

## SIMA OPENS 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH WORLD BEATS AND *SUITE SOUNDS* AT THE SOUND LOUNGE

In 2014 the Sydney Improvised Music Association (SIMA) celebrates its 30th year and will be marking the milestone with a huge anniversary season that will take place throughout the year. The program will feature seminal artists and music that has shaped Australian jazz and will remember artists such as Roger Frampton and Bernie McGann while highlighting future visionaries such as Ben Hauptmann and Andrea Keller.

Ethio-Funk outfit **Mister Ott** pushes the boat out on festivities on **Friday January 31st** when they promise to get the room moving with an infectious combination of bari-led horn sections, African rhythms and ancient Ethiopian scales.

On **Saturday 1st February** the Sound Lounge will come alive again. This time with an electrifying 60-minute suite written for large jazz ensemble that was commissioned by SIMA and composed by **Mike Nock**. Along with Mike, the suite features influential SIMA artists trumpeter **Phil Slater** and trombonist **James Greening**, with the stellar rhythm section of Brett Hirst and James Waples plus the emerging leading saxophonists Peter Farrar, Jeremy Rose and Karl Laskowski.

In a rare treat for audiences, Mister Ott will be joined by special guest artists Mike Nock on keys who will bring his expert touch to their special blend of traditional music, jazz and 1950s/60s soul. Although now an uncommon musical setting for Mike, world music and fusion have played important part of Mike's extensive 60 year career. Now widely recognised as Australasia's master of jazz, as a 23 year old man Mike played and toured with as renowned American world-music pioneer Yusef Lateef, recording several albums with him including the seminal LIVE AT PEPS, often referred to as his best album.

Lateef, who was described in a New York Time obituary as having "*played world music before world music had a name*" was highly regarded as an innovator in the blending of jazz and Eastern music. A young Nock cut his teeth performing with exotic Eastern instruments such as the bamboo flute, shanai, shofar, xun, arghul and koto. In the 1960's and 70's, Mike went onto to lead pivotal jazz-rock group The Fourth Way.

Mikes says of blending jazz with other styles of music "For me playing jazz has always been about self-expression and I often include other musical forms in my performances to introduce a broader audience to my music." Having built an extensive national and international profile that has seen him perform alongside the likes of Coleman Hawkins, Dionne Warwick and Michael Brecker, Nock has notched up a substantial list of commissioned work and a large catalogue of critically acclaimed, internationally released recordings.

Despite his professional successes, or perhaps because of it, what is most impressive about Nock is the enthusiastic on-going role he has taken in the mentoring of emerging musicians. Perhaps he recalls his own experience as a young 23 year old playing alongside Yusef Lateef, but Mike unapologetically makes room for promising young artists on his stage to perform alongside Australia's elite. In what seems sometimes like a single handed mission, Mike Nock is building the next generation of Australian jazz.

Catch Mike Nock at SIMA's opening weekend with **Mister Ott on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>** or in the multi-generational **Mike Nock Project on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup>**. Gigs start at 8:30pm

The Sound Lounge, Seymour Centre Theatre, Corner of Cleveland St and City Road, Chippendale **Tickets:** \$10 - \$30.

**Bookings** [www.sima.org.au](http://www.sima.org.au) or 9351 7940

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