

Chorale opens Jazz Festival by JIM FAGAN

Classic songs like “I Got Rhythm,” Noosa Chorale singers and Australia’s elite jazz musos all wrapped up in a week-end of jazz at the J—who could ask for anything more?

It’s been ten years since the choir and Australian Jazz Ensemble first combined to launch the Noosa Jazz Festival and dazzle audiences with hit songs from the 1920’s and 30’s made famous by Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and other great entertainers.

And, says Chorale president Donald Grant, it’s been a sell-out each time.

“It’s always a thrill to do these concerts with the Jazz Club and share the opening of the festival. It’s also great fun.

“We’re trying something new and different this year. Instead of having guest singers, our music director, Kim Kirkman, and our accompanist, Janet Brewer, have been auditioning members of the choir, and we have hit songs like “Girl from Ipanema” all sung by soloists, duets, trios and sextets.

“In total, the choir is doing 13 pieces, some with the Jazz Ensemble.”

Jazz Club president Richard Stevens said the Jazz Ensemble line-up includes Steven Grant, trumpet; Brett Iggulden, soprano sax; Paul Williams, clarinet; John Reeves, piano; David Burrows, guitar; John Conley, string bass; and Calvert Duffy, drums.

“They are an extraordinary lineup of talented jazz musicians, each bringing their unique sound to the stage, all well known to Noosa jazz fans.

Richard said that, as well as the two concerts with the Chorale, there would be Jazz Party sessions at The J and two afternoon matinees at the heritage-listed Majestic Theatre, Pomona.

“The Jazz Party concerts are a unique highlight, featuring individual musicians invited to play at the Festival and forming into bands and ensembles that guarantee exciting improvisations of traditional jazz and a musical experience unlike any other.

“Between the concerts, our musicians will entertain over lunches and dinners at Lucio’s Marina, Tewantin; Noosa Springs Resort and Spa, Noosa Heads; Trattoria Benati, Noosa Junction; and a sunset jazz cruise on the river, followed by a dinner concert at the Marina Bar.”

He said: “To wrap up the Festival, there is a free family picnic concert, a perfect way to celebrate Father’s Day, September 7, at Gympie Terrace Riverstage along the Noosa River in Noosaville.”

“I Got Rhythm” at The J Theatre
Friday 29 August at 7pm and
Saturday 30 August at 2pm
www.thej.com.au

Tickets: \$53



Jazz Festival tickets:
www.noosajazzclub.com
info@noosajazzclub.com
 0478 256 245 for more information.

I GOT RHYTHM
 A Jazz Spectacular

7.00PM FRIDAY 29 AUGUST 2025
2.00PM SATURDAY 30 AUGUST 2025

Tickets \$53
 Bookings www.thej.com.au
 Enquiries 07 5329 6560
 The J, Noosa

the J

NOOSA HEADS JAZZ CLUB

Noosa Jazz Festival
www.noosajazzclub.com

Noosa Chorale and the AUSTRALIAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Chorale soloists take centre stage at jazz concert

by CAL WEBB

Music Director Kim Kirkman has once again decided to showcase the choir's own talent by auditioning singers for solo parts in the upcoming "I Got Rhythm" concert at the start of this year's Noosa Jazz Festival.

On his invitation to participate, many singers decided to try out in the auditions, presenting their chosen numbers with much enthusiasm to the audition panel.

The selected solo numbers will be woven into a repertoire of jazz standards, with the choir's numbers accompanied by the jazz ensemble of big names invited to front the Jazz Festival, plus a set of jazz instrumental numbers.

Soprano Lia Marelle, who joined the choir at the start of this year, is excited to have been selected to sing one of her favourite jazz numbers of all time—"Summertime".

Lia says Gershwin's song touched her soul when she first heard it in the film the film of "Porgy and Bess". She is a special fan of Ella Fitzgerald's rendition of the song which she says "draws on the inherent melancholy in the film's message about abject poverty".



Lia Marelle



Jonathan Anstock has taken to communities the full length of the Queensland coast from Cairns to Brisbane and everywhere between. In quite a stylistic departure, Jonathan will shine a new light on "The Girl from Ipanema".

Like Jonathan, Belinda Griffiths is no stranger to singing solo, having cut her teeth in a jazz band following on from a family tradition. Her late

father was a jazz clarinetist and her uncle played jazz guitar.



Belinda Griffiths

When Belinda sings "Don't Get Around Much Any More", she'll be remembering having sung this song at her own wedding, at which new husband Graham happily proclaimed "she doesn't get around much any more".

Fellow soprano Jenny Jackson has chosen to sing "Personality", which was sung by Dorothy Lamour in the 1946 film "Road to Utopia". Says Jenny "it's fun to sing, a little bit cheeky", so it's a perfect fit with her personality.



Jenny Jackson

Towards the end of the concert, the group Ariabella will kick off with a jaunty little *a capella* number leading into their version of that old favourite, "Mr Sandman".

The group's singers (Pamela Turnbull, Fran Wilson, Debra Schneider, Susi Fox, Cal Webb, and newest addition to the group Debbie Boyles) have been singing together for the last year with a wide repertoire encompassing classical, folk, and popular music in English, German, French, Latin and lately Ukrainian.

When not singing a capella, they are accompanied on piano by Olena Kruta, a tenor in the choir. Olena has also introduced the group to singing

her own arrangement of a Ukrainian jazz number from her homeland.

The final solo number, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boys from Company B", will have audience pulse rates a-buzzing and toes a-tapping. Channelling the famous Andrews Sisters, the trio of Fran Wilson, Debra Schneider, and Debbie Boyles will swing to the fabulous beat of this great war-time number, accompanied in full throttle by the jazz ensemble.

The auditions for vocal soloists haven't included only the choir. Multi-talented Music Director and Conductor Kim also submitted himself, along with choir soprano Paige Allen, to the audition process with their playful version of one of the classics of the 1940s jazz era—but we're not going to spoil the surprise for audiences by revealing the name of the song!!!



Kim Kirkman and Paige Allen

The whole show will culminate in an upbeat version of "Nice Work if You Can Get It", with an intro swooningly crooned by four singers (Beryl Dwyer, Fran Wilson, Lorraine Bates, and John Davies).

Get your tickets soon as the show promises to sell out quickly!

Click to book— www.thej.com.au



(l to r) Debbie Boyles, Fran Wilson, Cal Webb, Olena Kruta, Debra Schneider, Pamela Turnbull and Susi Fox

2015—2025: Noosa Chorale concerts at the Noosa Jazz Festival



2015 Broadway to Jazz



2016 The Roaring Twenties



2017 Wonderful World of Jazz: the Louis Armstrong Era



2018 Showtime in Las Vegas



2019 Cabaret and All That Jazz



2019 The Shimmy Sisters



2023 All That Jazz

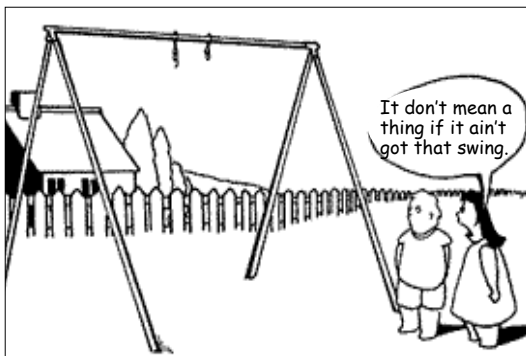
Noosa Jazz Festival 2025 Events 29 August—7 September



Tickets to all Jazz Festival events:

<https://www.noosajazzclub.com/ourevents/category/all-events/jazz-festival-25/>

Aug 2025		
FRI 29	7:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Noosa Chorale and The Australian Jazz Ensemble
SAT 30	2:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Noosa Chorale and The Australian Jazz Ensemble
SUN 31	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Noosa Jazz Festival Opening Concert
Sep 2025		
TUE 2	4:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Sunset Cruise, Jazz & Dinner – back in 2025! \$130
WED 3	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Swing into Elegance – Galapagos Duck \$140
THU 4	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Majestic Jazz Concert Jazz at the Junction with Leena Salim \$120
FRI 5	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Festival Lunch at Lucio's Marina \$130 Jazz Party at The J
SAT 6	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm	Jazz Party at The J
SUN 7	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Let There Be Jazz – Free Event



I've forgotten which tune we're improvising on.



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