

For Immediate Release

JAZZ AT THE LOUNGE RETURNS IN 2026

Jazz at The Lounge returns in March for another celebration of Australia's finest jazz talent, bringing world-class musicians into the intimate setting of The Lounge from March to December. The 2026 season balances legendary artistry with fresh voices, delivering unforgettable nights of rhythm, soul, and spontaneous magic.

Audience favourites return this year, including **James Morrison** with Darren Percival, **Simon Tedeschi**, and **Emma Pask**, alongside jazz greats **Michelle Nicolle**, **Paul Grabowsky** and **Monica Trapaga**, while tributes to Duke Ellington and Dave Brubeck honour the masters who shaped the music. The refined elegance of the Peter Locke Trio featuring **Kate Wadey** sits alongside the vibrant energy of the Zela Margossian Quintet, the Pocket Trio, and the Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra and Spectra Jazz Orchestra, spotlighting the next generation of jazz stars.

The season crescendos with Dan Barnett's high-octane *Latin Fiesta*, packed with bold brass, sizzling grooves, and infectious rhythms. From intimate timeless standards to toe-tapping swing, **Jazz at The Lounge 2026** is immediate, immersive, and vibrant — a must-see series for jazz lovers and curious newcomers alike.

"Another great gig at The Lounge, a venue which, as I have noted many times in these reviews, always seems to unerringly bring out the best in the musicians performing there." – Sydney Arts Guide (2025)

Single tickets from \$42. Packages available - book a 3, 4 or 5 concert subscription and save 15%!

Bookings: theconcourse.com.au/jazz-at-the-lounge-2026 or Concourse Box Office: 02 8075 8111

Jazz At The Lounge is proudly presented at The Concourse (409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood) by Willoughby City Council as part of Culture Bites, its year-long program of arts and culture. Enquiries: jtp@cinqueartistmanagement.com

MARCH Thursday 26th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Zela Margossian Quintet

The ARIA-nominated Zela Margossian Quintet tour globally, headlining international jazz festivals from Sydney to London and Berlin. The kaleidoscopic originality of pianist and composer Margossian's own music draws from her Armenian traditional roots, jazz, and classical. For jazz that crosses cultures and genres, don't miss one of Sydney's most original contemporary voices and her talented, multi-cultural quintet.

"simultaneously heartfelt, authentic, and wholly absorbing. This is music that can be returned to again and again"
– *JazzWise*



APRIL Thursday 16th, 2026 at 7:30pm

James Morrison Quartet with Darren Percival

Following a sell-out show at The Lounge in 2025, do not miss this electrifying evening of jazz with one of Australia's greatest musical showmen, the legendary multi-instrumentalist James Morrison with his Quartet. For one night only, the band is joined on stage by the acclaimed vocalist Darren Percival, who burst onto millions of screens across the country in 2012 with *The Voice* (Australia).

"electrifying, intimate, soulful jazz experience"- Triple R (Melbourne)



MAY Thursday 21st, 2026 at 7:30pm

Peter Locke Trio with special guest, Kate Wadey

Acclaimed jazz pianist Peter Locke leads a stellar trio with two legends of the highest calibre, Phil Stack (bass) and Andrew Dickeson (drums), delivering elegant standards by Cole Porter, Gershwin and more. Joining them is one of Sydney's favourite vocalists, Kate Wadey, adding warmth, intimacy and sparkle to this evening of refined, classic jazz.



Adding warmth, intimacy and sparkle to this evening of refined, classic jazz.

"One of the great piano trios in Australian jazz" - Sydney Arts Guide (Peter Locke Trio)

"genuine musical magic" – Fine Music FM (Kate Wadey album review)

JUNE Thursday 18th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Michelle Nicolle & Paul Grabowsky: NOIR

Two of Melbourne's jazz royalty – multi award-winning jazz singer Michelle Nicolle and acclaimed composer and pianist Paul Grabowsky AO - unveil the hidden poetry within beloved ballads by artists such as Frank Sinatra and Cole Porter. Featuring songs from their stunning new album, NOIR, the duo transform familiar melodies into haunting explorations of longing, heartbreak, and the bittersweet beauty of unrequited love.



"These superb artists made it a pleasure to escape into the shadows" - The Age

JULY Thursday 16th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra Big Band + SPECTRA Jazz Orchestra

Experience the next generation of Australia's finest jazz players when the Sydney Youth Jazz Orchestra (SYJO) Big Band, and Spectra Jazz Orchestra perform a double bill at the Lounge! SYJO's big band repertoire of dynamic jazz has elicited standing ovations at Manly, Merimbula and Cronulla Jazz Festivals. Spectra will bring a focus on music by Australian women in jazz:



be astonished by the breadth of works by contemporary composers including Jenna Cave and Katie Bombardieri, to classics by the late, great pianist and composer, Judy Bailey.

"Outstanding musicianship" - Sydney Jazz Club | "The talent is strong with these legends" - Eastside Radio

AUGUST Thursday 27th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Andrew Dickeson's Blue Rhythm Band: The Duke Ellington Legacy

Extraordinary drummer and bandleader Andrew Dickeson brings his Blue Rhythm Band to The Lounge with a swinging tribute to one of biggest names in the history of jazz: Duke Ellington. The band draws on the traditions of Basie, Goodman, Hampton, and Lunceford, delivering authentic, toe-tapping swing from the Ellington repertoire. Feat. Todd Hardy, trumpet.



"Perhaps the most tasteful drummer currently playing in the Sydney scene, and Dickeson's expertise and brilliance are widely admired. This was a faultless performance." – Eric Myers

SEPTEMBER Thursday 17th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Emma Pask: High Standards

Experience the heart and soul of one of Australia's most captivating jazz voices with award-winning vocalist Emma Pask returning to The Lounge after a sellout concert in 2025. Accompanied by her world class trio – featuring Kevin Hunt on piano, Phil Stack on bass and Tim Firth on drums - Emma brings warmth and depth to every note as she artfully traverses classic standards, timeless ballads, and a few unexpected treasures.

"soulful delivery, soaring range and magnetic stage presence" - Time Out



OCTOBER Thursday 15th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Tedeschi/ Cutlan/ Undy: A take on Dave Brubeck

After a mesmerising American Songbook performance at The Lounge in 2025, renowned and versatile Australian pianist Simon Tedeschi returns with two leading lights of jazz – Paul Cutlan on saxophone and Cameron Undy on bass - for "A take on Dave Brubeck" celebrating Brubeck's classical elegance, rhythmic brilliance, and timeless charm, along with his brilliant partnership with saxophonist and composer, Paul Desmond. Featuring Take Five, In Your Own Sweet Way, Blue Rondo alla Turk, and more.

"An exciting tour de force... all players went to town in their solos, bringing the performance to a rousing climax" - Sydney Arts Guide (2025)



NOVEMBER Thursday 19th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Monica Trapaga and the Pocket Trio

Join one of Australia's favourite entertainers, the legendary singer Monica Trapaga, and Sydney's Pocket Trio for a night of swinging jazz, good humour, and infectious energy. Including songs from The Pocket Trio's album *Something Borrowed*, *Something Blue* - they will deliver an evening of feel-good jazz that swings hard and grooves deep, music full of life, style, and joy.

"palpably a force of nature... an absolute delight" - Sydney Arts Guide ★★★★★



DECEMBER Thursday 17th, 2026 at 7:30pm

Dan Barnett Big Band – LATIN FIESTA feat. Nicki Parrott

Sultry rhythms, bold brass, and irresistible grooves – Dan Barnett's Big Band is joined by internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist and bassist Nicki Parrott in a concert that pays tribute to the masters who shaped Latin and Latin-jazz worldwide. From the poetic elegance of Antonio

Carlos Jobim to the boundary-breaking spirit of Dizzy Gillespie, the vibrant rhythms championed by Poncho Sanchez, and the glamour of Xavier Cugat. A perfect way to end the year – dancing shoes optional!

"that rarity of a real jazz singer and also boasting a trombone sound to blow your house down while dispensing wildly swinging lines." - Sydney Morning Herald (Dan Barnett) | "Nicki Parrott could make anyone love jazz" – Cabaret Scene

