

Wellington



Patron: Dame Diana Crossan DNZM

August 2026

Meow Event Venue, 9 Edward St, Wellington

Members - \$25; Public - \$35; Students - \$10

16 August 2026, 5pm-7pm

NZSM BIG BAND



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our July gig was headlined by one of the club's Honorary Members, Kevin Clark (playing keyboards). As he has done for the past 55 years (!), Kevin performed with vocalist, Fran Barton. The two artists began performing together at the Beefeaters Arms in the 1970s – bringing back happy memories for many in the audience. Kevin and Fran were joined by Michael Taylor (trumpet), Rowan Clark (bass) and Lance Philip (drums). It was a stellar lineup.

All songs other than the opening and closing numbers (Frim Fram Sauce and We Love Being Here with You) were Kevin Clark originals. For those who have listened to his many albums, these numbers sound like standards, they are so often played. Two albums, in particular, contributed many of the songs played: Once Upon a Song I Flew, and Zahara. Try and track them down as they are great listening.

Some of the numbers go right back to when Kevin was performing for the Brian Edwards Show in the 1970s. The stories he told of that show were a delight, as were many other anecdotes about his career. Also fascinating were backgrounds to songs with an African flavour that he had composed, including Egoli Jump, Sikelele uMandela, and A Night in Okavango. Other styles included Afro-Cuban, a jazz waltz (a tribute to Kevin's cat Scroggin), trance, funk (the superb Funky Monkey), and even some prog rock from the 70s.

Fran's voice is perfectly suited to the music – she has sung most of these songs dozens of times before, but they still sounded fresh. Michael Taylor – returned from many years performing in New York – played stunning trumpet lines throughout the gig (including some beautifully nuanced pieces with a Harmon mute). The rhythm section (Rowan and Lance) was splendid, both while accompanying and soloing; it was

special to hear drums that are relentless, intricate and delicate – all at the same time!

I will be sad to miss the next gig on 15 August (while I'm overseas): the NZSM Big Band. The New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University of Wellington has long been the top jazz school in the country, and this gig will feature a lineup of talented musicians. The band is directed by Seth Boy, himself a very accomplished and well-known jazz bass player. The band recently performed at the Manawatu Jazz Club, to ecstatic reviews. Don't miss it. Bookings will, as usual, be available online through Flicket with door sales on the evening. I will be back to hear Neil Billington (harmonica virtuoso) in September. Enjoy the gigs.

Arthur Grimes
President

Footnote: *I particularly enjoyed listening to Kevin Clark's CD, 'Once Upon a Song I Flew' purchased after the gig, as I compiled this newsletter!*

Helen Thompson, Editor

BACKGROUND TO OUR NEXT GIG



Te Kōkī Big Band One is the advanced jazz ensemble class of the New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University of Wellington, where developing musicians hone their skills through bi-weekly rehearsals, recording sessions, and numerous gigs in Wellington and throughout the country, most recently in collaboration with Orchestra Wellington. The band is assembled through audition of NZSM jazz and classical students and is made up of the standard jazz orchestra format of 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, 5 saxophonists, and rhythm

section, as well as featured vocalists. This concert Te Kōkī Big Band One will be playing selections from one of the most significant composers, beyond category, of the 20th century: Duke Ellington.

NZSM’s Big Band One has performed in concert with some the world’s leading jazz artists such as Eric Marienthal, Tom Warrington, Joe LaBarbera, Larry Koonse, Karrin Allyson, Adam Schroeder, Alex Sipiagin, Bennie Maupin, Dick Oatts, Jim Pugh, Bob Sheppard, Bill Reichenbach, Clay Jenkins, and Jon Papenbrook.

Their current director, carrying forward the passion and vision of the late great Dr. Rodger Fox, is Wellington bassist Seth Boy.



We are pleased to advise that a 10% discount is still available at Music Works in Ghuznee Street if you provide proof of Wellington Jazz Club Membership

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2026

20 September	Neil Billington
25 October	TipTet

Further details about each of these gigs will appear in subsequent Newsletters.

MEOW BOOKINGS – FLICKET

Wellington Jazz Club members will be notified by email prior to each gig, when preferential bookings will be open for a week, after which bookings will be open to all.

To maximise the seating available for Club Members in the limited space available, Meow will be trialling using single seats in theatre style rows but with small tables scattered within the rows for drinks and food.

The link for booking with Flicket is as follows:

<https://meow.flicket.co.nz/events/34c0549c-43f9-4e0b-a42b-34479e5fbc2a>

Door sales (cash and EFTPOS) will normally be available; however, members will need to take a chance with seating location.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the Wellington Jazz Club (Inc.) complete this form, add payment, and give to a committee member at the door, or post to:
Eddy Goldberg, 100 Weld Street, Wadestown 6012

Alternatively, payment can be made direct to the Wellington Jazz Club:

Account No. 030531 0533738 00 (confirmation of payment to **egoldbergnz@gmail.com** with scan or photo of the completed form.) Please include your full name and type of membership (ie Student, Single or Double) under 'Particulars' and 'Code' on the bank form.

Name(s)

Address:.....

.....

Ph:

Email: ¹

Student \$10 (include photocopy of ID), Single \$30, Double \$50

¹ Newsletters are distributed by email.

The Jazz Club is a great place to meet up with friends and family while enjoying some of the best jazz Wellington has to offer. Members are encouraged to bring a guest along and invite them to join the Wellington Jazz Club to keep the live jazz ball bouncing along...

THE WELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB (INC)	
Patron:	Dame Diana Crossan DNZM
Honorary Members: Terry Crayford Kevin Clark John Joyce Paul Dyne	Margaret Layton Erna Ferry Colin Hemmingsen Sir Anand Satyanand & Lady Susan
President & Gig coordinator	Arthur Grimes 027 248 9389
Secretary	Pam Alderton wjcsec@outlook.co.nz
Treasurer	Felicity Beilby
Vice President	Graham Kelly
Newsletter	Helen Thompson
Meow Liaison	Katie Wilson
Membership Coordinator	Eddy Goldberg
WJC Website	Neale Pitches www.wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz
Email information distribution	Nick Tipping: <i>wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com</i> <i>Do join Nick Tipping's distribution list to stay informed about future jazz events in Wellington, email as above.</i>



Kevin Clark, Fran Barton, Michael Taylor, Lance Phillip and Rowan Clark – snippets from another superb gig in July.

