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## SPRING NEWSLETTER – 2017

A TRIBUTE TO JIMMIE NOONE featuring David Gardner, clarinet; Kym Dillon, piano; Zac Barter, bass, & Daniel Zampatti, drums Sunday September 17 4.30pm for 5pm Point Lonsdale Community Hall, Bowen Street, Point Lonsdale



David Gardner

It has been a long time between Jazz Australia events this year owing to the inaugural jazz cruise I organized in June. However at last spring is in sight and everyone will soon be coming out of hibernation after a long cold winter, and I am delighted to be able to celebrate this with an exciting jazz event on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

I was thrilled, when I put it to *David Gardner* that he present a *Tribute to Jimmie Noone* for this next concert, that he jumped at the opportunity. I don't ever recall a tribute to this black American clarinetist before. His music is so good and so popular, and the fact that, born in 1895, he was a pioneer of jazz clarinet, why wouldn't one of Australia's leading jazz clarinetists not be thrilled to pay tribute to him, and he is! This will be a rare and very enjoyable occasion.

Noone's artistry is in fact credited with inspiring Maurice Ravel's famed 1928 composition *Bolero*! Nat King Cole, as a child of 10 was a devotee of Noone and would sneak out the window to sit in the alley outside the nightclub where Noone and Earl Hines played, to listen to him for hours.

Noone moved from New Orleans to Chicago when he was 18 and discovered himself in the midst of jazz history. Chicago throughout the 1920s was at the forefront of the new developments and the popularity of jazz, and it was here that Benny Goodman also, as a young teenager used to listen to Noone, absorbing into his own playing Noone's 'beautiful tone and sparkling flow'. Although not heralded as the most famous clarinetist in jazz, he was however a pivotal part of the history of the music. He sadly died of a heart attack in 1944 aged only 48, but his music lives on!

The music that we can expect to hear from the superb *David Gardner Quartet* on September 17<sup>th</sup> will be tunes that Noone either wrote or was associated with, such as: Sweet Sue, When it's Sleepy Time Down South, Sweet Georgia Brown, Way Down Yonder in New Orleans, Love Me Or Leave Me, After You've Gone, Lady Be Good, Memories of You and The Blues my Naughty Sweetie Gives to me, amongst others.

David Gardner, who is head of woodwind at Christian College in Geelong, as well as a private teacher, is one of the most highly regarded jazz clarinetists in Australia. He began playing clarinet at 13 and at the age of 16 joined local jazz bands in Geelong. At 18 he successfully auditioned for the RAAF band, going on to serve 14 years with them. During this period he also ran a big band and smaller jazz ensembles and was principal clarinetist in the RAAF Concert Band before resigning in 1998 to teach at Christian College in Geelong. He has performed with numerous well known Australian jazz musicians such as Don Burrows, James Morrison and Bob Barnard, and internationals such as Buddy de Franco and original members of the Glen Miller Band. David has also performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and we are indeed fortunate to have him living locally.

The brilliant young pianist Kym Dillon who also teaches at Christian College is also an accomplished composer and has had his work commissioned and performed by the MSO. The remaining members of the rhythm section, bassist Zac Barter and drummer Daniel Zampatti are also teachers at various Geelong schools and Colleges so we are in for a wonderful evening being brought to us by four superb jazz musicians.

I am delighted that the Queenscliffe Historical Museum is once again catering for this event and will also be operating the bar; so the finger food will be plentiful and splendid and the wines excellent and below bar prices!

Tickets are \$58 and bookings are with me on 5258 3936 or by email. Payment can either be by bank transfer to Jazz Australia CBA Hawthorn BSB 063 138 ..... Acc.1001 3193 or by cheque made out to Jazz Australia and sent to the address on page 1, or by cash. You can choose where you wish to sit if you book early! Diana Allen