

ENJOY A TREAT FOR THE SENSES AT ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE!

JAZZ HIGH TEA SERIES RETURNS IN 2017



MELBOURNE, 3 MARCH 2017 — The time has come to pop on your favourite vintage frock or lounge suit and prepare for a luxurious afternoon of delicious treats and soulful jazz. Arts Centre Melbourne's decadent **Jazz High Tea series** returns in 2017 with more performances and special sessions for children and their families. Returning after one season in The Pavilion and two seasons in The Famous Spiegeltent, Jazz High Tea features a different act on the first Sunday of every month until December, with the full season to be announced in March. A beloved Arts Centre Melbourne tradition, the series expands in 2017 to include special sessions for little ones and their families in April and July.

Combining Melbourne's two great loves, food and culture, this high-tea experience at The Pavilion is designed to delight all the senses. Guests will be greeted with a glass of bubbles on arrival, before indulging in house-made cakes, pastries, savoury delights, and freshly brewed tea. Jazz-lovers and newcomers alike will enjoy knockout vocalists delivering jazz classics and derivatives of the chic genre, including blues, soul and gypsy swing.

The curated jazz series will begin with the **Andrew Swan Trio** tribute to the great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson on Sunday 5 March at 12pm and 4pm. Beginning with the blues, then moving through gospel and the classic jazz of the piano trio format, the Andrew Swann Trio interpret Peterson's legacy of the blues and its variations in their own unique style.

On April 2 Arts Centre Melbourne will host its first **Families High Tea** with **Ali McGregor's Jazzmatazz**. Direct from a smash hit season in Edinburgh and the UK, *Jazzmatazz* is an afternoon of jumpin', jiving' jazz for the kids. Led by the insanely talented (and mother of a toddler) Ali McGregor, the hour of jazzy beats & early '90s references will get your kids singing & prancing, twisting & dancing. Parents, carers and friends can either join in or grab a drink and watch the youth tire themselves out on the dance floor. With songs like 'Who Let the Dogs Out?', 'A-Tisket, A-Tasket' and 'Single Ladies', everybody will be 'Shufflin' to the be-bop beats and hep-cat treats.

McGregor returns to the Jazz High tea stage that afternoon when she presents *Jazz Cigarette*, singing all of the songs that made her want to sing. Ranging from Gershwin's *The Man I Love* and Hoagy Carmichael's *Georgia on my mind* to unique interpretations of Eurythmics' *Sweet Dreams* and Britney's *Oops I did it again*.

A second Families Jazz High Tea will be held on July 9 when folk-pop band the **Teeny Tiny Stevies** hit the stage. Sisters Sibylla and Bethany will sing from their children's album that includes useful, practical and fun songs about the challenges young kids face including toilet training!

In May multi award-winning vocalist and songwriter **Nina Ferro** will showcase her original material plus her favourite jazz and soul classics. **Alinta and the Jazz Emperors** will bring their soulful jazz grooves and joyful improvisations to the stage in June and in July cabaret performer and Helpmann Award winner **Michael Griffiths** will entertain.

The August edition of the high tea experience brings together four of Melbourne's and Italy's richly diverse jazz musicians in a love affair of European song. **Nostalgique** features jazz songbird **Tamara Kuldin** with Jon Delaney (guitar), Salvatore Greco (accordion) and Jonathan Zion (double bass).

The final Jazz High Tea performances will be announced in March.

JAZZ HIGH TEA 2017

Arts Centre Melbourne in association with Linda Catalano presents

Jazz High Tea

First Sunday every month

March to December 2017

The Pavilion, 12pm and 4pm

Bookings: artscentremelbourne.com.au or 1300 182 183

Andrew Swann Trio: A Tribute to Oscar Peterson and Blues

5 March, 12pm and 4pm

Paying tribute to the great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson, the Andrew Swann Trio brings the incredible piano talent of Steve Sedergreen together with the soulful expertise of organist Kim Kelaart to explore Oscar Peterson's evolution and development as a musician. Beginning with the blues, then moving through gospel and the classic jazz of the piano trio format, the Andrew Swann Trio interpret Oscar Peterson's legacy of the blues and its variations in their own unique style. Andrew Swann lived in New York for two years and was fortunate to see Oscar Peterson perform at the Blue Note a number of times and spent time with him where they enjoyed chatting about his music, tours and upcoming projects.

Families High Tea with Ali McGregor's Jazzmatazz

2 April, 12pm

Direct from a smash hit season in Edinburgh and the UK, Ali McGregor's *Jazzmatazz* is an afternoon of jumpin', jiving' jazz for the kids. Led by the insanely talented (and mother of a toddler) Ali McGregor, this hour of jazzy beats & early '90s references will get your kids singing & prancing, twisting & dancing. Parents, carers and friends can either

join in or grab a drink and watch the youth tire themselves out on the dance floor! With songs like *Who Let the Dogs Out?*, *A-Tisket, A-Tasket* and *Single Ladies*, everybody will be 'shufflin' to the be-bop beats and hep-cat treats. In Edinburgh 2013, Ali McGregor was awarded the ThreeWeeks Editor's Award for *Jazzmatazz*.

Ali McGregor's Jazz Cigarette
2 April, 4pm

In *Jazz Cigarette*, Ali sings the songs that made her want to sing – featuring classic jazz ballads and sassy blues made famous by Billie, Ella and Britney. Ranging from Gershwin's *The Man I Love* and Hoagy Carmichael's *Georgia on my mind* to unique interpretations of Eurythmics' *Sweet Dreams* and Britney's *Oops I did it Again* this afternoon of song is the perfect platform for one of Australia's most unique and versatile voices to reach its operatic highs and velvety mellows.

Nina Ferro
7 May, 12pm and 4pm

Australian born Nina Ferro is a multi-award-winning vocalist, songwriter, session and recording artist whose powerful, evocative voice, stunning vocal range and captivating stage presence have earned her an enviable international reputation. After 11 years of living in the UK, Nina has now chosen to share her time between the two cities she loves, Melbourne and London. Nina continues to tour the world and has performed with such acclaimed artists as Tony Bennett, Hugh Jackman, Jose Feliciano, Jessica Mauboy and Renee Geyer – just to name a few! For *Jazz High Tea*, Nina will be showcasing original material plus her favourite jazz and soul classics.

Alinta and the Jazz Emperors
4 June, 12pm and 4pm

Alinta and the Jazz Emperors bring soulful jazz grooves, an infectious sense of humour and extended joy-infused improvisations. Alinta is a stunning and charismatic singer. She's starred in many musicals such as *West Side Story*, *Dusty Springfield*, *Singing' in the Rain*, *Showboat* and *Mamma Mia!* The Jazz Emperors are five very fine musicians led by saxophonist Remco Keijzer. He graduated from Manhattan School of music in 2003 and moved to Melbourne in 2009. Ever since Remco has been a driving force in the Australian jazz scene leading his own originals quartet. The Jazz Emperors are not just a group of highly skilled musicians, the band is always more than the sum of the parts.

Michael Griffiths
2 July, 12pm and 4pm

Michael Griffiths brings some serious acclaim to *Jazz High Tea*, having won the Helpmann Award for Best Cabaret Performer in 2016 for *Cole* and having been nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance as Bob Crewe in *Jersey Boys*. He has also appeared in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *We Will Rock You!* and *Shout!* and delighted critics and audiences across every cabaret festival in Australia with his acclaimed one-man cabaret shows *In Vogue: Songs By Madonna*, *Sweet Dreams: Songs By Annie Lennox*, *Adolescent* and *Cole: The Life and Songs of Cole Porter*.

Families High Tea with the Teeny Tiny Stevies
9 July, 11am & 2:30pm

Teeny Tiny Stevies had their beginnings as a side project for sisters Sibylla and Bethany's folk-pop band The Little Stevies. A children's music project quite likely different than anything you've heard before. It all began when Sybilla's (Byll's) first child hit 'toilet training' age. When she asked childcare if there were any books or songs that might help introduce the idea of going to the toilet she was handed just one, pretty basic, storybook. After an online search revealed even less inspiring musical options, the penny dropped - they should write their own. And so the idea was born. They would create a children's album in which every song included would be useful and practical, starting with



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going to the toilet on the toilet! Identifying other 'challenges' young kids face universally they decided to use each one as a topic to write a song about.

Nostalgique 12pm and 4pm

Nostalgique brings together four of Melbourne and Italy's richly diverse jazz musicians in a love affair of European song. Swing, bossa, tango, waltz and bolero. With beautiful stories and songs from Brazil, Germany, Spain, France, to Russia from the likes of Serge Gainsbourg, Edith Piaf, The Barry Sisters and The Andrew Sisters, jazz songbird Tamara Kuldin serenades us this evening with the flair of nostalgia and the evocative musicianship of Jon Delaney (guitar), Salvatore Greco (accordion) and Jonathan Zion (double bass).

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne visit www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on facebook or follow [@artscentremelb](https://twitter.com/artscentremelb) on Twitter / Instagram.

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For further media information and interviews, please contact: Suzanne Robson, Publicist on 03 9281 8526 / 0407 443 271 or suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au