Noosa Chorale Tune In
The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc

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STOMPING WITH NOOSA CHORALE

By Jim Fagan

The J will throb, swing, jive, call it what you will when Noosa Chorale and the Noosa Jazz Club launch the annual 10-day Noosa Jazz Festival with its concert “Ain’t Misbehavin’” on Friday, August 28. Jazz as you like it will be served hot by the Chorale and extra spice added by seven of Australia’s top jazz musos who form the Australian Jazz Ensemble.

This is the eighth time the two groups have combined since 2015 and the singers’ enthusiasm for the concert was evident from chatting with president Cal Webb. “It’s so much sheer fun. I leave every rehearsal of these jazz numbers with my toes tapping and a twinkle in my eye. There's nothing quite like the thrill of singing jazz in a choir. It's completely different from singing our classical repertoires.

“I'm delighted that we're featuring singers from the choir in quite a few solo numbers, and we're all looking forward to meeting again with the jazz band this year. Their infectious enthusiasm and superb musicianship really tie the whole thing together and make a great event of these concerts.”

Noosa Chorale and the Australian Jazz Ensemble, "Cabaret and All That Jazz", Noosa Jazz Festival, August 2019.

She said the programme included jazz standbys by legends like Duke Ellington, Fats Waller (who wrote the concert title song way back in 1929) and Cole Porter. “We’re also including popular hits like “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend,” “My Funny Valentine” and “Anything Goes.”

Two years ago music director Kim Kirkman decided the shows would be enhanced by featuring soloists who were choir members and Cal describes it as a “spectacular success. The choir and audience love it and we are doing it again this year.”

The Australian Jazz Ensemble line-up features Steve Grant, Ian Smith, Chris Ludowyk and Cal Duffy of Stevenson's Rockets, who perform weekly for Melbourne audiences along with iconic Australian band Galapagos Duck's John Conley, local jazz legend Paul Williams, and Brisbane-based guitarist Matt Whitney.

The evergreen Noosa Jazz Festival, now in its 32nd year, attracts jazz enthusiasts across Australia and NZ and Jazz Club president Richard Stevens said there was once again a full and entertaining programme with lunchtime and evening jazz by the river and the beach, sunset ferry cruises, as well as concerts at The Majestic, Pomona and The J. The festival wraps up with a free community jazz concert at Lions Park Riverstage on Father's Day, Sunday September 6.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" The J, Friday August 28 at 7pm and Saturday August 29 at 2pm. Tickets $49, students $45. Enquiries: The J Noosa (07) 5329 6560 .

"Ain't Misbehavin'"
Friday 28 August 2026 7.00pm
Saturday 29 August 2026 2.00pm
$49.00 Adult / $45.00 Student/Child 17 years and under
The J Theatre, 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Heads
Phone enquiries: 07 5329 6560

Noosa Jazz Festival
August 28 - September 6
CLICK HERE to find out more about this year's Noosa Jazz Festival and to book tickets for events during the Festival at venues around the region.

JAZZ NUMBERS TO KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF

by Cal Webb

Jazz lovers are in for a treat at the opening of this year's Noosa Jazz Festival as Noosa Chorale and the Australian Jazz Ensemble hit the hot notes on stage together. Seven of Australia's most celebrated jazz muzos will accompany the jazz spectacular, supported by the Chorale's own piano accompanist, the multi-talented Janet Brewer, all under the conducting wizardry of Kim Kirkman.

And this year, singers from the choir will be stepping forward to wow audiences with their specially selected solo numbers, all supported by the jazz band.

Jenny Jackson has been performing throughout her life – mostly musical theatre, and of course singing lots of classical music since joining the Chorale. But she also loves singing jazz. If her sassy performance at last year's jazz concert is anything to go by, this year's cheeky choice of "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" will be a big hit again with the audience.

Akira Kada joined the choir this year, to everyone's delight. He was born in Tokyo and arrived in our midst via Sydney, Melbourne, and Hong Kong. As a horticulturalist and gardener, he says he'll try to grow anything so it's a bit of a surprise that his chosen song, Col Porter's "Anything Goes", is not actually called "anything grows".

Noosa Chorale Soloists: *Front row from left:* Paul Ritchie, Beryl Dwyer, Belinda Griffith, John Davies, Jenny Jackson *Back row:* Roger Ladbrook, Paige Allen, Akira Kada, Debbie Boyles *Inset:* Jonathan Anstock

Belinda Griffiths' love of jazz music comes from her father who was actively involved in the jazz community in Sydney. Her predilection for sultry mellow jazz shines through in her rendition of the song "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps" recorded first by Desi Arnaz in 1948 and later by many singers including Doris Day in the mid-60s.

When long-time Chorale member Debbie Boyles sings "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend", her sheer enjoyment of this year's jazz programme will sparkle with the energy she has always brought to her performances with the choir, whether in solo roles or as a member of the soprano section.

For Roger Ladbrook, jazz always reminds him of singing along with his father who loved jazz and satire. As a chap from Nottingham originally, it was inevitable that Roger would write "Robin Hood the Pantomime" for the Cooran players which kicked off his stage career. He describes his choice of a jazz oldie for this concert as "a bit of fun from the past to make people laugh" which is his favourite thing to do.

And speaking of fun, Jonathan Anstock, whose other persona is Leonard Cohen when he's not singing with the Chorale or leading the U3A Happy Singers group, says he heard we were looking for something "a little naughty" for the concert. So he chose an "oldie" which he says he "learned in the UK at my mother's knee and other low joints, a long time ago!"

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