

Wellington



Patron: Dame Diana Crossan DNZM

October 2026

Meow Event Venue, 9 Edward St, Wellington

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

25 October 2026, 5pm-7pm

TIPTET



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sometimes superlatives are inadequate to describe a gig. Our September gig featured Neil Billington on harmonica and vocals, together with an all-star lineup: Nick Granville (guitar), Patrick Bleakley (bass), Lance Phillip (drums) plus Cindy Muggeridge (keyboards plus vocals on some numbers).

The gig was billed: From Larry Adler to Little Walter. We heard harmonica styles in keeping with these two greats and also in the style of some of the other great blues harp players over the years. Neil started with a solo rendition on chromatic harmonica of Larry Adler's version of Smoke Gets in Your Eyes followed by his version of All the Things You Are and then Georgia. Each showed a rich tone with real mastery of this most difficult instrument, while Nick's playing was as sweet as you could wish for.

Things changed up when Neil switched to the (diatonic) blues harp with some hard-driving numbers in the style of Sonny Boy Williamson and Little Walter. Sonny Boy's Help Me was interspersed with Bye Bye Bird – two of my favourites, but then another favourite came along: Elmore James's The Sky is Crying, featuring a solo in the style of Little Walter. This erstwhile blues harp player was in heaven! A delicate duo of Neil and Nick on Summertime capped off the first half.

Cindy joined the band after the break with some rousing boogie woogie piano playing and vocals to match. The crowd loved it – and fortunately we have Cindy back with her band, Raven Mavens for our November gig! Other great numbers in the second half included Paul Butterfield's Screamin' and Willie Dixon's My Babe, in which the rhythm section really shone. I could happily have stayed on for a third set – and it seemed the hugely appreciative crowd would all have stayed too. A night to remember.

I'm looking forward to our October gig – Nick Tipping's Tiptet. They were immensely popular last time they played for us, so

do try to book (**and please note the change in date, to 25 October**). But if you miss out on a booking, there is always seating (stools) available for those who wish to pay at the door (same prices). Incidentally, a tribute to Nick Tipping's Radio NZ jazz show follows.

I look forward to seeing you at Meow for another great night of jazz.

Arthur Grimes
President

Footnote: On behalf of the Wellington Jazz Club, congratulations is extended to Nick Tipping on recently completing 10 years of his wonderful RNZ Concert jazz programme, 'Inside Out' which was first aired on 16 September 2016. Nick has always featured NZ jazz music with a NZ track played every hour... long may this very special and interesting programme continue!

BACKGROUND TO OUR NEXT GIG

The Tiptet is a quintet in the classic hard bop style, led by Nick Tipping, bass player and host of jazz and classical programmes on RNZ Concert and National. The ensemble also includes trumpet player Michael Taylor, saxophonist Oscar Laven, pianist Ayrton Foote and drummer Mike Jensen.

As with Nick's RNZ shows, a Tiptet gig features hard-swinging music coupled with his enthusiastic and informative presentation.

Not to be missed!

<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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2026 Wellington Jazz Club /NZSM Combo Competition

The 2026 NZ School of Music (NZSM), Victoria University of Wellington Combo Competition, jointly funded with the Wellington Jazz Club was held at Meow on Sunday 13th September 2026, 6.00pm – 9.00pm. The event was very successful, with ten NZSM bands performing, and over 50 students participating. The students competed for prizes totalling \$1,900 of which \$1500 was sponsored by the Wellington Jazz Club as part of its support and encouragement of young jazz musicians, and the balance of \$400 by NZSM.

The standard of musicianship was high, and the event was well supported by friends of the competitors and some Jazz Club members. Each band performed one original piece and one arrangement of a cover piece. There were some excellent original compositions and arrangements and some humour, such as the battle of the tenor saxophonists 'Mr BoyleUp' (in top hat and purple cape) and 'InvaderF' (in orange jump suit) with band!

The competition was organised by Lily Shanks (NZSM) and MC'd by composer and jazz pianist Andrew Faleatua in liaison with Jazz Club Committee members Arthur Grimes and Katie Wilson. Meow staff supported and hosted the event with Sound Operator Kahu Sanson-Burnett.

Adjudicators were singer Wallace Gollan, known for her energetic live performances in international settings, and drummer and educator Sam MacKenzie. Judging criteria included 'technical proficiency', 'musicianship, ensemble cohesion' and 'original interpretation of standards.

Prizes were awarded to the following winners:

1st place (combo), \$800: 'Road to Sugarloaf' - an ensemble with full horn section, bass, guitar and drums. Arrangement: 'Fire' inspired by Joe Henderson & Alice Coltrane; Original composition: 'Winter Tedium'.

2nd place (combo), \$400: CHOPS' - Hupstein Eng (guitar), Freddy Sayer (piano/keyboard,) Jacob Meikle (bass), Aaron McDaniel (drums) performed 'Cakewalk' and 'Sunny'.

3rd place (combo), \$300: Jago and the Divas' - 'My favourite things'.

Best first year combo, \$200: 'Sizzlers' - Reuben (drums), Max Horn (guitar), Grace (vocals), Matt Donny (trombone), Big JP (trumpet), Troy (keyboards), Theo (bass) performed an original piece, and 'And the melody still lingers on - Night in Tunisia' (after Chaka Khan).

Best arrangement of jazz standard (individual) \$100:
My Favourite Things', Jago and the Divas

Best composition (individual) \$100: 'Guarded by Your Pleasure': Georgia Doyne (C7)

The Wellington Jazz Club and the NZSM are part of a network of local organisations actively investing in the future of jazz musicianship. The jointly organised combo competition provides encouragement, support and performance experience for the young jazz musicians and we look forward to seeing the names of many of them in the programmes of future jazz events and performing at the Jazz Club after their graduation.

COMING SOON - GIGS IN 2026

15 November	Raven Mavens
6 December	Liberty Big Band

Further details about these gigs will appear in future 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 Fliicket is as follows:

<https://meow.fliicket.co.nz/events/851c1192-7759-4dc8-a133-7e933e388b1f>

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:.....

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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.....



[Patrick Bleakley on bass, Nick Granville on guitar, Lance Phillips on drums and Cindy Muggeridge on keyboard, with the harmonica virtuoso Neil Billington, entertaining at our memorable September gig!

