

MEDIA RELEASE

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NOOSA JAZZ FESTIVAL - THE CAT EMPIRE, JAMES MORRISON, THE BAMBOOS, RENEE GEYER AND BOB BARNARD IN BEST EVER PROGRAM

New York, London, Montreal Noosa.



They've played to large audiences and with rave reviews in USA, UK and Canada and now The Cat Empire will hit Noosa for the Noosa Jazz Festival, the four day spectacular that will take to the streets, restaurants and parks of Noosa from Thursday, 30 August to Sunday, 2 September 2007.

With a brand of music described as jazz, funk, soul, hip-hop, ska, reggae, gypsy-soul and dance-happy rock, the six-piece combo The Cat Empire from Melbourne will bring a whole different sound to what organisers are guaranteeing will be the festival's broadest and most interesting program in its proud 16 year history.

"It's great that the Noosa Jazz Festival continues to attract jazz icons such as James Morrison, Bob Barnard and Renee Geyer, and now we have new blood with The Cat Empire, Mark Sholtez, The Bamboos and more," said Garth Prowd, event director.

"Noosa Jazz Festival is recognised as one of Australia's most popular jazz industry gatherings, with over 170 Australian and international artists coming to Noosa."

"We've stayed loyal to our long-tem traditional jazz supporters as well as the modern enthusiasts, mainstream and swing lovers but have added nu-jazz trends that are infiltrating the industry," said Garth.

Garth noted that to highlight the nu-jazz performers, there is a whole new outdoor concert being staged on Saturday, 1 September from 4-10pm at The Noosa Heads Lions Park featuring The Cat Empire, The Bamboos, Jan Preston and Laique.

"We've gone all out with outdoor concerts this year, with The Cat Empire event at Noosa Lions Park, *Youth in Jazz* and *Jazz in the Woods* events at Noosa Woods and the *Noosa North Shore Blues* event," said Garth.

"Festival goers can still come and soak up the Bourbon Street atmosphere in over 20 participating restaurants. The ever-popular and well established features at the roots of the festival such as *Evolution of Jazz*, *Youth in Jazz*, *Jazz in the Woods*, *Beachside Jazz*, jazz cruises, the welcome jam and final blast are old favourites here to stay."

"You can hit Hastings Street from as early as 9.30am each morning and spend the whole day catching up on new or favourite artists over a drink or a meal. Or get out to Bicentennial Hall in Sunrise, restaurants and other venues along the Noosa River, at Noosa Junction and Tewantin, or go as far afield as Noosa North Shore and Eumundi."

"In addition to The Cat Empire and The Bamboos, some key performers well-known to the Noosa festival include internationally renowned Bob Barnard; James Morrison and Emma Pask at Berardos; Renee Geyer at the Sheraton; Barry Charles & David Bentley at Noosa North Shore Blues; award winning female vocalist Janet Seidel; Mettaphor; boogie woogie babe Jan Preston; Adrian Cunningham who has just launched his new cd; John Morrison & Jackie Cooper; Yvette Johansson and Joe Roberto Trio; Matt Baker; James Flynn; The Sweet Lowdowns; Caxton Street Jazz Band; Wildrice; Ingrid James & duet diva Cathy Segal-Garcia; Paul Furniss; Stephen Grant plus many more," said Garth.

"It's not just about seeing some good jazz bands or extending the styles you are familiar with. Noosa Jazz Festival offers student development workshops with acclaimed performers, exclusive interviews and performances with Australian jazz legends, feature presentations that chronicle the Evolution of Jazz in Australia plus much more," he said.

For tickets, hit the jazz festival website at www.noosajazz.com.au or call 1300-797-723. For general enquiries also see the website or call 07 54490711.

The Noosa Jazz Festival is benefiting from a \$25,000 (ex GST) investment under the Queensland Events Regional Development Program (QERDP), a State Government initiative designed to take unique and creative regional events to their full potential. Since the program began in 2001, more than \$8.9 million has been invested in over 420 regional events.

For further information, artists' bios and photos, to organise interviews, and for other media enquiries please contact Cathy Reade 0413 575 934 create@squirrel.com.au or Lisa Pringle 0417 005 743 lisa@usmevents.com.au

