

Wellington



Patron: Dame Diana Crossan DNZM

May 2026

Meow Event Venue, 9 Edward St, Wellington
Members - \$25; Public - \$35; Students - \$10

Sunday 17 May 2026, 5pm-7pm



Hannah Griffin | Blair Latham | Norman Meehan | Paul Dyne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The club was delighted to bring the New Orleans Joymakers down from Auckland, with some band members also coming from Whangarei, Waihi (and Wellington). It was worth the effort. The 7-piece Joymakers played superb Dixieland jazz with a few related genres thrown in.

The band comprises a rhythm section of Bruce King (drums), Pete McGregor (bass), Phillip Beatson (guitar) and Ben Fernandez (piano). Their playing was extraordinarily tight all night. The talented front line comprised Frank Talbot (clarinet and sax), Alistair McMillan (trombone, trumpet and vocal) and the leader, Brian Kelly (trumpet, trombone and vocal).

Well-known Dixieland tunes included South Rampart Street, At the Jazz Band Ball and We Shall Walk through the Streets of the City (based on When the Saints Go Marching In). Alistair McMillan featured on another dixie-related tune, Hello Dolly; Louis Armstrong would have been proud of his entertaining, gravelly vocals!

Other genres included ragtime (Scott Joplin's Maple Leaf Rag), Woody Herman's Woodchoppers' Ball, and the beautiful World War Two ballad, A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. In all the numbers, the playing of the front-line was riveting – great solos and great ensemble work. The band certainly lived up to their Joymakers name.

They then finished with a real treat. Evy Vermeire (wife of guitarist, Phillip Beatson) sang two numbers: the pop hit, Goody Goody, followed by Edith Piaf's La Vie en Rose. Goody Goody was sung with glee, while La Vie en Rose showed a superb vocalist at work, both in the slow heart-rending introduction and then in an up-tempo dixie version. Phillip and Evy are now resident in Wellington, and we hope to hear more of them in future. Our 17 May gig features four wonderful Wellington jazz figures. Hannah Griffin was due to lead a jazz club gig in April 2025 but a cycling accident kept her from performing. (Instead,

we had the delightful vocals of Lauren Nottingham on that occasion). Hannah is fully recovered and back singing, and I look forward to hearing her perform. With her will be pianist, composer and former head of Victoria University's jazz programme, Norman Meehan, who played with such superb touch when accompanying Lauren. Blair Latham, a frequent performer at the club in recent times, is joining in on reeds while we are delighted to welcome back Paul Dyne on bass. Paul is an honorary member of the Wellington Jazz Club in recognition of his years of playing (often with the late Roger Sellers on drums) and for his service to the jazz community.

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 encroaches, it is also a good idea to bring some warm clothes if a cold night is on the cards.

Lastly, a note for your diaries: Meow is needed for an international act as part of the Lōemis Festival in Wellington on the third Sunday of June. **As a result, the club's June gig will be held on the fourth Sunday, 28 June** (details to be circulated next month). I look forward to seeing you at both the May and June gigs.

Arthur Grimes
President

BACKGROUND TO OUR NEXT GIG

Hannah Griffin | Blair Latham | Norman Meehan | Paul Dyne

Hannah Griffin, Blair Latham and Norman Meehan have been performing together for many years, playing jazz and original music around Aotearoa New Zealand. For their performance at the Wellington Jazz Club in May 2026, they will present music by Norman – mainly jazz settings of poems by such notables as E E Cummings, Wallace Stevens and New Zealand poets Alistair

Te Ariki Campbell, Hinemoana Baker and Bill Manhire – interspersed with some of the great songs from the jazz repertoire. They are thrilled that bassist Paul Dyne will be joining them.

Look forward to an evening of melodic and swinging music from a group that values space and seeks to always make a beautiful sound.

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

28 June	To be advised
19 July	Kevin Clark & Fran Barton
16 August	NZSM Big Band

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 the general public.

To maximise the seating available for Club Members in the limited space available, Meow are 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/ce07ac7a-0d04-44a8-af9a-800065a5c030/reservation?slug=246eb087>

Door sales (cash and EFTPOS) will normally be available (subject to availability with limited seating options).



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the Wellington Jazz Club (Inc.) complete this form, add payment, and return to:

Michael Bain

Membership Registrar, WJC (Inc.) 12 Albert Street, Island Bay, Wellington 6023, or hand to a committee member at the door.

Name(s)

Address:.....

.....

Ph:

Email: ¹

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

Payment can also be made direct to the Wellington Jazz Club Account No. 030531 0533738 00 (email confirmation of payment to mgbain@xtra.co.nz **with scan or photo of the completed form.**)

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 Lawrence
Membership & Asst to Treasurer	Michael Bain
Vice President	Graham Kelly
Newsletter	Helen Thompson
Meow Liaison	Katie Wilson
Committee	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 ...

April gig – New Orleans Joymakers – a great night!

Alistair McMillan, Phillip Beatson, Brian Kelly & Pete McGregor



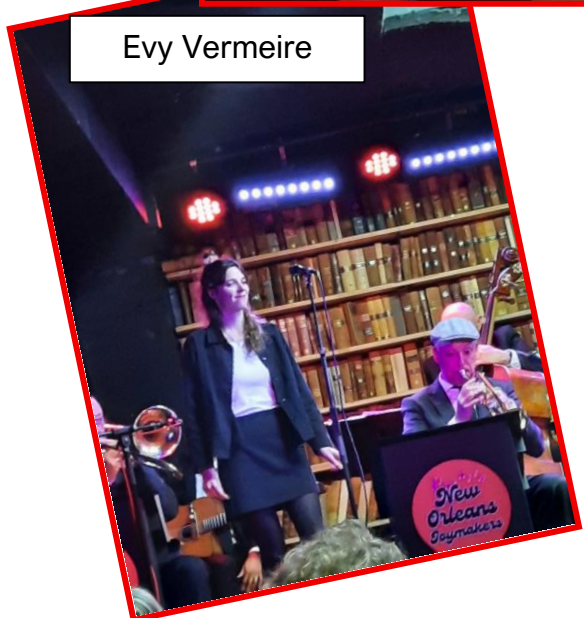
Ben Fernandez



A very much enjoyed guest appearance by Graham Kelly on piano



Evy Vermeire



Pete McGregor, Brian Kelly, Frank Talbot