

MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
JAZZ
FESTIVAL
MAY 1-8
2010

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MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Celebrating the common chord
1st to 8th May, 2010

The spaces and streets of Melbourne hit a resounding common chord in the first week of May, celebrating the universal language of jazz in an extraordinary program that invites the entire city to get involved and play along.

In their second year, artistic team **Michael Tortoni and Sophie Brous** have brought together an unprecedented program of leading international and Australian musicians in premiere projects and first-time collaborations, presenting more events than ever before in the city centre for the **2010 Melbourne International Jazz Festival**.

With **over 400 performers, over 95 events, 20 free concerts, 16 world premieres and 21 Australian premieres** incorporating film, visual art, public art installations and forums – this year's huge, multi-layered Festival program rolls out in concert halls, bars, clubs, galleries, tram stops and garden beds. Even the stairs of Southern Cross Station are transformed into a massive piano staircase from which music can be created for the duration of the 2010 Festival.

Melbourne will be bursting with the sounds of the world's leading masters of jazz – luminaries like **Charles Lloyd, Zakir Hussain, Ahmad Jamal, Mulatu Astatke, Peter Brotzmann, Avishai Cohen, John Hollenbeck and Theo Bleckmann**. Ten different Masterclasses enable participants to get into the heads of the world's greatest jazz thinkers. For absolutely all lovers of music – from **Jazz for Kids** to the avant-garde to elder statesmen – this is a time to be entertained, to discover, to be inspired and, most importantly, to participate.

It all kicks off in a huge way with **Opening Night** – or, more appropriately, Opening Day – which sees free events envelope Melbourne in a cacophony of awe-inspiring sounds.

The Festival officially commences with **The Big Jam** at Federation Square, a massive call to arms to the entire city - kids and families, the musically aspiring and curious, young and old - to pick up a drum, a jar, a tin can, to beat their chest, blow their horn or sing along, in an extraordinary feat of mass music-making. Led by much loved Australian jazz trumpeter **James Morrison** and gifted children's educators **Nico Brown, Martin Brunsdon** (Ireland) and **Gillian Howell**, **The Big Jam** celebrates that anyone and everyone can get involved and experience the common chord of improvisation.

Immediately following **The Big Jam** comes an exceptional outdoor **Opening Concert** that will set the pulse racing for the days to come. The father of Ethio-jazz and musical legend around the world, **Mulatu Astatke**, joins with **The Black Jesus Experience** in his Australian debut; remarkable West African-come-New York guitarist **Lionel Loueke** (who has performed with Herbie Hancock and Angelique Kidjo) performs with his trio; and in a world premiere collaboration, and Australia's much-loved drummer **Ben Vanderwal** joins with Grammy-winning percussionist **Dave Samuels** in a tribute to Latin jazz that will get young and old alike dancing.

MODERN MASTERS

The **Modern Masters** program sits at the heart of the Festival presenting a rollcall of international iconoclasts of jazz in a diverse series of exclusive concerts. The program includes legendary American saxophonist **Charles Lloyd** with his extraordinary New Quartet; seminal pianist and jazz pioneer **Ahmad Jamal**; founder of Ethio-jazz, **Mulatu Astatke**; Indian tabla virtuoso **Zakir Hussain** in his only Australian appearance with **Sangam** (featuring Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland); Israeli bassist and composer **Avishai Cohen**; the revered **John Abercrombie Quartet** from the USA, as well as the **Lionel Loueke Trio**, **Tierney Sutton Band** and the new generation of jazz as represented by **Noah Preminger**, also from the USA.

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For the first time MIJF presents **Overground**, a history-making, festival-within-the-Festival that gathers a cavalcade of artists pushing the outer limits of jazz throughout the many spaces of the Melbourne Town Hall. Performing at this exclusive event are seminal European improvisers **Peter Brotzmann** (Germany), **Han Bennink** (Holland), **Brian Chase** (Yeah Yeah Yeahs, USA) with **Seth Misterka** (USA), **My Disco** (Australia), **Mick Turner** (The Dirty Three, Australia); **Kim Salmon** (Australia); **Kram** (Spiderbait, Australia), **Cor Fuhler** (Holland), **Kim Myhr** (Norway), **Oren Ambarchi** (Australia), **Evelyn Morris AKA Pikelet**, **Bum Creek**, **Anthony Pateras**, **Paul Grabowsky with Sean Baxter** (Australia), and many, many more.

In a world premiere performance, the Festival presents **Miles Davis: Prince of Darkness, A Tribute by the Australian Art Orchestra and Paul Grabowsky**. The internationally acclaimed ensemble will perform a stunning program incorporating some of Miles Davis' most iconic repertoire as well as world premiere of new works commissioned by the Festival, in homage to Davis.

The tributes continue with an all-star line-up breathing new life into the most popular jazz standards of all time. **Baby It's Cold Outside! An Evening of the Great Jazz Standards** brings together some of Australia's most loved vocalists including **Claire Bowditch**, **Lior**, **Whitley** and **Megan Washington** with the celebrated **Joe Chindamo Trio**. For lovers of Gershwin, Cole Porter and all things classic jazz, this is a night not to be missed!

JAZZ UP CLOSE

Jazz Up Close places musical innovators in some wonderfully intimate venues across the city. This cutting edge program includes the incomparable Sydney vocalist **Paul Capsis** in his Festival debut with a specially commissioned new project, **Songs of Love and Death**, where he reinterprets the most poignant songs of the jazz canon with the acclaimed **Alister Spence Trio**.

Also featured in **Jazz Up Close** is free jazz icon **Peter Brötzmann** joined by acclaimed Melbourne improvisers **Pateras/Baxter/Brown** and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' **Brian Chase**; pivotal Guggenheim-winning New York composer **John Hollenbeck** performing with the **Claudia Quintet** as well as the **Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra** and Grammy-nominated vocalist **Theo Bleckmann** in **Joys and Desires**; the **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra** showcasing the exhilarating interaction between exploratory improvisation and symphonic music with the **Metropolis Series**; and celebrated Australian musician **Jamie Oehlers** and **Paul Grabowsky**, collaborating with **Eric Harland** and **Reuben Rodgers** on a double bill with acclaimed US pianist **Jason Moran** in a world premiere performance.

AT THE CLUB

Similarly, **At the Club** celebrates local jazz stalwart Bennetts Lane Jazz Club with a host of limited capacity concerts by leading artists from here and overseas. Stepping up to the Bennetts Lane stage is seminal European improviser **Han Bennink** in his **Solo and Duos** concert, Grammy-winning percussionist **Dave Samuels** with Sweden's **Anders Astrand** and Australian pianist **Mike Nock**, gifted NY/Australian vocalist **Jo Lawry**, Australian pianist/composer and producer **Stu Hunter** with his critically acclaimed suite **The Gathering**, young New York saxophonist **Noah Preminger** with famed **US drummer Matt Wilson**, local favourites **Flap!**, **Nels Cline** and **Glenn Kotche** in an exclusive improv-Wilco sideshow, **Paul Grabowsky Sextet**, the extraordinary **Claudia Quintet** and the **late night jams** led by **Ben Vanderwal's The Grid** well into the wee hours.

VISIONS OF SOUND

Visions Of Sound delves into the interdisciplinary developments of jazz across film, visual art, installation and conversation.

In its Australian premiere, the **Jazz Fest Piano Staircase** turns the footfalls of commuters at Southern Cross Station into a melodious reimagining of the city's centre as the Bourke Street stairway is transformed into a giant keyboard, each step a chromatic note. Kicking off on the opening day of the Festival, young and old are encouraged to step out from the throng and discover their own tune each day of the Festival.

Over at the National Gallery of Victoria, **Hybrids & Folklore** (Opening Day free event) sees exploratory artists like **The Dead Notes**, **Hi God People**, **Joel Stern**, **Snawklor** and **Clocked Out Duo** with **David Chesworth**, participating in an interactive weird and wonderful installation focusing on psycho-folkloric sound-making and improvisation in the natural environment. Witness the NGV Sculpture Gallery recast in a way never seen before in an event perfect for families and first dates! .../over

Other **Visions of Sound** free events includes the world premiere of **John Hollenbeck's** new work commissioned by the Festival, for the stunning Federation Bells at Birrarung Marr, performed on the hour and every hour of the Festival. **The Places In Between** features **Chris Abrahams** (Australian pianist from The Necks), in an immersive sound and light installation at Federation Square that must be seen and heard to be believed. **Swinging the Bells** opens up public access to the Federation Bells in a rare opportunity for everyone to have a go at playing the bells via a piano keyboard.

Returning in its second year, the Festival joins with ACMI at Fed Square to present **Future Traditions: Jazz on Film** a season of screenings incorporating expanded cinema improvised projection, jazz biography, soundtracks and the archetypal jazz romance.

For the first time, the Festival presents a fascinating series of **Conversations** at the Wheeler Centre that introduce the leading names in contemporary jazz (both on and off the stage) as they discuss the changing face of jazz music. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in themed discussions - **On the Underground, On Identity and On Tradition Vs Progress.**

JAZZ FOR KIDS

This year's **Jazz for Kids** program is bigger than ever before with 14 events specifically for kids. The program includes an exclusive season of **Play School's Big Jazz Adventure** with Big Ted, Little Ted, Jemima, Humpty, **Justine Clark** and **Jay Legaya** with some very special new musical friends, presented at the Melbourne Town Hall on the Opening day of the Festival.

In partnership with Artplay at Birrarung Marr, the Festival premieres daily interactive sessions where families and children of all ages can have fun discovering the joy of jazz.

FREE CONCERTS

Federation Square will be jumping to the beat of jazz over the eight days of the Festival with a series of **free performances** taking place daily at 12noon and 5pm. **Paul Williamson Hammond Combo, The Genie, 12 Tone Diamonds, The Twoks, Monash University Stage Band** and a host of others demonstrate how jazz is not just something for indoors – but experienced and enjoyed just as well in the open air!

The diverse possibilities struck by the common chord of jazz and it's refusal to be pigeonholed comes beautifully exemplified in the complete line-up for the **2010 Melbourne International Jazz Festival** with local and international artists performing in premiere and exclusive collaborations across every stream of the program. From grand-scale concert hall shows to the smallest of gigs, the most astounding purveyors of jazz in the world today embrace the city of Melbourne as their stage. Be prepared for anything and everything.

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