

Zephyrs

Performances Inc

Our Recent Concert ... and the Next One



Recent concert

'What great musicians, what interplay'... 'Wonderful acoustics, a beautiful venue and site'... 'A great way to spend a winter Sunday afternoon' ... 'Uplifting! – excellent music, strong connection between musicians and audience and a wonderful community feel' ... 'That drummer! – he'd take it so close to the edge I thought he'd lose it, then he'd just pull it back in perfectly' ... 'Yes, it was a perfect fit of band and venue.'

Well, what a wonderful concert the Alister Spence Trio gave us on 29 June. The above audience comments are just a few that we heard after the performance.

It was a day of firsts: the Trio's first performance on the NSW Far South Coast; the first public performance in Four Winds' new Windsong Pavilion; and the first Zephyrs concert with Four Winds support. The audience enthusiasm level was first rate too.

Alister, Lloyd Swanton and Toby Hall showed us why they are among Australia's most acclaimed jazz musicians. They took us on a musical adventure, starting with a simple drone-backed two-finger piano meditation in 'Arc', then charging straight into a crazy, impossible chase in 'Flight Plan', then back to a meditative start on 'Felt', which in turn morphed into a phase of lyrical, almost classic piano trio playing, but with eerily tinkling glockenspiel, then on to a catchy, driving groove on 'Brave Ghost'. And so on, through five more pieces until we came to a sort of energetic rest, under a swimming pool in India, in the concluding 'Sleep Under Water'. It was 'jazz', but much more besides.



So the Trio was an ideal band to provide the first full 'test' of Four Winds' brilliant new performance space. The music was only lightly amplified, but it filled the room effortlessly; and the Pavilion allowed us to hear perfectly all of the rich and varied sounds created by this highly acoustic group of musicians. The Trio, too, was impressed by the venue. In Alister's words, 'it was a joy to play in the beautiful Windsong Pavilion. This is one of those rare spaces: an excellent recital hall for un-amplified music that can also cope with audio reinforced sound and a drum kit, while still retaining clarity and an 'acoustic' feel.'



AN OUTSIDE GLIMPSE – PHOTO BY ROGER STUART

After the concert our audience enjoyed Zephyrs' traditional chat with the musicians and each other over drinks and fine, locally prepared finger foods, while some who had arrived early had already enjoyed picnic lunches on the lawns at Four Winds' beautiful site. Thank you to our sponsors, Sue and Carl Swensson of 'The Lagoon' on the Murrah, for providing free artists' accommodation, to Mark Bolsius for providing the piano at a discount, to our wonderful team of volunteers (including the chefs), to the excellent Four Winds support team, to Bill Brown for filming part of the performance for ABC South East and to John McVeity for his fine sound engineering and discounted equipment hire.



AFTER THE CONCERT – PHOTO BY ALISTER SPENCE

Next Concert

Now it is time to organise our next concert: Zephyrs will present the Alex Stuart Quintet at the Windsong Pavilion on the afternoon of Sunday 26 October. Alex is based in Paris but he also has strong local roots. The event will be part of the Australian tour to launch his new album, *Place to Be*. It has already received excellent critical responses in both France and Australia. Joining Alex (guitar, compositions) will be the highly reputed musicians Julien Wilson (sax), Miroslav Bukovsky (trumpet), Jonathan Zwartz (double bass) and James Hauptmann (drums). We will soon send you more details and post them on our website, but for now please do mark the date in your diaries.

Roger Stuart
President
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www.zephyrsjazz.com.au