

MEDIA RELEASE**UNIQUE EDUCATION PROGRAM HITS THE RIGHT NOTE WITH MUSIC STUDENTS**

These people, the crème of Australian jazz, would be acclaimed on any stage in the world and this is your chance to hear them in the best environment of all for this music, not a school concert hall but an intimate jazz-club John Shand (SMH)

The Sydney Improvised Music Association (SIMA) will launch its unique secondary school jazz education program *Cool for School* on April 4 at **The Sound Lounge, Seymour Centre Theatre** Chippendale.

In its fourth year, the 2013 program will feature the crème of Australian jazz across three terms. Students will experience world-class jazz whilst learning about the creative art of improvisation, performance and composition and developing their listening skills in the context of a live club atmosphere.

Cool for School is the only jazz-specific secondary school education program available in NSW and is aimed at encouraging budding musicians and composers to explore music as a vocation. Each concert includes a 50min set by each artist, followed by a structured Q&A session facilitated by New York musician, composer and educator Phillip Johnston.

In Cool for Schools, students are introduced to six styles of jazz from traditional to modern periods and will gain insight to the history of jazz. Musician, historian and lecturer at the Sydney Conservatorium, Judy Bailey says "jazz has played a very important role in the development of modern music". She goes on to say "from the development of the modern drum-kit, to the use of syncopation or the use of instrumental solos in modern music - these all developed from jazz".

Concert One, in the first term centres on **Early Jazz** from the period of the 20's & 30's. **The Greasy Chicken Orchestra** will play a selection of tunes from the likes of Duke Ellington and Jelly Roll Morton while trail-blazer **Judy Bailey** explores boogie-woogie and ragtime piano.

In term two the second concert looks at two important stylistic developments in jazz, **Bebop and the Classic Piano Trio featuring the Bernie McGann Quartet** and the **Mike Nock Trio**. This concert features two of the most important and recognised Australasian artists of the 20th century. Four-time ARIA award winner Bernie McGann will play striking compositions steeped in the bop and post-bop genres while Mike Nock will deliver animated improvisations and inventive, musical piano with his trio.

And for our final concert in the series, open your ears to the possibilities of jazz as we explore **Jazz-Fusion** in term three. Award-winning saxophonist Sandy Evans OAM blends soulful melodies with hypnotic grooves in collaboration with tabla master Bobby Singh and the Hotliks combine an amalgam of styles including grunge, rock and jazz with an emphasis on improvisation.

The cost is \$15.00 per students (1 teacher per 8 students free, additional teachers at student prices). To book email education@seymour.sydney.edu.au. You can also book over the phone at the Seymour Centre Box Office on 93517940. For further information please visit www.sima.org.au or phone us on 9036692 during office hours.

Formed in 1984, Sydney Improvised Music Association (SIMA) is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary Australian jazz through its regular performance program, artist services and education programs. In addition to SIMA's regular weekend performance program, SIMA also presents an international jazz series and women's festival, regional touring and the Young Women in Jazz Workshops in conjunction with the Sydney Conservatorium Open Academy. In 2013 SIMA will also commence an international youth exchange program, with the Aberdeen Youth Festival, Scotland.

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