

## PLAYLIST 2009

**Jackey Coyle's Wordy-Gurdy on Helen Jennings' *Roots of Rhythm*, PBS 106.7 FM, 9.30-10am on the 3rd Wednesday of the month**

### 21 JANUARY 2009

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The first Wordy-Gurdy on *Roots of Rhythm* for 2009 focused on discoveries unearthed in London recently, as well as two of the hottest new albums.

#### London happenings

Musos & art: **Eric Clapton** opened paintings show by Oz's own Philippe Mora. He was also featured in *What am I like* exhibition & catalogue, Dulwich Picture Gallery; as well, Brian Eno; limited edition prints available, [www.houseofillustration.org.uk](http://www.houseofillustration.org.uk). **Bob Dylan**, *The drawn blank series* at Halcyon Gallery, New Bond St, [www.halcyongallery.com](http://www.halcyongallery.com)

Musos & ads: **Iggy Pop**, Swiftcover car insurance, huge billboard featured on every second under- & overground station, **Johnny Rotten**, Country Life Butter on TV (catch these on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)). Musos playing in black London cabs, [www.blackcabsessions.com](http://www.blackcabsessions.com)

**Tracks:** Ray La Montagne, 'Henry nearly killed me it's a shame', *Gossip in the grain* (14th Floor); Seasick Steve, 'Just like a king' with Nick Cave, 'Chiggers', 'Walkin man', *Started out with nothin and I still got most of it left* (Warner); Joe Henry, 'Parker's mood', *Civilians* (Anti); 'Cold enough to cross', Scar (Mammoth)

**Gigs:** Joe Henry, Corner Hotel, Richmond, Friday; Seasick Steve, Bluesfest, Easter

**Magazines:** *The Word* Oct 2008, January 2009; *Time Out London*, Jan 8-14

Ta to Paul, HMV, Terminal 4, Heathrow Airport, London

### 18 FEBRUARY 2009

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**Preview:** Today's show previewed two VIGs (Very Important Gigs) at Brunswick Music Festival, which kicks off on Feb 28 with a Music for the People afternoon gig, then hots up with the famous Sydney Road Street Party the following day. (PBS is sponsoring the Roots Stage there.)

**13 March, Peter Rowan and Red Stick Ramblers, Brunswick Town Hall;  
15 March, Red Stick Ramblers and Ten Cent Shooters, East Brunswick Club**

These gigs straddle the entire straits of roots music, from the USA cult bluegrass country folk - let's just call him Americana as he's played with everyone from Bill Monroe to Peter Tosh - master Peter Rowan; and the Red Stick Ramblers from you guessed it, Baton Rouge LA, setting the circuit on fire with their gumbo of Southern and not-so-Southern musics. From WA we have the Ten Cent Shooters with their contagious old-timey blues. The Town Hall gig's a sit-down affair and the pub gig is dance-your-socks-off territory, so we started out with a dangerously infectious back-to-back of Ten Cent Shooters into Red Stick Ramblers do Clifton Chenier, mellowed out with a Rowan-Monroe cowrite, then broke up a chat with Festival Director John McAuslan with Ten Cent Shooters. We took it way over time with the mindblowing 9:45 'Smeckled Suite', named after the famed Hawaiian player Roy Smeck's 1938 Recording King guitar that belongs now to

composer Chaz Justus. (Just to reinforce why booking the sit-down as well as the dance gig is a must.)

**Tracks:** Ten Cent Shooters, 'Wild about it', 'Saturday night rub', from *Wild about it*, Independent; Red Stick Ramblers, 'Hot tamale baby', 'The smeckled suite', from *Made in the shade*, Sugar Hill; Peter Rowan & Tony Rice, 'The walls of time', *Quartet*, Rounder

**Websites:** [www.peter-rowan.com/](http://www.peter-rowan.com/), [www.redstickramblers.com/](http://www.redstickramblers.com/),  
[www.brunswickmusicfestival.com.au](http://www.brunswickmusicfestival.com.au), [www.wordygurdy.com.au](http://www.wordygurdy.com.au)

## 18 MARCH 2009

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Still buzzing from the gigs previewed last month, we played a Peter Rowan song that encapsulates his narrative gift, as well as the storytelling that takes us back into the America that struggled itself into prosperity in the first part of the 20th century.

Remarking on the diversity of songs shared by Rowan and the Red Stick Ramblers (graphically summed up in the five-hour jam they spoke of at a music fest five years ago), we looked at the nigh-on-140-year-old song 'In the pines', covered and modified by artists from Leadbelly to Dolly Parton to Nirvana. The definitive 1952 Bill Monroe version, complete with high lonesome vocals and wind-mimic whistling, led into an idiosyncratic version put down by the Crumb family at a Hamburg, Germany gig in 2003. The Doug Sahm arrangement was, strangely enough, part of an album to bring the Quintet back into the limelight in a post-'She's about a Mover' lull - ironic in the band's incarnation as British, complete with Beatles suits and haircuts, to include such an American classic. For more info than you can poke a stick at, see Wikipedia.

**Tracks:** Peter Rowan, 'Dustbowl children' *Quartet* (Rounder); Bill Monroe, 'In the pines', *The best of Bill Monroe* (MCA); The Sir Douglas Quintet, 'It was in the pines', *The best of the Sir Douglas Quintet* (Beat Rocket); R Crumb, 'In the Pines', *The R Crumb handbook* (MQP, London, 2005); Suzannah Espie & the Last Word, 'Already Gone', *The first & last hotel* (indie)

**Gigs: Review:** 13 March, Peter Rowan and Red Stick Ramblers, Brunswick Town Hall; 15 March, Red Stick Ramblers and Ten Cent Shooters, East Brunswick Club

**Preview:** Wed 18 March, The songs of Mick Cameron, Don't Tell Tom; Fri 20 March, the Davidson Bros and Peter Rowan, East Brunswick Club; Fri 10 April Chill City, noon-10pm, Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne

## 15 APRIL 2009

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In view of the fact that New Orleans Jazzfest begins end of this month, we featured the best track off an album by San Francisco Bay Area native Eric Lindell recorded in Louisiana. Lindell moved in 1999 to New Orleans and by 2005 he had gained enough attention on the New Orleans blues scene to have Alligator Records sign him.

We reviewed Chill City, a new Melbourne music fest, and previewed the Melbourne International Jazz Fest and the Stonnington Jazz fest, before closing with more of that Nawlins sound.

**CDs:** Eric Lindell, 'Lullaby for Mercy Ann', Track 7, *Gulf Coast Highway* (Alligator) Vince Jones, 'We let them do it', *Moving through taboos* (Universal) ; Charlie Haden with Chet Baker, Enrico Pieranunzi & Billy Higgins, 'My funny valentine', *Silence* (Soulnote); Marcia Ball, Irma Thomas & Tracy Nelson, 'Sing it!', *City of dreams: a collection of New Orleans music* (Rounder)

**Review:** The inaugural **Chill City** music fest, held on Good Friday in the Alexandra Gardens, has all the big-picture stuff right: lighting, setting, ambience. Chipmonck brought the laid-back style of his Woodstock gig to his MCing, and star act of the day was Paul Kelly. US newcomer Mamie Minch garnered some attention. Notes for the future: you could die of thirst before you got to the head of the queue, and that was just to pay for your drink! More attention needed to book the perfect acts too.

**Previews: Stonnington Jazz**, coming up in May, focuses for its fourth outing on Australian composers and has added small venues such as cafes to the Malvern Town Hall and Chapel off Chapel. Go to [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/jazz](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/jazz) for info and program or Chapel off Chapel for tix: [www.chapeloffchapel.com.au](http://www.chapeloffchapel.com.au) or 03-8290 7000

Meanwhile, end of this month bassist **Charlie Haden** visits as resident muso at the Melbourne International Jazz Fest. We played a track with Chet Baker and Italian pianist **Enrico Pieranunzi** recorded in Italy in 1987 and released following Baker's death.

## 20 MAY 2009

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Special Radio Festival show – **Pianists' pianists:** who do the ivory-ticklers kowtow to? Selections from the cream of Melbourne's keyboardists.

We asked musicians, Who inspired you to take up the piano, and/or inspires you still? Would you be able to nominate your favourite/s? If there are particular tracks that still tickle your ivories, we will do our best to find them to play.

It ended up being a packed show. Some trivia that didn't fit in included the World's Largest Organ! as well as a list of Presidential Pianos, courtesy *Sullivan's music trivia*.

From Oscar Wilde we could have had that memorable quote: Please do not shoot the pianist. He is doing his best. (*from a notice in a dancing saloon in America's West*)

My favourite quote comes from Austrian-born pianist **Artur Schnabel**:

*The notes I handle no better than many pianists. But the pauses between the notes – ah! that is where the art resides!*

For **Andy Cowan** we had Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett's 'Memories of tomorrow' from *Köln concert*; Muddy Waters with Otis Spann from *Fathers and sons*; John Coltrane with McCoy Tyner, and Dr John.

**Tim Neal** selected Jimmy Smith, 'I Got my Mojo Working', *I Got my Mojo Working* and Oscar Peterson, 'Night Train', *Jazz on a Winter's Night*.

We played tracks from my collection for **James Black** (Professor Longhair; Charles Brown, Otis Spann, Dr John and Jimmy Smith); **Mick O'Connor** (Donny

Hathaway, 'Jealous Guy', *Live*); **Andrew Ogburn** (Professor Longhair and Dr John and Huey 'Piano' Smith).

From Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* my choice was 'Blue in Green'; then there was Little Richard, and Tom Waits' 'Kentucky Avenue' from *Blue Valentine*.

**My choices:** If I'd had half a chance, part of the playlist would be **Lefty Frizzell**, 'If You've Got the Money, I've Got the Time', *Life's Like Poetry* (Bear Family). The barrelhouse piano of Wichita Falls' Madge Sutee – part of the pickup band assembled for Lefty Frizzell's very first Columbia recording sessions – helped form the distinctive sound that surrounded Lefty's unique vocal style, which would influence some of the greatest country singers who followed, and **Tord Gustavsen Trio**, *The Ground* (ECM). Any track from this ethereal jazz – some called it folk music when the trio visited Wangaratta Jazz Fest in 2005 – would serve to spirit us away. Still one of my desert-island discs.

## 17 JUNE 2009

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Today was gonna be a bit ragtimey and it moved around in place and time, using the theme extremely loosely.

### **Willie Nelson & Asleep at the Wheel, 'I ain't gonna give nobody none of this jellyroll, Willie & the Wheel (Bismieux Records)**

For our feature CD, **Willie Nelson and Asleep at the Wheel** teamed up for a collaboration released in February.

According to the *Willie & the Wheel* website, the album was 30 years in the making. It's a collection of classic western swing songs handpicked by the late Jerry Wexler, better known as 'Mr. R&B'. He was a fan of the original western swing bands like Bob Wills, Milton Brown, Cliff Bruner – introduced to him while he was studying journalism in Kansas City.

The album takes genre hopper Willie Nelson back to his musical roots. As opposed to some of his other collaborations such as reggae, which didn't quite gel, western swing is a perfect choice for him – his vocal stylings have always originated in jazz. He grew up on western swing – he was born about the same time it began – and it has always figured heavily into his approach to music.

'Jerry Wexler originally came up with this concept back when Willie was on the Atlantic label,' says AATW headman Ray Benson. 'But before the record could be made Willie left Atlantic for CBS records and so the idea was shelved.'

This is a good story. In 2003 Jerry Wexler, who was retired and living in Florida, called his old friend Ray Benson. 'Ray!' he said, 'I'm getting rid of my LPs! They collect dust and it bothers me. I have recorded them all and I am sending you all my western swing albums!' A few weeks later a box arrived with 20 or so LPs from Jerry. They were collections of the music originally on 78 rpm records reissued on 33 1/3 rpm LPs. Ray noticed that a number of the song titles had two initials next to them: 'WN'. Ray didn't think much about it but when he thanked Jerry he asked what they were – 'WN' stood for Willie Nelson.

Fast forward to 2007, when Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Ray Price and Asleep at the Wheel set out on the wildly successful Last of the Breed tour showcasing classic western swing and Texas country music. Not long after, Ray got the call from Willie and his manager. According to Ray, they asked, 'Jerry Wexler thinks

now's the time to do the western swing CD. You've got the LPs don't you?' Ray continues, 'It took me a second to realize what they were talking about and once I put two and two together I answered "Yes of course!" I went to the shelf and pulled out the LPs. Sure enough there were the penned-in 'WN's' by certain songs and so I went to work.'

From nearly 40 selections Jerry and Ray painstakingly narrowed the list down to 12. Jerry insisted that some of the tracks should include horns as well as a return to the traditional fiddles and lap steel guitar associated with western swing.

As the sessions concluded and Willie finished his vocals the tracks were sent to Jerry. 'To my delight and relief,' says Ray, 'he loved them. It was a sad day indeed when the news came in that Jerry Wexler had passed away. We're so proud to have had this opportunity to make this record with him.'

**Tracks:** Alex Burns & Nick Charles, 'Yank plays mandolin', *Cordially Yours* (Newmarket), Sol Hoopii, 'Hawaii nei', *Master of the Hawaiian guitar Vol II* (Rounder), A traditional Hawaiian song from the collection of Bob Brozman, recorded in 1929 and one of only four with the sax trio. Willie Nelson & Asleep at the Wheel, 'I'm sittin' on top of the world', 'Hesitation blues', *Willie & the Wheel* (Bismieux Records)

### **Joe Henry, 'I will write my book', *Civilians (Anti)***

According to the liner notes: Henry is a Southerner by birth, and Midwestern by transplant. He lives 'on the fringe of Los Angeles, right where it begins its slide into the San Gabriel Valley, and in a house built in 1904 for a First Lady of these-United States of I'm Sorry'...

He likens his work to 'shoveling out a fireplace: If I do it well, the next fire will have more air to breathe. And the fire next time is always the thing.' Recorded and mixed by Ryan Freeland at The Garfield House, South Pasadena, CA, 2007. Musicians: JH - acoustic guitar, handclaps, knee slaps and corduroy; Bill Frisell - electric and acoustic guitar; Greg Leisz - acoustic guitar, mandolin, Weissenborn and lap steel; Patrick Warren - piano, Chamberlin, pump organ and more; David Piltch - upright and electric bass; Jay Bellerose - drums and percussion; Loudon Wainwright the 3rd - backing vocals; Van Dyke Parks - piano.

### **22 JULY 2009**

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We're warming up winter with a bit of spice: some double entendres, naughtinesses and impure thoughts across the last century of roots music.

Beginning with some well-known classics, and for good reason, and moving right back to the 1920s and back up the years to today.

**Tracks:** 'Back door man', Howlin' Wolf, *The Howlin' Wolf collection* (Spectrum/Universal), 'Lollypop mama', Clarence Samuels, *Chess Blues Vol 1 1947-1952* (MCA/Chess); from *Raunchy Business: Hot nuts & lollipops*, Columbia/Legacy: 'Shave 'em dry', Lucille Bogan;, 'Wipe it off', Lonnie Johnson, 'Butcher shop blues', Bernice Edwards, 'Fan it', Willie Nelson & Asleep at the Wheel, *Willie & the Wheel* (Bismieux Records), 'What's the matter with the mill', 'Who walks in when I walk out', Bob Wills & his Texas Playboys, *Take me back to Tulsa*, Proper; 'Saturday night fish fry', Louis Jordan, *The best of Louis Jordan* (MCA Records).

**19 AUGUST 2009**

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It was certainly a preview-review show today. Seeing as Joe Henry released his 11th album, *Blood from stars*, yesterday, we started out with the first two tracks. Of which, with so much production work behind him in the past decade, there's an interesting happenstance whereby his production work is morphing into his own music, cross-fertilising and setting off sparks like what happened when US mainland bluesmen got a listen to the Hawaiian steel guitarists almost a century ago. Two recent releases, Allen Toussaint's *The Bright Mississippi* and Ramblin' Jack Elliott's *A Stranger Here*, explore classic blues songs. Push came to shove and it was only a matter of time before the blues found their way onto Henry's own recordings, and indeed *Blood from stars* is a departure from his style with a rawer, edgier sound.

'I was playing with a writing form,' he says, 'a blues structure, in the same way that you might sit down and try to write a sonnet or a haiku. I was intrigued by how structured and how simple those ideas of, say, a pair of repeating lines answered by a refrain can be. I've been reading a lot of poets lately, and a lot of diverse poetry very consciously references a blues tonality, whether it's Langston Hughes or Allen Ginsberg or e. e. cummings. Poets are very aware of the power of that structure.'

We started out with 'Prelude: light no lamp when the sun comes down' and went straight into 'The man I keep hid', Joe Henry, *Blood from stars* (Anti). Seeing as the album produced for Ramblin' Jack Elliott was a major inspiration, we went into Tampa Red's 'New stranger blues' from Jack's album *A stranger here* (Anti).

**Preview:** Next we featured artists from the Wangaratta Jazz Festival program. In its 20th year, the fest has a new image and will have a new hub this year, at the multimillion-dollar venue with two performance spaces.

[www.wangarattajazz.com](http://www.wangarattajazz.com), Friday 30 October – Monday 2 November

**Tracks:** James Hunter, 'Jacqueline', *The hard way*, Deborah Coleman, 'Meanest women', from Pinetop Perkins' album *Ladies man*, Marco Goldsmith & Blue Heat, 'Shuffle up', *Irresistable Behaviour*. We spoke with founding artistic director, Adrian Jackson, who outlined the program.

**Extra!** Rocky Dabscheck came into the studio to talk about the CD launch of the CD ***Rocky & the Two-Bob Millionaires*** 3–6pm this Sunday at Grand Central Hotel, Richmond (corner Coppin and Swan).

We played two tracks off the new album and Rocky explained the band line-up and some of the mind-boggling playing history racked up by the members of the band: Rocky Dabscheck, guitar and vocals. Rocky has played alongside Janis Ian, Eric Burden & the Animals, John Martyn, AC/DC, Tangerine Dream; Nick Carrafa, drums and vocals; Brenden Mason, guitar and vocals – from well known bands Madder Lake and Blackfeather, has played alongside the Rolling Stones, Queen; Max McIntosh, bass and vocals. Max has played with Brian Cadd, Russell Morris; Steve Williams, saxophone, mouth harp and vocals, saxophone player for John Farnham, has played alongside Tom Jones, Olivia Newton-John, Ray Charles, Kate Ceberano, Ross Wilson; Sigie Gabriele, saxophone, mouth harp, synth guitar, slide guitar percussion; and Julie Buxton, vocals.

**Tracks:** 'New trick', 'Settle it down', Rocky & the Two-Bob Millionaires, *Rocky & the Two-Bob Millionaires*, 'I walk across the rooftops', Blue Nile, Linn Records, Rocky & the Two-Bob Millionaires

We ended the show with a quote: 'If Rocky & the Two Bob Millionaires were playing I would never have left the building' – Elvis Presley

## 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

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So much to see, so much to do.

**Reviews:** Last month's album launch by Rocky & the Two-Bob Millionaires went off, with a memorable lead vocal when Forever Young's Trevor Young stepped out from behind a drum kit for 'Throw it away' and a late arrival by Victoria's Chief Magistrate Ian Gray to front on 'Justice' – the late excuse being he was pulled over by police en route. Some listeners loved checking out the FAD Bar gig in the city: we caught him at Richmond Union Bowling Club on Friday – luckily we arrived after the lights got turned down from operating-theatre bright. Find more Two Bobs gigs at <http://www.myspace.com/447578064>

**Previews:** Acts to watch from Darebin Music Feast – Tom Woodward, Taylor Project, Bossbucho. And a recommended venue – Bar Nancy.

On a quick trip to our own Sin City we caught up with premier steel guitarist Graham Griffith and singing-uke-guitar-playing Jenny Griffith in their outfit the Honeymooners, with Peter Moloney and Morna. Graham and Jenny lead Hoola Hapa Haole Hawaiian band, a Sydney must-see, but that's not all for these jazz-indie-western swing aficionados – they appear in many different combinations. Thanks to Graham for today's selection of music, both known and just discovered.

**Tracks:** 'How d'ya do?', 'Sleepwalk' and 'My little grass shack in Kealakekua, Hawaii' by Hoola hapa Haole Hawaiian Band, from a demo disc (indie). Full-length CD is available from <http://www.hoola.net.au>. 'Tico tico' and 'The sheik of Araby' which features the vocals of Dr John by the Frank & Joe Show, *331/3*, Hyena Records – being Les Paul main man, guitar gun Frank Vignola who subbed for Les Paul for three weeks then actually joined his Trio. Catch him live for 'Tico tico' at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo9vX7kZeb4>. 'If you ain't lovin (you ain't livin')' featuring the vocals of Chris O'Connell by Tommy Morrell & the Timewarp Tophands, *Jugglin cats*, WR Records, available from <http://www.westernswing.net/>. Yes, that's Chris of Asleep at the Wheel fame, with unforgettable Texan non-pedal-steel player Tom Morrell.

**Coming up:** The Devil Rides a Rocking Horse: Mojo Juju, The Brothers Grim & The Blue Murders, Singing Sadie, Frankie Valentine and Can Can Dancers, 17 Sept at 8pm, Wesley Anne, 250 High St, Northcote; Fingerbone Bill, 18 Sept, Bar Nancy, Northcote; Suitcase Royale, 18 Sept at 5.30pm, Wesley Anne, Northcote

**Websites:** <http://www.hoola.net.au>, <http://www.westernswing.net/>, [www.myspace.com/barnancysundaysongs](http://www.myspace.com/barnancysundaysongs), [www.myspace.com/bossbucho](http://www.myspace.com/bossbucho), [http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page\\_Id=878](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.asp?Page_Id=878)

## 21 OCTOBER 2009

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Our minds were adrift with the festival spirit today, seeing as we head off to Wangaratta Jazz Fest Friday week. I was enjoying James Hunter's clip on the Wang fest website, and that got me thinking of all the other fests through the

years – my favourites in New Orleans, Woodford, Byron Bay and Croppedy for starters – and the music I’ve happened upon.

The best way I’ve found to review an unfamiliar band or a book is to simply plunge in, and get my first pure experience without the left brain and preconceptions kicking in to muddy the waters, and before the researching has a chance to shape any opinion. So festivals are perfect for browsing – in previous years at Wangaratta I’ve come across classic favourites like Tord Gustavsson’s Trio by doing just that.

**CDs:** We started out with a treat unearthed in the middle of a CD – I reckon LPs were great ’cos the middle tracks got fairer recognition – ‘Over her shoulder’ featuring the horns of Joe’s son Levon Henry – Joe Henry, *Blood from stars* (Anti). James Hunter followed up with ‘Strange but true’, from this year’s CD/DVD set *The hard way*. Keeping it strange, Anders Osborne’s ‘Life is strange’, *Ash Wednesday blues*, recalled a pre-Katrina Jazzfest. **Carmen Lundy** followed up with ‘Old devil moon’, *Old devil moon*, a late-1990s masterpiece on JVC with a knockout horn-, key- and drum-laden NYC band. **James Andrews** recalled a gig with Allen Toussaint and Dr John and that dirty Nawlins sound in ‘Paper Moon’, *Satchmo of the Ghetto*. Well that was enough strangeness and moons for October and Halloween, and we finished off with one for the big October date that is Helen’s birthday – **John Mooney**, ‘Broken Mold’, *Against the wall*.

## 18 NOVEMBER 2009

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**Preview:** Queenscliff Music Fest is coming up the weekend after next. Friday-night highlights at this cornucopia of sounds and styles are Broome’s **Pigram Brothers**, **Marcia Hines** and Marco Goldsmith’s **Blue Heat**.

Saturday, I’ll be looking out for **Djan Djan**, **Rory Ellis** and **Charles Jenkins & the Zhivagos** and that night can’t resist **Organ Boy** (Barry Organ), Hammond. Special events are the Rolling Stones tribute and the Telstra Road to Tamworth.

On Sunday I’ll be looking for country supergroup **the Junes** and **Tim Finn**. Really looking forward to **Grace Barbe** from the Seychelles – a tiny island nation 1000km east of Kenya. The music, like the culture, is a tropical gumbo of Africa, Europe and Asia so it’s a rhythmic, tropical fusion of creole, reggae, funk and afro beat.

**Review:** For its 20th year, the **Wangaratta Festival of Jazz & Blues** greeted visitors with a colourful image makeover. Hot, hot, hot – Wangaratta turned up the heat up, and the program sizzled to match the weather.

The brand-new multimillion-dollar venue PAC with its two performance spaces had an unexpected useful bonus – it was a cooling shortcut between venues. Great acoustics and very comfortable. However the small size is disappointing: the main venue seems to have been grown out of already. Certainly not for lack of planning, more lack of funding apparently. Jazz, blues or both? It was a bit further to switch between venues, but with some judicious planning you could do it!

We actually caught **Charles Tolliver** twice – NYC-based trumpeter since 1960s, recorded and toured with such greats as Art Blakey, McCoy Tyner, Sonny Rollins, Hank Mobley. First was with the Jazzgroove Mothership Orchestra, second with his Quartet (Mike Nock piano, Malaysia-born, Oz-educated, NYC-based Linda Oh,

bass, Tommy Crane drums). **Ari Hoenig Quartet** – innovative & inimitable NYC drummer Ari Hoenig, Israeli guitarist Gilead Hekselman, our own Jamie Oehlers sax, Sam Anning bass. Stunning and innovative, with a guitarist who plays like a pianist and a ‘maniacally obsessive, spasmodic & musical drummers in jazz’ (*Jazz Times*). The fest had its biggest international blues line-up yet, to go with the two-year-old purpose-built shelter above the new, bigger green space across the river. The old space looks tiny now. UK-based **James Hunter** – Van Morrison’s guitarist for awhile; Van said he was too good a singer to just be a guitarist and actually guested on his first album. Highly professional slick, danceable act with vocals you’ve heard across the spectrum of soul – think Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke. This is the kind of stuff that crammed the dance floor.

On Saturday **Bridie King** had a superensemble with the Boogie Kings as well as the Harmony Queens, intro’d and outro’d by a new MC, none other than ABC/RRR announcer **Roger Taylor**. Pianist **Laia Genc & trio Liaison Tonique** – Germany – entranced with luminous rhythmic and melodic voyages in the cathedral. Singer-songwriter-guitarist **Glen Terry** is due for a tour down here. His bright handmade Indian cotton shirts stand out as bright as his sounds. Although it was only last year he released his first CD, he’s a seasoned performer who’s toured the world since the ’80s. He’s still buzzing from a US tour where he played at Buddy Guy’s Legends in Chicago. Texas guitar gun **Hamilton Loomis** made his second Wang visit, and USA’s **Deborah Coleman** rocked the night out. Deborah cites blokes as her guitar inspirations and women for her vocals. At the jazz end, we caught the reggae-tinged **Vampires** and award-winning vocalist **Kristin Berardi** with her Sextet. But to kick the day off, it took **the Vanguard**s – with a postmodern take on blues with all the years of gigging by members Dale Lindrea, Dean Hilson, Dai Jones, Mark Grunden to spice it up and beat it into a glorious concoction, often tongue in cheek, always great listening – sacrilegiously for diehard blues buffs, even doses of rap! When I caught **Fallingwater Trio** in the cathedral I was astounded to see Dale Lindrea on bass guitar in this hallowed space with such a sublime sound that indeed evokes falling water with Phil Bywater, saxophonist, composer and voice of an angel, Elliott Folvig guitar.

Sunday morning, aforementioned diehards adored **Hat Fitz & Cara Robinson**, as did everyone else. There would have been no complaints if they’d gigged all day. Enjoyed **Allan Browne’s Australian Jazz Band**, in spite of techie probs, as well as Andrew Robson’s **Thomas Tallis Quartet** with a new take on Tallis’s hymns in, you guessed it, the cathedral. **Brian Abrahams’ District Six** – London-based, South Africa-born with soaring horns that evoke the vastness of the country, much in common with this country in the sense of one’s innate geography – mapped by the geography of your country of birth. **Blue Heat** rocked out the blues marquee in style for a re-formation after six years out. US-born, Paris cafe-nurtured **Kendra Shank** took the fest to a close: time flew as we experienced this poetic, sensuous singer who stretches time then caresses it.

Monday found us with the irresistible and dazzling **Li’l Fi** and her band at the verdant Bailey’s of Glenrowan.

**CDs:** The Pigram Brothers, ‘Moonlight’; Charles Jenkins & the Zhivagos, ‘Trees of Brisbane’; James Hunter, ‘Don’t do me no favours’; The Vanguard, ‘Girls in slacks’, *Girls in slacks* (Indie); Fallingwater Trio, ‘Tears (must there always be one more war?)’, *Stay* (Jazzhead)

**16 DECEMBER 2009**

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The best of the year, with a jam-packed show that trespassed way over time.

**Review: Queenscliff Music Festival** battled seaside weather and uneven programming to give an array of delights that included the Blues Train – dubbed the Queenscliff Festival Express for the weekend – and we travelled on separate days, Helen with **Mal Webb** Saturday and us rocking on with **the Junes** on Sunday. Seychelles-born, Perth-based **Grace Barbe** had the place dancing and Tim Finn took the pop crowd out on Sunday. The **Rolling Stones tribute** garnered raves from all quarters.

**Tracks:** Hoola, ‘La Rosita’ and ‘Aloha oe’, *Hoola* (indie); Kendra Shank, ‘All of you’, *Mosaic* (Challenge); Ry Cooder & Manuel Galban, ‘Caballo vieio’, *Mambo Sinuendo* (Nonesuch/Perro Verde); Lil Johnson, ‘Get ’em from the peanut man (the new hot nuts)’ *Raunchy Business: Hot nuts & lollipops* (Columbia/Legacy); Suzannah Espie & the Last Word, ‘Let it slide’, *The first & last hotel* (indie); Red Stick Ramblers, ‘Les oiseaux vont chanter’, *Made in the shade* (Sugar Hill); Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, ‘Please remember me’, *A stranger here* (Anti/Shock); Willie Nelson & Asleep at the Wheel, ‘South’, *Willie & the Wheel* (Bismieux Records)

**Websites:** [http:// www.hoola.net.au](http://www.hoola.net.au)

**Preview: Andy Baylor** CD launch, December 20, Northcote Social Club;  
**Hardrive**, New Year’s Eve, Lerdies restaurant & bar, Blackwood December 31;  
accommodation info [www.blackwoodnews.com.au](http://www.blackwoodnews.com.au)

**Next show 9:30am PBS 106.7FM, Wednesday, 20 January 2010**