



MEDIA RELEASE

The jazz corner of the world is now extended to Melbourne. *Bird's Basement* opens on March 1 with a stellar line up of breathtaking musicians from the best international and local performers, including US jazz legends **Ravi Coltrane** and **Lee Ritenour**.

Saxophonist *Ravi Coltrane* is not just any musician. He is the son of royalty as his late father was one of the most important figures who ever lived in the jazz world. As the opening Act of the Bird's Basement for a week long season of celebrations, Ravi Coltrane brings with him the aura of cultural tradition of the American greatest Art form. Ravi has managed to reinvent the Saxophone and come with his own sound that made him today one of the most important musicians on the planet.

As well as being the new stage of international legends, Bird's Basement extends its courtesy to our local ones. Australian artists **Brian Mannix, Wendy Matthews, Joe Camilleri and The Black Sorrows, Albare, Joe Chindamo, Phil Turcio, Mike Nock** and one of folk's hottest properties, British a capella trio **The Young'uns**, will also perform in Bird's opening month.

Bird's Basement, a purpose-built performance club in the heart of the CBD, will offer two shows a night the first at 6pm and then 9.30pm, accompanied by an Italian a la carte menu by Head Chef Luigi Buono, formally Bakini, Caffé e Cucina, 38 Chairs, Enoteca Sileno.

The club owner is Albert Dadon AM, a Melbourne businessman and prominent jazz musician who has long had links with Australian and international jazz. Mr Dadon is the founder and chairman of the board of The Australian Jazz Awards Limited (a not-for-profit arts organisation), and introduced the inaugural Australian Jazz Bell Awards in 2003.

In 2008 he received an Order of Australia (AM) for service to business and the arts - particularly through bringing the Umbria Jazz Festival to Melbourne in 2005 – and for philanthropic support for cultural and charitable organisations.

As the former Melbourne International Jazz Festival Chairman and Director (2001 – 2009) Mr Dadon says: *"I hope to create a permanent Music Festival in the heart of Melbourne."*

Bird's Basement promises to elevate the Australian cultural music scene to an international level, offering patrons an authentic Italian dining and high quality musical experience. *Bird's Basement* is positioning itself to become the ultimate venue in music entertainment and that's great news for Melbourne.

To make bookings and for a full program please go to:

www.birdsbasement.com



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UPCOMING SHOWS FOR MARCH



March 1–6

RAVI COLTRANE

Ravi Coltrane is a critically acclaimed Grammy nominated saxophonist, bandleader and composer with a musical career of over 20 years. He has recorded noteworthy albums for himself and others (including his mother, Alice) and founded a prominent independent record label, RKM.



March 9

John Montesante Quintet

The John Montesante Quintet (aka JMQ) has freshness, versatility and vitality that always engages its audience. The featured artist for the JMQ Jazz Ensemble's debut performance at Bird's Basement is Rebecca Mendoza, one of Melbourne's favourite jazz singers.



March 10

Chris McNulty Quintet

Chris McNulty has been hailed by musicians, peers and critics alike as a jazz vocalist-composer with a unique vision, boundless creative energy and a distinctive style. Her latest album *Eternal*, featuring chamber orchestra and jazz quartet, was released by Palmetto Records in 2015.



March 11

Joe Chindamo: The Romantic Project

Joe Chindamo is routinely described as one of the world's best jazz pianists but as an artist he transcends jazz, having composed concertos, chamber music and film music.



March 12

WENDY MATTHEWS

Wendy Matthews has a sublime, expressive voice that never fails to move those who hear it. The winner of 7 ARIA Awards, Matthews takes songs from every genre and makes them her own, from jazz to blues, rock to gospel, and from soul to outright infectious pop.



March 13 and March 20

THE URBAN GROOVES QUARTET

Led by Albare on guitar, embark on a journey of smooth grooves from a sublime gathering of leading Australian jazz musicians who play most Sundays at Bird's Basement when they are not on tour.



March 14

PHIL TURCIO'S GROOVES

Phil and his band play a contemporary mix of sound elements, influenced by Weather Report, The Return to Forever and Herbie Hancock. Phil is one of Australia's finest keyboardists and an imaginative improviser.



March 16

THE YOUNG'UNS

The Young'uns make their debut Australian headline performance at Bird's Basement. Enthralling audiences around the world, the British a cappella group seamlessly switch from beautiful ballads to brilliant banter, from poignant songs to irreverent humour.



March 8, 15, 21 and 29

MELBOURNE JAZZ CO-OP

The Melbourne Jazz Co-op will present surprise Tuesday sessions at Bird's Basement with variety acts of talented up-and-coming artists gathered from Melbourne's diverse arts scene. Expect to hear more about these emerging young artists in the future.



March 17

JAALEEKAAAY

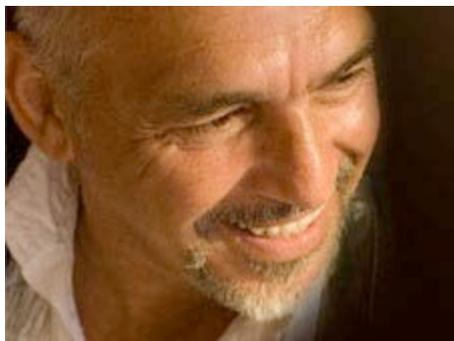
Jaaleekaay, a West African word in the Wolof language meaning "crossing point" is the perfect name for the extraordinary musical collaboration between renowned Australian guitarist Steve Berry and two of Gambia's leading musicians; Yusupha Ngum (vocals) and Amadou Suso (Kora).



March 18

BRAT PACK

Former '80s pop sensations Brian Mannix (Uncanny X Men), Eve Von Bibra (The Chantoozies) and Scott Carne (Kids in the Kitchen) have joined together as The Brat Pack to present an electrifying and charismatic performance led by a swing Band in the tradition of the legendary Rat Pack.



March 19

JOE CAMILLERI AND THE BLACK SORROWS

Never one to be restricted to a musical style, Joe Camilleri has swung effortlessly between R&B and reggae, power pop and ska to country and blues, jazz and soul - selling millions of albums along the way.



March 22-27

LEE RITENOUR

Known to fans as “Captain Fingers” for his uncommon dexterity on the guitar, Lee Ritenour has had an eclectic career that began in Los Angeles with The Mamas & the Papas. In the ‘90s he was a founding member of contemporary jazz band Four play.



March 30

MIKE NOCK

Pianist-composer Mike Nock has remained a vital force on the jazz scene for more than 50 years. His trio, with bassist Brett Hirst and drummer James Waples, is regarded as one of the top modern jazz groups in Australasia.



March 31

HETTY KATE QUINTET

Equally at home serenading an intimate club or fronting an orchestra, Hetty Kate is one of Australia’s best-known jazz singers. She performs as a guest vocalist for big bands across the country, and regularly tours with Australian jazz luminary James Morrison AM.



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