

Paul takes on All That Jazz by ANGIE OAKLEY

Paul Coppens, the Chorale’s guest conductor for its upcoming concert as part of the Noosa Jazz Festival, attributes his life in music to a remarkable moment that he has never forgotten.

He was six years old, and he heard music coming from a house that he passed on the way home that changed him forever! He can’t remember what it was – a classical piece – but it set him on a lifelong quest to explore, enjoy, and master this art.

He was one of ten children born into a family that encouraged artistic endeavours. His father was a tailor by trade, but his first love was painting and sculpture, and there was always singing in the house.

For Paul, music was always uppermost. He followed his elder brother into the church choir as a boy soprano, and while he does not consider singing his forte, he was still able to join the tenors in a recent production of Handel’s *Messiah* in Canada. It is a piece he has conducted many times.

Born in Brabant, Netherlands, he emigrated with his family to Australia in 1955. From the age of sixteen Paul worked in the bank, but eventually took what he terms the ‘courageous’ or ‘foolish’ step to pursue a career in music.

He pursued part time music studies and took private tuition, before leaving Australia in 1970 for Europe, graduating in Conducting in 1972 at the Graz Music University, Austria.

Never mainstream, on his return to Australia in 1973, he began the long task of making his own work – with great success and to considerable acclaim.

In 1975 he founded the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra, which was the

nucleus of the Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra. He conducted this Orchestra in more than 350 concerts in almost 150 cities throughout Australia (mainly in co-operation with Rotary Clubs).

Between 1974 and 1999 he was Music Director, Assistant Conductor and Administrator of Orchestras with the Edgley organisation, working with many of the international ballet and opera companies which have visited Australia and New Zealand.



Paul Coppens rehearses the choir

As Conductor he has worked with many choirs and orchestras and has worked in productions of ballet, opera, operetta and musical comedy. A highlight was the arena production of Verdi’s opera *Aida* (1996-97) which performed in Singapore, Perth, Auckland and Brisbane.

And now the Chorale is fortunate enough to be part of another career first for Paul! A lifelong jazz aficionado, he has always wanted to direct a jazz concert, and is very excited to be doing so now with the Chorale singers and the Australian Jazz Ensemble at the start of this year’s Noosa Jazz Festival.

Appropriately enough, for what might be deemed the ‘coolest’ of our annual offerings, our guest director appears in

front of us wearing the epitome of cool apparel – the black polo and pants say jazz all over.

And what we discover as we move through such classics as ‘Java Jive’ and ‘Cosy Corner Café’, punctuated by doo be doos and doo-aps, is that Paul Coppens is witty, charming and extremely groovy!

His accomplishments and musical range are legion, demonstrated over a long and stellar career that ranges over a full classical, instrumental and vocal repertoire, but what he brings to the Chorale is his sheer enjoyment of this great popular music.

And it is infectious. He moves and dances and laughs through the work, and wants us to do the same – all the while insisting on the tightest of disciplined rhythm, enunciation, emphasis and pace. But such fun!



“All That Jazz” concert TICKETS

Thursday 22 August at 7pm:

[https://www.trybooking.com/
events/landing/1204482](https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1204482)

Saturday 24 August at 4pm:

[https://www.trybooking.com/
events/landing/1222439](https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1222439)



The Joy of Jazz comes to The J by CAL WEBB

What a treat it was to attend the opening of the Tinbeerwah Art Group's exhibition, "The Joy of Music", at The J Theatre on the first day of August.

The event marked the beginning of a month-long showcase of TAG artists' creative works around the theme of music.

There were paintings of musicians, musical instruments, dancing, singing, and being entertained by the joy of music, all represented in diverse styles and painting media.

And what a thrill to be surrounded by such a happy artistic community, a delightful collection of folks who've been gathering together to practise their art in an organisation that's been powering on for 30 years.

The exhibition coincides with the 30-year celebrations of two other groups—Noosa Chorale, and the Noosa Heads Jazz Club—giving tangible proof of the longevity of artistic and musically creative endeavour in the Noosa region.



Jim Fagan with Julie Dare (l) and Jan Cooke

The Noosa Jazz Festival from 22 August to 1 September will bring the sounds of jazz to multiple venues around the region—restaurants, theatres, the marina, the riverside, and a boat on the river.

Noosa Chorale, in league with the Australian Jazz Ensemble, will wow audiences at The J at their two "All That Jazz" concerts which mark the start of this year's Jazz Festival.

TAG's exhibition was officially opened by local journalist, historian, jazz aficionado, and Noosa Chorale bass singer Jim Fagan whose enthusiasm for the three 30-year old organisations to join their celebrations together was the springboard for this expanded feast of music and art.

"The Joy of Music" free exhibition at The J Theatre, 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday throughout August, and around the Jazz Club/Noosa Chorale events at the theatre.

"Noosa Jazz Festival" programme, 22 August to 1 September: <https://www.noosajazzclub.com/print-program-2024/>

"Noosa Jazz Festival" tickets: <https://www.noosajazzclub.com/program-tickets/>

"All That Jazz" concert, Thursday 22 August at 7pm: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1204482>

"All That Jazz" concert, Saturday 24 August at 4pm: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1222439>



Jan Cooke, Jo and Martyn Gabe



Avril O'Hare, Suzie Eslick and Jeanne Williamson



Carol Houlihan, Mary Zouglakis and Virginia Spencer-Bower



Noel and Sandy Gibson and Graham Smith



Sue Beckett and Mary Louise Willheim



Jo Fagan and Cal Webb



Dave Gilbert and Peter Butler

Photos and captions:
Ann Milland and Jo Fagan

Jazz songs are the bee's knees by JIM FAGAN

Noosa Chorale and the Australian Jazz Ensemble are back doing what they do best—making music!

After a four-year absence, their combined successful concerts are returning to the J on August 22 and 24 with "All That Jazz". Guest conductor Paul Coppens will direct the singers and Brett Iggulden the Jazz Ensemble.

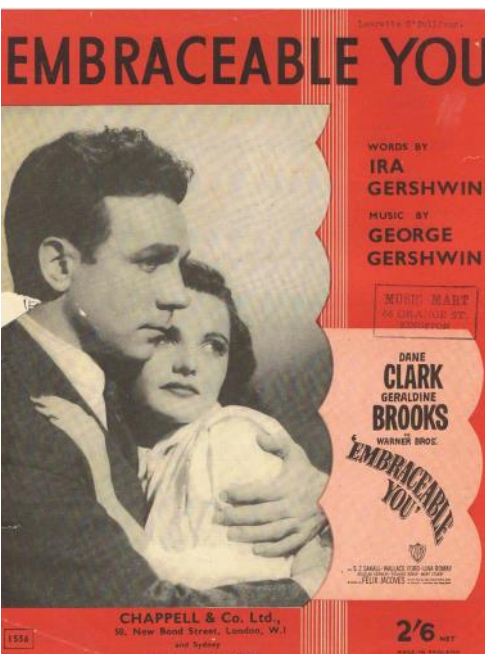
And to borrow a couple of phrases from the Roaring 20's, the concerts promise to be the "bee's knees" and "the cat's pajamas"!

Among the songs to be performed by singers and musicians is the pulsating "The Rhythm of Life," a song from the

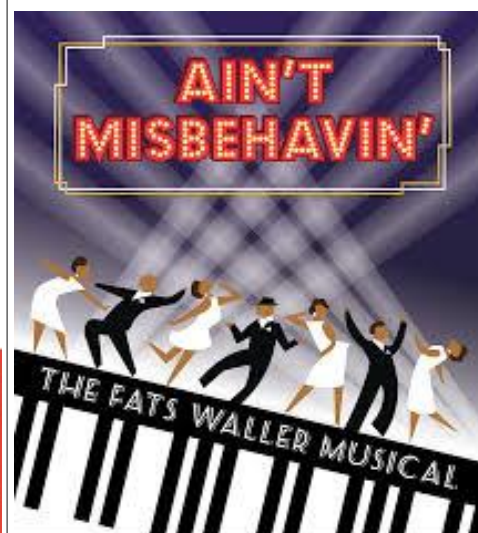
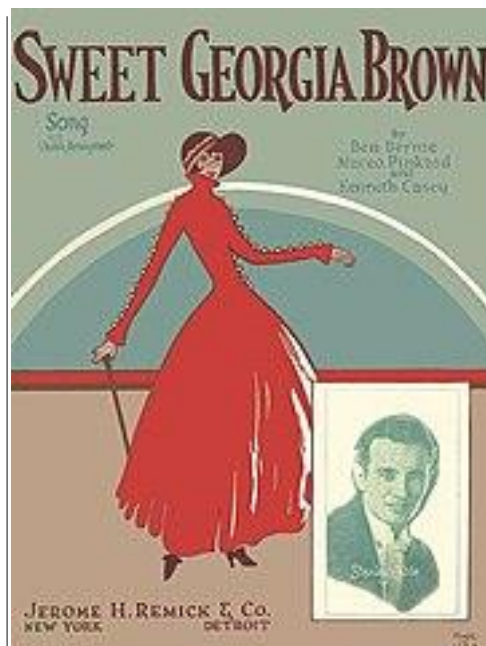
Later in 1975 Kander and Ebb again combined with "All That Jazz", a song from the 1975 musical *Chicago*.



Back in time to the 20's and "Embraceable You" by George and Ira Gershwin, written in 1928 for an unpublished operetta named *East Is West*. Two years later it was published and included in that year's Broadway musical *Girl Crazy*, performed by Ginger Rogers in a song and dance routine choreographed by Fred Astaire.



Two other songs from the 1920's which have become jazz classics are "Sweet Georgia Brown" composed in 1925 by Ben Benie and Maceo Pinkard, with lyrics by Kenneth Casey and "Ain't Misbehavin'", a 1929 jazz/early swing song. Andy Razaf wrote the lyrics to a score by Thomas "Fats" Waller and Harry Brooks for the Broadway musical comedy play *Connie's Hot Chocolate*.



Amongst George and Ira Gershwin's prolific song-writing was "Nice Work If You Can Get It", written for the movie *A Damsel in Distress* and performed by Fred Astaire with backing vocals by The Stafford Sisters. The first jazz recording of the song was by Tommy Dorsey.

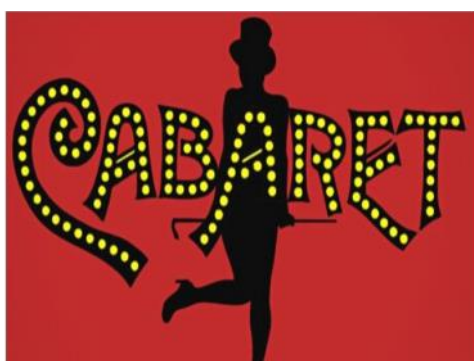
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1966 Broadway musical *Sweet Charity* and performed by the character Big Daddy, the leader of an alternative "hippie" religious group/cult called the Rhythm of Life Church.

In the 1966 movie adaptation of *Sweet Charity* the song was performed by Sammy Davis Jr.

Another favourite from the 60's is "Cabaret", the title song of the 1966 musical of the same name, sung by the character Sally Bowles. It was composed by John Kander with lyrics by Fred Ebb.



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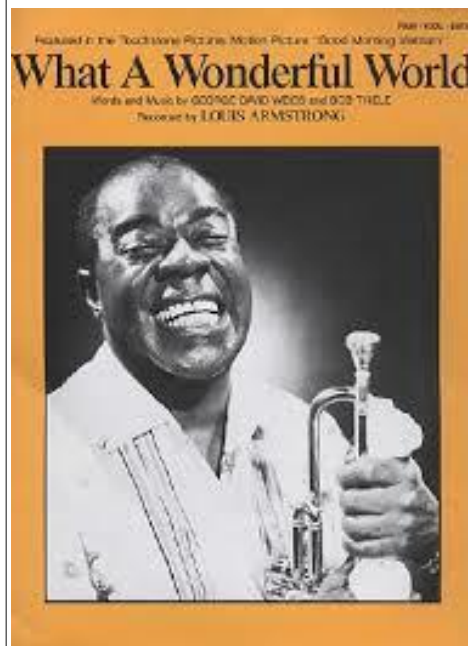
And the singers and jazzmen haven't overlooked "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter from his 1934 musical of the same name. Many of the lyrics include humorous references to figures of scandal and gossip from Depression-era high society.



Around the same era, "Lullaby of Broadway" was written by Harry Warren with lyrics by Al Dubin saluting the nightlife of Broadway whose Manhattan babies "don't sleep tight until the dawn" when the "milkman's on his way".



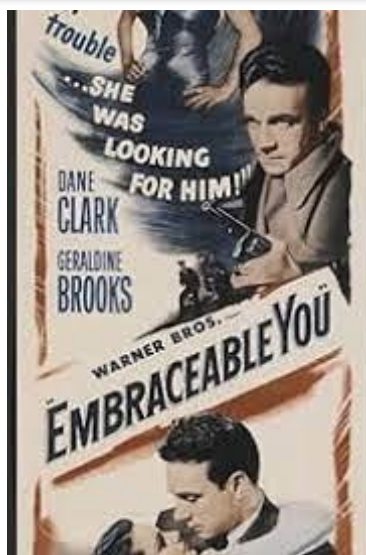
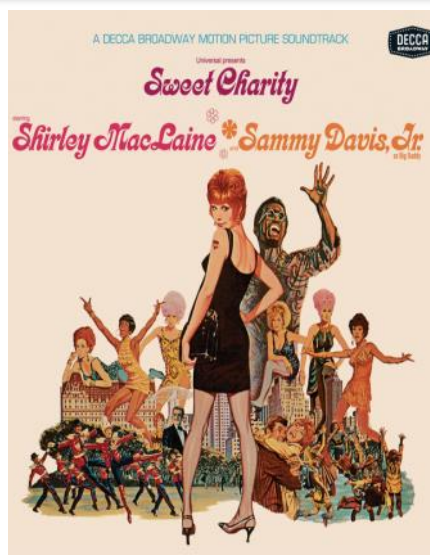
"What a Wonderful World" is a song written by Bob Thiele (as "George Douglas") and George David Weiss. It was first recorded in 1967 by Louis Armstrong and released as a single.



So to borrow a line from "The Rhythm of Life", if you want a tingle in your fingers and a tingle in your feet come to "All that Jazz" at the J August 22 or 24!

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noosachorale@gmail.com

www.thej.com.au

Tune In—The Newsletter of Noosa Chorale Inc.
 Editor: Cal Webb—callyannwebb@gmail.com
 Regular contributors: Jim Fagan, Angie Oakley, Ian Jobling