

Wellington



Patron: Dame Diana Crossan DNZM

September 2026

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

20 September 2026, 5pm-7pm

From Larry Adler to Little Walter
THE NEIL BILLINGTON BAND



Photo by Don Laing

REPORT ON AUGUST GIG

Our August gig featured the NZSM Big Band led by their current director, Wellington bassist Seth Boy, very ably carrying forward the passion and vision of the late great Dr Rodger Fox.

The first set started with 'Late Date' by Duke Ellington and was followed by 'A Child is Born' by Thad Jones and 'After You've Gone' (Trad). From the beginning it was evident that we were in for a very special gig with a great blend of talent and sound.

This was followed by songs sung by vocalist Izi Dawson from Ella & Bassey Album; 'My Last Affair', 'Ain't Misbehavin' and 'Deed I Do' presented beautifully with a gorgeous husky and expressive voice. and 'Annie's Dance' by Melba Liston.

After a short break we were treated to Melba Liston's arrangement of Rêverie, by Debussy with a haunting Trombone Solo, followed by 'Portrait of Wellman Braud' one of Duke Ellington's bass players, played on electric bass by Jono together with a trumpet solo.

We were then introduced to Georgia Doyne's character filled vocals with 'Shiny Stockings' from Ella and Bassey and 'Just When We're falling in Love'. Georgia then sang 'Ain't got nothing by the Blues' by Duke Ellington with lots of character and great expression. A ballad from the ensemble followed with 'The Star-crossed Lovers'. This featured great arpeggios from the keyboard player! 'The Waltz you Swang for Me' included another brilliant piano and saxophone solo. There were so many other highlights including a 2-guitar duet, and a dynamic soprano saxophone solo.

The encore piece was The Soy Lentman Show. This continued to showcase very tight ensemble work and included a very impressive clarinet duet and some knock-out percussion work – I especially liked the addition of a tap or two by the drummer, on a tambourine which was at one stage proffered by an instrumentalist!

This gig demonstrated skills, exuberance and a blended wall of quality sound coming from these youthful musicians and we can be assured that with the dynamic arrangements and leadership of Seth Boy they will continue to have a great future in jazz.

A complete list of the musicians is as follows:

Trumpet:	Sylvester Green, Pip Goomes, Caleb Lynch
Trombone:	Jakob Elijas, Liam George, Evan Gordon, Ned Seath
Saxophone:	Mel Burns, Georgina Willan, Cameron Boyle, Vadim Fong, Tai Van der Bar
Piano:	Tim Honiss, Logan Heppell
Guitar:	Sascha Hunt, Zylah, Vivace
Double bass:	Frank Cawte
Electric bass:	Jono Benzur
Drum set:	Ranu Wijesuriya, Aaron McDaniel
Vocals:	Izi Dawson, Georgia Doyne

Our 20 September gig will feature harmonica virtuoso Neil Billington and his band and is not to be missed! Members will be emailed with the link for bookings which will open in early September.

Helen Thompson, Newsletter Editor

Footnote: The next gig for the big band (joined by the University's vocal ensemble) will be 8pm on the 17th of September at the Rogue and Vagabond...

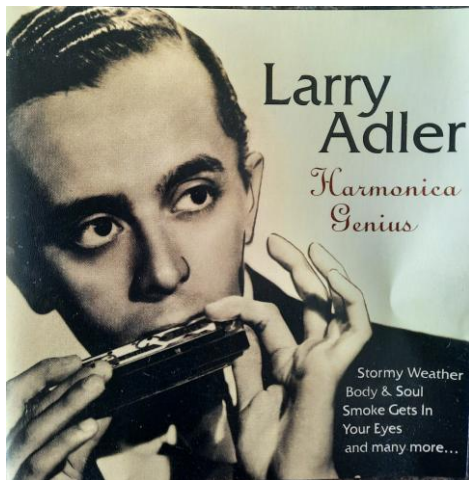
ANNUAL TE KŌKĪ JAZZ COMBO COMPETITION

The Wellington Jazz Club will host the annual **Te Kōkī Jazz Combo Competition in conjunction with the NZ School of Music on Sunday 13 September, 5.30pm-7.30pm at Meow, Wellington.** The jointly organised combo competition provides encouragement, support and performance experience for young jazz musicians and always delivers a high standard of musicianship. Students compete for best group performances, compositions and arrangements. **Admission is free and all are very welcome to attend!**

BACKGROUND TO OUR NEXT GIG

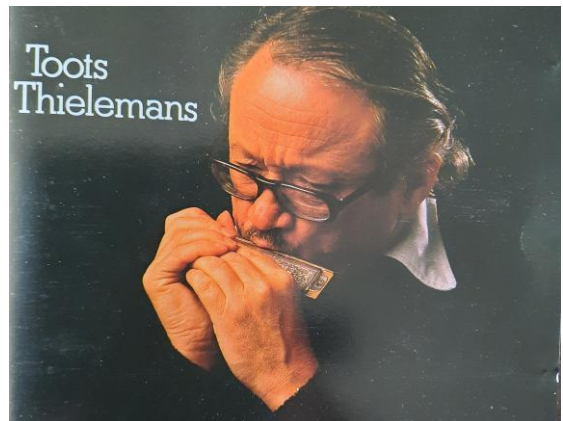
Neil Billington & Band

Neil Billington is returning to the club with his extraordinary harmonica playing!



He is known as a leading exponent of the blues but unusually for a player in that style combines this with an equal facility on the especially challenging demands of the chromatic harmonica, the favoured instrument of Larry Adler (1914-2001) and Toots Thielemans (1922-2016), in which he explores the melodic possibilities of jazz and the American songbook.

Neil will be joined by the equally formidable talents of guitar supremo Nick Granville, Patrick Bleakley on bass and Lance Phillip on drums.



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

25 October	Tiptet
15 November	Raven Mavens

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 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/d19dc665-025d-4e1d-94b0-507e303070b2>

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

¹Newsletters are distributed by email.

**WELLINGTON
JAZZ
FESTIVAL**

ON SALE NOW

WED 14 OCT

**JOEY ALEXANDER
TRIO** [USA]

OPERA HOUSE



THU 15 OCT

**REBIRTH
BRASS BAND** [USA]

Presented in association with TEG Live

MEOW NUI



FRI 16 OCT

**REAL BLACK FOR ME:
ZOE MOON PRESENTS
THE MUSIC OF ROBERTA FLACK**
TĀWHIRI WAREHOUSE



SAT 17 OCT

**BENJAMIN
CLEMENTINE** [UK]
BACK TO BASICS TOUR
OPERA HOUSE



SUN 18 OCT

**HIKURANGI
SCHAUVERIEN-KAA**
TE AO KŌHATU
TĀWHIRI WAREHOUSE



BOOK NOW

JAZZFESTIVAL.NZ

CORE PARTNER

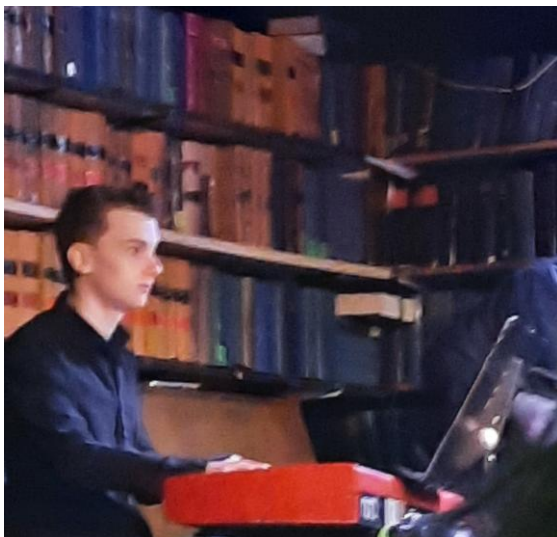
**Absolutely
Positively
Wellington**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS

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.....

Advertisement for the upcoming Wellington Jazz Festival is included on page 6...attendance encouraged!



Some special memories from last month's gig with the NZSM Big Band