

In the late 1980s John Buchanan started promoting a series of concerts to reflect the spirit of the early classic jazz and ragtime era. His tightly structured programs featuring this music were presented at jazz festivals, clubs and theatres across Australia using the best jazz and ragtime musicians available.

John joined forces with recording engineer, Peter Wolstenholme, in 1996 to record these concerts to capture these exciting performances that were often lacking from many studio recordings.

Buchanan and Wolstenholme turned out to be a magic combination: both were musicians who had played in jazz bands, and had developed a passion for the traditional (or classic) jazz style. They realised that nobody else seemed to be recording or promoting many of Australia's best jazz musicians so their mission became stimulating a new awareness of this music and its musicians.

John Buchanan's forte was in maintaining a strong focus on a particular aspect – often a tribute to jazz legends, whilst Peter Wolstenholme's strength was his ability to use his knowledge as a musician to capture memorable recordings, often from live performances.

The pair have now produced 19 high quality CD's featuring the cream of Australian Jazz musicians and compositions by greats like Benny Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Glenn Miller, Jimmy Dorsey, Artie Shaw and many more.

These superb titles are available for license in your territory. Please contact us for further information, full track listings and samples.

BENNY'S BOYS – LET'S DANCE

The name Benny's Boys mirrors the name Benny Goodman gave to the first group to be recorded under his own leadership in 1928. Their central purpose is to celebrate the music of the "King of Swing" but their repertoire also embraces the swing era as a whole. They play well-known "standards" in a similar style, and others which Benny Goodman's groups helped to make famous. This CD won through to the final four of the inaugural National "Bell" Awards in the Classic Jazz category. Benny's Boys have been enthusiastically received at major jazz festivals across Australia, and have also featured in many other concert performances.

PAUL FURNISS – FLYING SOLO

Paul Furniss is an outstanding performer on many reed instruments. He is a regular player in many top bands, and is in constant demand to play at jazz festivals. Since the late 1970s he has been leading his own San Francisco Jazz Band. However, this CD features Paul as a soloist – on clarinet and soprano saxophone – with an interesting range of tunes, including some well known and some of his own. He is backed by two excellent rhythm sections. In three tunes by David Basden, he is backed by a piano only. The original recordings were made in 1985 and 1990.

GRAEME BELL REUNION BAND

In his inimitable style, Graeme Bell celebrates his 90th birthday with a concert tour and this new CD, the first recording he has made for over 20 years. His Reunion Band comprises musicians who have played with him in various groups over many years. Graeme has always been keen to promote Australian compositions, and this has been achieved fully on this recording with excellent numbers from some of the best Australian jazz composers, including Graeme, his brother Roger, Ade Monsborough, Dave Dallwitz, Johnny Sangster, Paul Furniss and others.

CASTLE JAZZ BAND

The Historic 1947-1950 Recordings

The tracks on this CD have only been heard by those who had the original 78 rpm records, made over 50 years ago. They were never released on LP. We felt the time has come to re-master the old shellacs and produce this CD for the enjoyment of a younger generation and also to revive memories by an older. The tracks are true rarities and include the best records made by the Castle Jazz Band during its glory years. A great effort was made to reduce the surface noise while keeping all the quality and excitement of the music.

AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC JAZZ SERIES

This CD is a compilation of some of the best tracks selected from the CDs we have released to date, and featuring top Australian jazz musicians playing music from the classic jazz and ragtime era.

ERIC HOLROYD AND HIS FIVE PENNIES

Eric's long-held admiration for the music of Red Nichols and Miff Mole has finally led to the formation of this band, especially to re-create their style of music. (In a play on words, their various bands were called Red Nichols and his Five Pennies.) Eric's band also pays tribute to other important jazz musicians of that era, such as Jimmy Dorsey, Eddie Lang and Glenn Miller. The music also takes in some earlier jazz material.

THE 1980s RECORDINGS - Paul Furniss' San Francisco Jazz Band

This CD is dedicated to two of the founding members, Tom Baker and Hans Karssemeyer, who sadly are no longer with us. The band was founded in 1975 by Tom Baker, and modelled on Lu Watters' Yerba Buena Jazz Band which had such an important role in San Francisco during the great jazz revival of the early 1940s. By 1979, Tom was turning to other styles of jazz. Paul Furniss took over as leader, dropped the two cornet lead and quickly developed a rigorous style with his striking soprano saxophone lead. These recordings of the band were made in 1985 and 1989.

SYDNEY TO CHICAGO - The New Wolverine Jazz Orchestra

This band's link to Chicago and the US mid-west has been developed over four tours playing at a series of jazz festivals and clubs in and around that city. The first ten tracks on the CD are tunes and arrangements associated with Bix Beiderbecke, and the later tracks are associated with other great jazz and swing artists including Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, Bunny Berrigan and Bob Crosby.

JOPLIN, JELLY ROLL and FATS - John Gill

John Gill is one of the finest ragtime, stride and early jazz piano players in the world today. He has represented Australia several times at the prestigious Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in Sedalia, Missouri, and has performed as a soloist in many Classic Jazz and Ragtime Festivals and concert venues in Australia, the USA and Europe. All the tracks on this CD were recorded at a live performance in the Independent Theatre, North Sydney, on Saturday 28 July, 2001. This CD was a finalist at the "Bells" Awards in the category Best Australian Classic Jazz Album for 2003.

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OH! SISTER AIN'T THAT HOT - The Sydney Swing 5

The Sydney Swing 5 was born at the 1998 Southern Highlands Classic Jazz and Ragtime Festival following a request to form a group along the lines of the great Jimmie Noone's Apex Club Orchestra. Around the same time some members of the group were asked to put together a quartet to play some gigs at the Harbord Diggers Club in Sydney. Five of Sydney's top jazz musicians make up The Sydney Swing 5 – Kevin Goodey, Graham Spedding, David Stevens, John Bartlett and Neil Macbeth.

CLASSIC JAZZ AND RAGTIME AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE (Vol 1)

The Fireworks Jazz Band, John Gill, Tom Baker and Friends, The New Wolverine Jazz Orchestra, Eric Holroyd and his Five Pennies, Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band

This recording captures some of the outstanding performances during a weekend in Celebration of Classic Jazz and Ragtime held in the famous Members Dining Room at the historic Old Parliament House in Canberra over the weekend of 10, 11 and 12 November 2000. This recording features the bands that appeared during the daytime sessions of 11 November. These tracks reflect the very high standard of the music presented at all sessions, and serve as a wonderful reminder of a very special occasion.

THE MELBOURNE CONNECTION - Graeme Bell - Frank Johnson - Len Barnard

On the evening of 31 August 1998, Graeme Bell, Frank Johnson and Len Barnard with Steve Waddell's Creole Bells and guest Tom Baker came together before a packed house at North Sydney Leagues Club to take us back to the golden years of Australian jazz. The concert was repeated the following evening at Club Hall in Mittagong, in the NSW Southern Highlands. The tunes on this CD were recorded at those two concerts.

CAROL LEIGH IN AUSTRALIA

For the past 40 years Carol Leigh has been one of the world's great jazz singers touring the world extensively. Since 1973 she has been the band singer with the Original Salty Dogs of Chicago. At the end of 1996 Carol spent a month in Australia during which she sang at two concerts at North Sydney Leagues Club appearing with Steve Waddell's Creole Bells and other top Australian musicians. This CD presents highlights from those two concerts.

THE KING OLIVER TRADITION - The Balled Eagle Jazz Band

This band was originally formed over 25 years ago by Chris Kelsey for an informal gig at a watering hole in South Australia called The Eagle Hotel. Since 1997 the band has become focussed on recreating the "hot" style of the King Oliver, Louis Armstrong and Lu Watters bands, with emphasis on two-cornet harmonies and improvisation within ensemble playing. Like the King Oliver Creole Jazz Band, they often use mutes on the horns.

THE SAN FRANCISCO TRADITION - Tom Baker's Big Bear Jazz Band plus guests

In the late 1930s Lu Watters' Yerba Buena Jazz Band launched the world-wide traditional jazz revival on the West Coast of the United States and established the San Francisco style. From a number of live performances recorded at the North Sydney Leagues Club, Tom Baker's Big Bear Jazz Band, with various guests, take us back to those wonderful days.

THE BIX BEIDERBECKE LEGACY - The New Wolverine Jazz Orchestra

From their transcriptions of arrangements used in the original classic recordings of the 1920s and 1930s, The New Wolverine Jazz Orchestra takes us through the career of Bix from the first tune he recorded with the Wolverines in 1924, to the last tune he recorded in 1930 with the Hoagy Carmichael Orchestra. In between there are selections from the other small bands and large orchestras that Bix played with in his all-too-brief life.

DAWN CLUB REVISITED - Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band

Tom Baker's two cornet San Francisco Jazz Band first came together to perform at the annual Australian Jazz Convention in 1975. Inspired by the sound of Lu Watters' Yerba Buena Jazz Band, this band was one of the world's finest exponents of the San Francisco style. On this CD Tom's band takes us back to the early days at the Dawn Club, at 20 Annie Street, San Francisco, where Lu Watters' exciting music ignited the 1940s world-wide traditional jazz revival.

HAMBONE KELLY'S REVISITED - Tom Baker's Jazz Band.

The last two years of Lu Watters' Jazz Band were spent at its own club, Hambone Kelly's, in the East Bay area of San Francisco. Tom Baker's Jazz band captures the sound and the spirit that existed during those great days in the late 1940s when Hambone Kelly's became the mecca for many lovers of traditional jazz. Recorded over two sessions in the auditorium of the North Sydney Leagues Club, one before an audience of over 500, this CD avoids the sterile atmosphere of the recording studio that Watters disliked so much.

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