



***The Australian
Jazz Collective***

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Comprised of some of Australia's leading jazz artists, the Australian Jazz Collective features the following multi-award winning musicians;



- Jamie Oehlers (Tenor Sax),
- Tom O'Halloran (Piano),
- Sam Anning (Acoustic Bass)
- Michael Pignégy (Drums)

Individually they have performed in the United States, Italy, the UK, Europe, China, New Zealand and have won many international accolades. Together they create music that is defined by a collective consciousness which allows a free flow of ideas resulting in an incredibly fresh and dynamic acoustic sound.



They combine original compositions with selections from the jazz repertoire and beyond and are always searching for a musical vehicle that allows their language to develop to new heights.

These musicians first performed together in 2006 then formally became the AJC in 2007 after completing their performances in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.





As with groups such as the Australian String Quartet, not all members of the AJC currently reside in Australia with drummer/composer Michael Pignégy currently based in the United Arab Emirates.

His presence there has so far proved to be advantageous with recent performances there being resounding success. In October of 2007 the group performed to over 2000 people during three performances.

The group's future plans include further international performances with a focus on Europe and Asia.

At present the Collective is also inextricably linked to the *Jazz Meets Mozart* project which was initially performed in Australia in January 2006 featuring both jazz and string quartets.

The *Jazz Meets Mozart* concept was repeated in Dubai (DUCTAC) and Abu Dhabi (Emirates Palace Auditorium) when the AJC teamed up with the Dubai Philharmonic Orchestra (now the UAEPO) to perform expanded arrangements completed by Mike Pignégy, Grant Windsor and Mike Nelson who were the original arrangers in Australia. Both performances received standing ovations from a capacity audience in Dubai and close to 1000 people in Abu Dhabi.





Sax; Recognised as one of Australia's leading jazz musicians, Jamie Oehlers was the winner of the White Foundation World Saxophone Competition at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland in 2003, judged by Charles Lloyd, Bruce Lundvall (Blue Note Records) and Jean Toussaint amongst others. He has won numerous awards in Australia, including Australian Jazz Awards for Best Australian Jazz Artist and Best Contemporary Jazz Album, a James Morrison Scholarship and many more. He also made numerous CD recordings, with many artists and under his own name.

"He seemed to be his own accompanying trio, dazzling was the alteration between his melodic lines and the phrases that built up the supporting harmonies" **Alyn Shipton, BBC Jazz presenter at the World Saxophone Competition.**



Drums; As a drummer, arranger and composer Michael has performed and written for jazz, celtic, rock, orchestral, soul and electronic artists as well as for his own groups. He has received high praise from artists as diverse as Dale Barlow (Aust) through to Ben Folds (USA). Having led his own sextet through 2 albums, and a number of national tours plus international performances he is now in constant demand as a writer and arranger and is assistant musical director with the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra.

On drums he is known for his impeccable taste, rhythmic drive and his ability to seemingly transform the kit into a melodic instrument.



Piano; Tom is in great demand across Australia from high profile artists in a range of genres from David Campbell (Sony BMG) and Mark Sholtez (Verve label) through to Jonathan Zwart, Rick Robertson (DIG) and many more. He is a seminal member of the group VOID, who have performed at Rome's Celimontana festival as well as in New York, Miami and Virginia in January 2007. Tom is sure to continue to make a big impact on the Australian scene.

"Unlike many contemporary pianists O'Halloran's puts great emphasis on strong grooves with improvising intensity: an Oscar Peterson style for the 21st century..." John McBeath, **The Australian Newspaper** (reviewing Tom's 1st trio album)



Bass; Outside his own projects Sam is one of the hardest working bassists in Australia due to his mastery of the acoustic bass. He seems to be constantly on the move clocking up high numbers of frequent performance/flyer miles and is known for his ability to add a rock solid foundation to any group. He has also just received the '2008 Bell Award' for Young Australian Jazz Artist of the Year.

"...No other bassist in Australia swings like Sam. He has technique to burn, a beautiful sonorous sound, and great ears. I predict that he will carve out a name for himself as one of Australia's most important musicians." **-Joe Chindamo**

www.jamieoehlers.com

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www.thesoundsculptor.com

www.myspace.com/tommyomusic

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