

Wellington



Newsletter
January 2011

Next Club Meeting

James Wylie & Friends

at

Chicago

5 pm Sunday, 30 January

Members \$12 Public \$15 Students \$5



Wellington



www.wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz

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President's Message

On Sunday 5 December, the club had a ball with David Feehan and a group of top-class Wellington jazz musicians with an entertaining and exciting performance. Chris Selley's arrangements for the front line were excellent and the combination of Chris on trumpet and EWI, Chris Fox on trombone and Andre Paris on tenor was tight and punchy. Dave and his fellow vocalists Dr Dawn Elder and Corinne Imrie were superb. The back line of Ed Zuchollo on keyboards, Andy Mauafua on guitar, Steven Moodie on bass, and Reuben Bradley on drums was phenomenal. It was a brilliant event and I'm sure we will be inviting a return visit.

Tender Gravy, the combo from the Young Musicians Programme comprising Shaan Singh on tenor, Tyaan Singh on clarinet, Robert Bruce on Guitar, Jessica Palairt on keyboard, Matt Beachen on drums, and joined by Matiu Whiting, a graduate from NZSM, on bass set the atmosphere by braving a gusty Wellington breeze outside before the main event. They played most professionally with some excellent improvising solos, and drew a big crowd from the Events Centre next door. They played again inside during the interval and it was inspiring to hear such young jazz musicians playing so well. The Jazz Club members who attended gave them a rousing applause.

2010 was a year of great jazz for the Wellington Jazz Club and it was great to be able to provide a good venue and appreciative audiences for the fine jazz musicians who are always keen to play for us. We are fortunate to have a good liaison with the NZ School of Music Jazz School and access to the high standard of jazz musicians continually being produced. Jazz is certainly alive and well in Wellington, and I'm sure that there are many more groups yet to come. Thanks to all who contributed last year, musicians, audiences, Jazz Club members who have helped to fund the exciting events the club has been able to enjoy, and the management and staff of the Chicago Sports Café, who were our gracious hosts during 2010.

For the first meeting for 2011 on 30 January, we have managed to secure James Wylie, sax, who has just completed his masters degree at the New England Conservatory in Boston, USA, and is returning to tutor at the NZ Jazz Foundation January workshops. He will be joined by Alex Boneham (winner of the prestigious James Morrison scholarship award in Australia) on bass and Reuben Bradley on drums and will perform a programme of the music of Gerry Mulligan, Chet Baker and Lee Konitz. It will certainly be an outstanding evening's entertainment, and should kick off the year at a pretty exciting level.

We have planned a special event for the 27 February 2011 meeting, which will be held at the James Cook Hotel where the club will honour the significant contribution by Bob Barcham to music in New Zealand. It is hoped that many of Bob's friends and associates will attend that meeting and join with the club in honouring his contribution and enjoying his arrangements which will be played live on the night by the X7s Dance Band. For those coming by car, there will be plenty of inexpensive and accessible Sunday night parking at The Terrace level of the Hotel.

Welcome to new member Faye Goggin.

Mike Bain

President

Remember that Music Works Ltd, Corner Ghuznee and Marions Sts, have offered 10% discount to club members on production of their Membership Card.

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This month's gig

The James Wylie Group

James is involved with all kinds of music in Boston from jazz and swing, music for theatre, through to more experimental fare. Back in New Zealand in January, tutoring at the NZ Jazz Foundation January workshops, James has arranged for a previous collaborator Alex Boneham (bass player, winner of the prestigious James Morrison scholarship award in Australia) to come over from Boston, and Reuben Bradley to join him for our gig. As far as our repertoire goes, James will present mostly standards arranged by Gerry Mulligan and some compositions by Mulligan or his associates. These will all be very much in a straight-ahead jazz style highlighting the most beautiful elements of Mulligan's art, and focusing on the music not only of Gerry Mulligan, but also of Chet Baker and Lee Konitz. They did some wonderful swinging performances of pieces from the *Great American Songbook*.

James advises that some arrangements of one or two of the Birth of the Cool tunes which Mulligan was involved with could also be in there. Some of the arrangements he did were two-horn arrangements and James would like to add a third voice and fill them out a little more – a really nice set of music, especially with the bass player who is one of the best younger players anywhere in the world in James's opinion. Mulligan's music is really interesting as he always played with people across many styles and from different eras. Some of the favourite music is with Johnny Hodges and Ben Webster, two early members of the Ellington band. You can hear the lyrical influence and blues of the swing era. You will also hear in his other music sophisticated harmonies and classical style counterpoint that was always understated and never jarring. A very interesting and underrated composer/arranger and musical stylist!

James was the leader of the the band that won the Ken Avery Combo Competition, partly sponsored by the Wellington Jazz Club, some years ago. Since then he has won a couple of scholarships (including the Wolf Fisher that goes to one NZ musician annually, and never before to a non-classical player) to do his Masters at the New England Conservatory in Boston. He completed that in May and since then has been playing in Boston and also presenting some music in Canada, Greece, and Berlin.

Recent diary of an Avery Competition winner!

11 November 2010 - James Wylie Octet @ St. Johns, Jamaica Plain, MA.

14 November 2010 - James Wylie/Clayton DeWalt Quartet w. Brad Barrett and Moses Eder @ 263 Gallery, Cambridge. Presented by the Boston Micrtonal Society.

29 November 2010 - Randy Pingrey Trio w. Ezra Weller - cornet and James Wylie - reeds @ the Outpost, Cambridge MA.

5 December 2010 - James Wylie/Clayton DeWalt Quartet w. Brad Barrett and Moses Eder @ Pierce Hall, New England Conservatory, Boston,

26 January 2011 - James Wylie Trio @ Creative Jazz Collective, Auckland, NZ.

Wellington Jazz Club Diary

27 February The X7s Dance Band at James Cook Hotel, tribute to Bob Barcham

20 March Aspire Big Band at Chicago

Gerry Mulligan

Bernard Weinstein

Artist Biography by Lee Prosser of JazzReview.com.

Gerry Mulligan was born on April 6, 1927 in New York and was one of the most versatile of all jazz musicians. With ease, he could play many instruments, compose, and arrange for other jazz figures as well as do his own solo work! Although associated with the baritone saxophone of which he was its master, he was also a very fine pianist and recorded some excellent jazz piano music.

Mulligan was associated with such jazz greats as Gene Krupa, Miles Davis, Lee Konitz, Kai Winding, Chet Baker, Stan Kenton, Dave Brubeck, Astor Piazzolla, Bob Brookmeyer, Art Farmer, Thelonious Monk, Zoot Sims, among many others. He was a prolific composer, and wrote such jazz standards as "Jeru". Mulligan also experimented with jazz forms and pioneered these forms with his memorable style and approaches!

Of the many jazz musicians in the news, he was among those quoted most often, and his life oftentimes made headlines in much the same manner as his friends, Miles Davis and Chet Baker. He was a musician's musician and respected talent whenever he encountered it, and encouraged numerous young and upcoming jazz musicians.

There are so many memorable recordings he made that it is hard to say which was the finest because he was always going into new territory of jazz expression to develop a motif then moving on to something equally new. Among those recordings would have to be included "Birth of the Cool" with Miles Davis, "What Is There To Say?", "Two of a Mind". He also performed and recorded with Stan Getz, Chet Baker, and Paul Desmond during his varied and successful career.

Mulligan's last three recordings before his death have remained among his most popular later releases: "Dream A Little Dream", "Paraiso", and "Dragonfly". An interesting aspect of "Paraiso" is that it features bossa nova songs written and performed by Mulligan, accompanied by the Brazilian vocalist Jane Duboc. The "Paraiso" collection includes such songs as "Paraiso", "Willow Tree", "Bordado", and "O Bom Alvinho", and reveals Mulligan in top-notch form. "Paraiso" is one of his most expressive, mellow recordings, very full of life and jazz expressions.

Gerry Mulligan died during January 1996 of complications following knee surgery. It is an enduring tribute to his career that most of his recordings are still available today, or in the process of being reissued.

For those jazz listeners wishing to discover additional performances of Gerry Mulligan, there are many recordings available. Here is a sampling:

"Triple Play" (3CD set, classic Mulligan), Telarc, 1998.

"Mullenum," Columbia, 1998.

"Sextet 1955 - 1956," Giants of Jazz, 1998.

"Greatest Hits," RCA, 1998.

"Original Quartet With Chet Baker" (2CD set), Blue Note, 1998.

"Quartets," Hindsight, 1997.

"Mulligan," Laserlight, 1996.

"Gerry Mulligan Songbook," Blue Note, 1996.

"Gerry Mulligan and Paul Desmond Quartet," Ultradisc, 1995.

"The Shadow of Your Smile," Moon, 1994.

"Carnegie Hall Concert," Columbia, 1987.

"Soft Lights and Sweet Music," Concord Jazz, 1987.

