

Wellington



Patron: Dame Diana Crossan DNZM

June 2026

Meow Event Venue, 9 Edward St, Wellington

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

Sunday 28 June 2026, 5pm-7pm

TENORS IN LOVE



Amity Alton-Lee & Greg Rogan, with Greg Crayford & Aslan Rowlands

FROM THE PRESIDENT - ARTHUR GRIMES

Our May gig featured four well-known Wellington jazz figures: Norman Meehan (piano), Hannah Griffin (vocals), Blair Latham (tenor sax and bass clarinet) and Paul Dyne (double bass).

Norman is a renowned jazz composer and performer, and many of the songs performed at the gig were Norman's settings of poems, mostly by New Zealand poets. Local poets included Bill Manhire (The Oreti River, and The Occupation Against Time), Alistair Te Ariki Campbell (Blue Rain), and David Mitchell (Aesthetics). Each number was sensitively written and performed with delicate accompaniment from Norman on piano. I was particularly taken with Blair's stunning bass clarinet solo on Aesthetics, while Paul's sympathetic bass lines demonstrated why he is one of the club's Honorary Members. Hannah's diction and purity of voice meant we could hear every word of the delightful lyrics.

The band also presented us with numbers by several jazz greats: Duke Ellington (Just Squeeze Me), Nat King Cole (Too Young to Go Steady), Dizzy Gillespie (Con Alma), Kenny Wheeler (For Jan) and Joe Henderson (Recorda Me). The night finished with an up-tempo Meehan original, I Met a Man. The performance was one of beauty rather than brawn. It showed that jazz can be full of nuance.

Our next gig has been put back a week to the fourth Sunday of June, as Meow is required for an international act as part of Wellington's Lōemis Festival on the third Sunday. The gig, "Tenors in Love", will feature saxophonist couple, Amity Alton-Lee and Greg Rogan playing with a rhythm section led by Greg Crayford. Greg tells me that the crowd will love it and, knowing the personalities involved, I am sure he is right!

Bookings will be available online. Remember that if you miss out on a booking, there are always places available with door entry at the same prices. We encourage you to come early and enjoy

Meow's hospitality before the gig begins. As winter is now upon us, it is also a good idea to bring some warm clothes as Meow is not always the warmest venue on a cold winter night.

Unfortunately, I have to end on a very sad note. Mike Bain, the club's long-time President, Treasurer and (current) Committee Member, tragically died on 26 May following an accident. Mike has been an inspiration to us all and his passing leaves a huge hole in Wellington's music scene. An obituary appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Let's celebrate his life when we next meet at our gig on 28 June.

BACKGROUND TO OUR NEXT GIG

Greg Rogan and Amity Alton-Lee, collectively known as "Gramity" to their bandmates and musical colleagues, are a husband-and-wife saxophone team, bringing you the classic sound of the twin tenors.

Despite being thought of as "interchangeable" in their various bands, Greg and Amity have quite different musical histories: Greg is a talented multi-instrumentalist who has played in Dixieland bands, show bands, concert bands, pop bands, and many jazz ensembles. Amity has had a one-track passion for the tenor saxophone since childhood, studying at NZSM, with her playing firmly rooted in the four Bs: Blues, Ballads, Bebop and Big Bands. She's also one of Wellington's busiest saxophone teachers.

Amity and Greg are delighted to put their contrasting, yet complementary styles together at the Wellington Jazz Club, where they will be joined by local legends Aslan Rowlands and Greg Crayford.

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2026

19 July	Kevin Clark & Fran Barton
16 August	NZSM Big Band

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

IN MEMORY OF MIKE BAIN – by Chris Caudwell



I first met Mike Bain in the 1990s at a gig in a Johnsonville church at which he was playing clarinet in a classical music trio. He always maintained a wide interest in different music genres and their musicians. He played leading roles as either founder, player, manager or conductor with many bands. The NZ Air Force band and City Jazz are good examples. In the early 2000s he and I were playing Dixieland jazz with the Valley Stompers. I recall gigs at the jazz clubs in New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North and at both the Wellington Jazz Club and the Wellington Jazz Preservation Society.

While driving home together from a club gig in Wanganui we discussed an advert we had both seen in a Wellington newspaper announcing that the Wellington Jazz Club would soon be holding a public meeting as part of a formal process to close the club down. It seemed odd that there could be successful jazz clubs in smaller North Island towns but not in Wellington. I remember Mike saying quietly, “You and I could save the club”. I had just retired and knew I would have time to devote to such a worthy cause.

The upshot was that we both attended that jazz club public meeting at the Flamingo. I requested and was granted permission to speak. I pointed out that there were successful jazz clubs in nearby towns with nowhere near the range of local musicians available compared to Wellington with its Jazz School. Perhaps by following some of those other club policies the Wellington club could continue. For example, those other clubs all met monthly on a Sunday evening at free hireage venues and hosted all jazz genres. The Wellington Club met on a Monday evening. On balance the audience was not in my

favour until I mentioned that my friend Mike Bain was a professional accountant and was volunteering to handle the club finances. Mike then spoke.

That changed things dramatically. Perhaps the treasurer role had been one of the club issues. Existing club committee members including Bernard Weinstein and ex-president Graeme Freeman volunteered to continue with a new committee and the rest is history.



Postscript from Arthur Grimes: I first met Mike in 2014 when I joined his band, City Jazz. We have been playing together in this band ever since! He and Graham asked me to join the committee of the Wellington Jazz Club in 2021, and it was then that

I gained a full appreciation of the enormous service he has given to the club. Mike has been the club's President and Treasurer, membership coordinator, mentor and repository of knowledge. The club would not exist without his efforts. He has ensured that the club is on a sound financial footing which enables us to bring such high-quality musicians to perform for our members. We are deeply saddened by his passing, and he will be sorely missed by all.

You can find videos of Mike playing with the Valley Stompers by searching on Youtube for "Wellington Valley Stompers".

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/371b4890-d744-431c-b798-d632cbea446d>

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

<i>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</i>
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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 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: wgtnjazzclub@gmail.com <i>Do join Nick Tipping's distribution list to stay informed about future jazz events in Wellington, email as above.</i>

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.....

Memories of Norman Meehan, Hannah Griffin, Paul Dyne and Blair Latham's gig, last month...

