

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER – 2010

‘A DAY IN LONDON WITH MISS PEGGY LEE’

***featuring Miss Tamsin West - with Jason Downes, reeds;
Ben Winkleman, piano; Leigh Barker, bass & Rod Gilbert, drums
Sunday March 28 Midday for 12.30pm @ The Bentleigh Club***

This is the title chosen by Tamsin West to pay tribute to three of her all time favourite jazz vocalists Peggy Lee, Julie London and Doris Day

It is seldom these days that I am stopped in my tracks by a new ‘discovery’ on the Melbourne jazz scene. This happened last year when I presented *The Jason Downes Jazz Quartet* at ‘Wuurong’ in Camperdown, my old stamping ground, where I still present one or two jazz soirees a year in the stately old home of friends of mine. During the concert Jason announced a little surprise to the audience, and on came Tamsin West to the stage and totally blew everyone away with her gorgeous voice. The audience was totally unaware that Tamsin was in fact Jason’s wife! I knew this much, but had not heard her sing and had no idea what a wonderful voice she has. I immediately booked her for a Jazz Australia luncheon, and now I can’t wait to present her.

I soon found out that this surprise appearance of Tamsin’s at Camperdown was nothing new for her, and that she had in fact already had quite a career in spite of her age! She began performing at the age of *four*, when she was literally spotted on the street and put in a TV commercial. She demonstrated a love of singing and performing from a very early age, most likely due to the musical influence of her father Vic West, a dancehall vocalist from the ‘50s. Tamsin’s first professional musical experience was at the age of 9, when she played one of the von Trapp children in the Michael Edgely production of *The Sound of Music*. Listening to the pure sound of Julie Anthony as Maria each night, further developed her appreciation of a pure rich sound, as she was already a fan of Doris Day and Judy Garland. Further musical performances followed, including *Seven Little Australians* and the role of Dorothy in the VSO production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Tamsin then spent a year touring with the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, understudying Kate Ceberano as Mary Magdalene.

She also completed several feature films and television series including *Round the Twist*. University followed, and Tamsin began performing around Melbourne including the Musicians' Union Club band, and the Transit Band where she scored more than one hit as she met her future husband *Jason Downes* during a tour to Thailand with the band. Five years in England followed, where Tamsin continued to sing with jazz bands around the UK. She is currently a regular performer with *Michael McQuaid's Red Hot Rhythmakers* and is currently enjoying motherhood for the first time. Indiana was born to Tamsin and Jason on Christmas Day!

Tamsin has always loved the music of *Peggy Lee and Julie London*, as well as her pin up *Doris Day*, all of whom manage to combine their beautiful sultry voices with pure tone and raw emotion. She's thrilled to have the rare opportunity to pay homage to these extraordinary vocalists of yesteryear.

So there you have it; I can hardly wait for this concert myself. Tamsin has chosen an all star line-up to accompany her. These will be: the brilliant young Melbourne pianist *Ben Winkleman*, great bassist *Leigh Barker*, the charismatic and dynamic reed player *Jason Downes*, and one of Australia's leading jazz drummer/vocalists *Rod Gilbert* of Shuffle Club fame. Wow!

I hardly need to say anything about the three stars to whom Tamsin is paying tribute, except that they are three of the greatest jazz vocalists of all time. I'm delighted to think that Tamsin [in her 30s] even knows who they are, let alone wishes to pay tribute to them. *This show will be a real treat.*

Luncheon tickets are \$59 per person payable either by cheque to ***Jazz Australia*** and posted to the address at top of this newsletter, or by direct bank transfer to ***Jazz Australia - CBA Hawthorn 063 138 1001 3193.***

If you are paying by bank transfer ***please include your name*** which will then appear on my statement, otherwise it is very confusing for me.

Seating as usual will be in order of booking and payment of seats, so if you want to sit near the front please do not delay.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.....

On Thursday March 11th ***A Tribute to Benny Goodman*** at St Joseph's College auditorium in Newtown, Geelong at 8pm will feature the brilliant jazz clarinetist ***David Gardner and his Quartet.*** Tickets \$30 includes refreshments and can be obtained by ringing Lorraine Coles 5251 1213 or Sue Armstrong 5264 1388. All proceeds to Cottage by The Sea.

CDs for sale....

Moments in Time featuring Tom Baker, Graeme Bell, Fred Parkes, the Allan Browne Band, Bill Howard, Doug de Vries and many more. \$25

Cornet Copia featuring Bob Barnard & Jim Cullum with their respective bands both in Sydney and San Antonio, Texas. \$25. Add \$1 for postage.

If you have already purchased ***Moments in Time*** and it does not have Graeme Bell and Tom Baker amongst the photos on the cover, you need a new cover. They will be available on March 28th or by post from me.

RIVERWALK TRIO AT THE AMORA EVERY SUNDAYPlease don't forget this lovely luncheon gig at The Amora Hotel, 649 Bridge Road Richmond, featuring The Riverwalk Trio led by the *ubiquitous* multi-instrumentalist Ian Smith. It's delightful sitting in the courtyard under their huge umbrellas and listening to Ian's beautiful Trios. I indulged myself last Sunday to hear Ian with Pierre Jacqinot on guitar and Howard Cairns on bass. Really superb music. Bookings are recommended on 9246 1200

Another special gig not to forget is *Stevenson's Rockets* at The Emerald Hotel, Clarendon Street, South Melbourne. This is *very special* and features the great Jo Stevenson on reeds, Chris Ludowyk on bass, either Stephen Grant or Johnny Adams on piano, and Ian Smith on drums.

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The following ***Jazz Australia luncheon*** will take place on ***Sunday June 20th*** and will feature one of the world's leading ragtime pianists ***John Gill*** from WA. He will have a rhythm section and a surprise guest, so please keep this date free and do put it in your Diary, also.....

The final ***Jazz Australia*** luncheon for 2010 will take place on Sunday ***October 24th*** and will feature ***The Swedish Jazz Kings*** from Stockholm, Sweden plus one of the world's greatest living trombonists ***Roy Williams*** from the UK. So we have much to look forward to during 2010!

Diana Allen