first met at the Banff Creative Music Intensive in Canada in 2019, and have since performed together in Aura, and the Niran Dasika Quartet. Anderson is also featured on McEvoy's 2020 album, Ochre. Their original music comes from a state of delirium and creativity, leaning into the "gooey edges of sound".

Sunday, 30th

## Ashes - Debut/CD Launch

Ashes is a dynamic band that has cultivated a distinct and analogous language over the past years. This group brings to life sketches of music written by trumpeter Ashley Ballat who's eclectic musical aesthetic amalgamates music from the incredible Australian Jazz scene, ECM records, American Free Jazz, Ambient, Folk and hint of Metal. Together the band coalesce acoustic sounds with electronics to create thick soundscapes full of texture, colour and mood. Moving between lamenting melodies, dense fiery fury and sparse, delicately restrained improvisation, this band's sensitivity is something special. Featuring Ashley Ballat (trumpet and FX), Dan Waddingham (guitar), Monty Shnier (double bass), Ollie Cox (percussion and Electronics), and Maddison Carter (drums).

Friday, May 26, 7.30PM

Elisabeth Murdoch Hall, MRC \$55/\$45 con.

## M.J.C.'s 40th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT at M.R.C.

The MJC's 40th Anniversary Concert (co-presented by the Melbourne Recital Centre) brings together 24 jazz artists from Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. The highlight will be the premiere of the 4-part "Jumping Yaks" suite (comprising works by Erkki Veltheim, Erik Griswold, Eugene Ball and Niko Schauble) for the specially formed MJC Orchestra (conducted by Vanessa Perica). The first half of the concert will present small ensembles, with artists including Mike Nock, Paul Grabowsky, Barney McAll, Sandy Evans, Andrea Keller, Stephen Magnusson, Julien Wilson and Mirko Guerrini. Tickets are \$55 & \$45 concessions, and are on sale at the MRC's Box Office, or online at: [www.melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/melbourne-jazz-co-operative/](http://www.melbournerecital.com.au/events/2023/melbourne-jazz-co-operative/)



This concert has been supported by the Victorian Government, through a \$20,000 grant from Creative Victoria.

# Around the Scene

Thursday-Saturday, March 16-18th, Bird's Basement

## Mike Stern Quintet (USA)

Featuring Mike Stern & Leni Stern (guitars), Dennis Chambers (drums), Jimmy Haslip (electric bass), and Danny Walsh (saxophones).

# Memberships & Acknowledgements

Support the co-op in 2023

## M.J.C. Associate Membership

MJC Membership for 2023 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](mailto: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](http://www.mjc.org.au) or email [melbournejazzcooperative@gmail.com](mailto:melbournejazzcooperative@gmail.com)



MJC ORCHESTRA

*These events take place on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and we pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging*

This 2023 Annual program is no longer being assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, or the Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria. It is purely reliant on revenue from ticket sales. Support adventurous Australian jazz artists (especially when your Governments do not).

Founding Artistic Patron: the late Brian Brown, OA Artistic Patrons: Mike Nock, ONZM, & Professor Tony Gould, OA, MJC Chairperson: Eugene Ball

**||| MJC MELBOURNE JAZZ CO-OPERATIVE**

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