

PLAYLIST 2010

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

20 JANUARY 2010

The first 'Wordy-Gurdy' on the first *Roots of Rhythm* for 2010 had some real treats to start out the year. Our own fiddler extraordinaire Andy Baylor completed a double album late last year as part of his Masters under Kipps Horn at RMIT, one CD written in 2005 at the Blue Moon Lodge, Lafayette, Louisiana; one in Oz 2006-07. And another double CD landed on the desk yesterday from Steve & Mal Sedergreen's *Mistaken Identity*, one recorded last year and the other a decade ago, due for launching this Saturday.

A treat at Basement Discs earlier this month was an in-store gig from Mexicano-American guitar whiz Rosie Flores, the sole Melbourne gig until a tour that should happen later this year. Although as part of this flying visit from a NZ tour she did do a backyarder down the beach at Torquay. She writes on her **blog**:

I enjoyed watching singer songwriter Sarah Carroll playing her ukulele and crooning some really great songs, especially one in particular that she wrote about Elvis and Graceland called 'The Lisa Marie'. Sarah plays with a band called the Junes. When I got up on a borrowed guitar from Tiffany Eckhardt to sing I was joined by Junes band mates Gleny Rae on fiddle, Dougie Bull on bass and Suzannah Espie vocals along with ... Chris Wilson on blazing harmonica.

We played a gorgeous long slow blues from the Rockabilly Filly. Looks like more to come in following months.

And talking of the Junes, as promised last year, a couple of stunners from the new incarnation of Git and the Toe Sucking Cowgirls, and this was an act that held us in thrall on the Queenscliff Express down at Queenscliff Music Fest in November, so much so that we couldn't change carriages just had to stay for more, more, more.

Tracks: Steve & Mal Sedergreen's *Mistaken Identity*, 'One for Barry', *Live* (Newmarket)

Andy Baylor, 'Fatsound two-step', *Possum stole my pumpkin* (indie)

The Junes, 'Captain Morgan', *12 Golden Greats* (indie)

Rosie Flores & the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, 'Dark enough at midnight', *Girl of the century* (Bloodshot/Shock)

Andy Baylor, 'Amade played accordion', *Possum stole my pumpkin* (indie)

The Junes, 'Work for me', *12 Golden Greats* (indie)

Gigs: Charlie Parr 9pm this Thursday January 21 at the Corner also live in store at Basement Discs 12:30pm this Friday January 22

Mistaken Identity 8pm this Saturday January 23 at Paris Cat

Andy Baylor 5:30-8:30pm next Saturday January 30 Lomond

17 FEBRUARY 2010

Happenstance and helpful friends enabled this month's show.

But first to Mistaken Identity's CD launch last month at the stylish Paris Cat in the city. A full house sashayed up and down the stairs - my new favourite place to make a grand entrance - from the gallery salon into the matchbox-sized venue. The empathy between brothers Steve and Mal Sedergreen (piano and sax) was tangible as they took the sets through vigorous renditions of the songs from the double CD, a fitting return to performance for the brothers, with Ted Vining (drums) and Nick Haywood (bass).

Last week I jumped at the opportunity to catch Nigel Kennedy with the MSO, with a show featuring the music of Bach and Ellington. The show had the intimacy and drive of the best of the roots music gigs I have seen, and the vibrations of Kennedy's Doc Martens booting the stage as he spurred both himself and the musicians on will stay in my memory as one of the abiding images of one of the greatest performances I can recall. For the Ellington set, played on Kennedy's wild-looking electric violin, highlights included 'Caravan', 'Come Sunday', 'Prelude to a kiss' and 'Perdido'.

Kennedy has always been torn between classical and jazz, in fact performing jazz even while a scholarship student of Yehudi Menuhin. Menuhin regretted his inability to jam with the likes of Stephane Grappelli, and Kennedy made sure this never happened to him. Living 50/50 in London and Poland, he leads a Polish jazz band and crossed over from EMI Classics to make a Blue Note album www.kennedyjazz.com/ in New York City in late 2005, focusing on jazz classics as well as two of his own compositions, with a line-up of both jazz greats and gifted younger players.

A deluxe edition including a 17-minute film on DVD is almost out of print, but try Thomas' in the city. The CD-only version is still available, and Kennedy has released several further albums since then on EMI.

Kennedy's Oz connection dates back to his father performing in the touring Kennedy Troupe, and his family descended on him after the Hamer Hall gig the next night to make him extremely late for a surprise 11pm jam at Abbotsford Convent.

A treat was in store with the gifted electric violinist Xani Kolac, who filled in with a solo set. One to look out for is the Twoks, a Melbourne trio comprising Kolac, who is a Masters student at the VCA, as well as bassist Stewart Taylor and drummer Mark Leahy. They have just launched their debut album *It Won't End That Way*.

Julien Wilson (sax), Jeremy Allsup (bass guitar) and Darren Farrugia (drums) filled in for what seemed like an interminable wait until Allan Zavod www.allanzavod.com/ leapt on stage, followed by Kennedy. There's a Duke Ellington connection with Zavod, who was a student of the Melbourne Conservatorium when Ellington discovered him playing jazz piano and arranged for him to study at Berklee School of Music where he later held a post as professor of music. During 20 years in the USA he played, recorded and toured with the likes of Glen Miller Orchestra, Cab Calloway, Jean Luc-Ponty and George Benson, and furthered the legend with a 1984 world tour with Frank Zappa. The 50 minutes of jam were only halted by the accursed licensing laws and Kennedy

urged the audience to fight them. Next week's rally <www.slamrally.org> is our opportunity.

See Nigel play the Doctor Who theme here
<<http://gap58.blogspot.com/2008/07/electric-violin-nigel-kennedy-and-jimmy.html>>.

Andy Baylor won a Golden Fiddle Award in Tamworth for best fiddle album – his creative MA project double CD *Possum stole the Pumpkin* – and looking at the thesis, I loved his journal notes and his premises about the origins of Cajun music and its similarity to Australia's roots music culture, in that we are forming a grab bag of influences from all over the place.

From Andy's journal:

I remember being strongly affected by the strong hypnotic rhythms, the unusual, melodious fiddle, the plaintive singing and above all the uncanny simplicity of the music.

I didn't know where it came from, who the Cajuns were, or what their history was. I just heard the music and thought that I would like to play music like that. It was a bit like falling in love—it came out of nowhere, felt right, and I wanted to be swept up by it. (Baylor, personal narrative, 2005)

The thesis has opened up so much that could be explored further.

We played a selection chosen by Andy: 'Gulf Coast special', named after the Southern Gulf Coast which stretches along Louisiana and Texas. He says: 'The tune is modelled on the pentatonic Creole styles of dance music that have become the staple for many zydeco and Cajun tunes. The prime influence I discern in this style is African music. The tune has de-tuned fiddle FCGD with rattles and Brazilian hand drum and the drone of a 1930s dobro tenor guitar tuned DGBD. The effect is, to my ears, an example of a real Australian hybrid of influences ranging from Cajun, Creole, Old-timey Appalachian to West African. It was recorded in West Melbourne in 2007.'

Review: Mistaken Identity CD launch, Paris Cat, Saturday, January 23

Music inspired by Bach & Ellington, Nigel Kennedy & Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Hamer Hall, Thursday, 11 February

Super Jam, Nigel Kennedy & Allan Zavod w/ Julien Wilson (sax), Jeremy Allsup (bass guitar), Darren Farrugia (drums), Abbotsford Convent, Friday, 12 February

Preview: Andy Baylor Saturday, 20 February, Bennetts Lane with Julia Messenger;

Slam Rally 4pm Tuesday, 23 February, State Library of Victoria

The Twoks Wednesday, 24 February, Bennetts Lane

Andy Baylor 8pm Wednesday, 24 February, Clifton Hill Hotel with Eagan Sisters

Tracks: 'I almost lost my mind', Nigel Kennedy, electric violin; Lucky Peterson, Hammond; Ron Carter bass, Jack deJohnette drums; JD Allen, tenor sax;

'Maybe in your dreams', Nigel Kennedy, electric violin; Ron Carter, bass; Jack deJohnette, drums; Kenny Werner, piano; Joe Lovano, tenor sax; *Blue Note Sessions* (Blue Note Records/EMI)

'Gulf Coast special', Andy Baylor, *Possum stole my pumpkin* (indie)

17 MARCH 2010

We eased into the show with Grant Lee Phillips' dreamy and tender 'Little moon', released last October. Since Grant Lee Buffalo imploded and Phillips became a father at the age of 44, he's become 'more and more comfortable stripping away a lot of the artifice'. Recorded over four days, the album's 12 tracks had been so often played that they shine with a patina polished by a core band including drummer Jay Bellerose (Plant & Krauss).

The Twoks delivered two gripping sets at Bennetts Lane in February. We played an instrumental track featuring violinist Xani Kolac with sister Meg Kolac on double bass. We caught a different rhythm section from the album - Tom Gannon and Brett Canning before they went overseas - but new rhythm section is Mark Leahy on drums and Stewart Taylor on bass, and Kolac feels the Twoks it feels like The Twoks have 'settled into our "sound" which oscillates between instrumental improvised music to more dance-y, rhythmic tracks'. With influences such as Muse, Sigur Ros, Camille and Bjork, what a starting point. Upcoming gigs are recommended.

Being of Irish extraction, and it being St Pat's day, we brought Luka Bloom in to heat the room up to steamy.

Hawaiian steel/slack key player Ken Emerson contributed a 'Quasi-tango' followed by our own Tom Forsell with the Luau Cowboys with a rumba named after his fave trout stream.

After an inspiring night at Spensers Live with Kerri Simpson, Wendy Rule and Monique Brumby, I started thinking about Monique's new single, and with these three mavericks you'd expect no less than a total non-Top 40 theme, in fact a song about Alzheimer's that hits anyone with any experience of this disease like a runaway tram. I started thinking about John Prine and realised it's 40 years <http://www.johnprine.net/> since he wrote 'Hello in there' and 'Sam Stone' on his suburban Chicago mail run. I quoted from Greg Kot's *Chicago Tribune* blog http://leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/turn_it_up/2010/02/john-prine-the-bard-of-old-town-returns.html#more that quotes Bob Dylan: 'Prine's stuff is pure Proustian existentialism. Midwestern mind trips to the nth degree.'

About 'Hello in there' Prine says, 'I might've had the melody for "Hello in there" before I wrote it, but otherwise...the metier of the lines had an arrow pointing which way to go with the music.'

Review: 20 February Fiddlers Fest, Blackwood with expat US fiddler who now lives in Wellington, NZ - Richard Klein

24 February The Twoks

27 February, Songs of the sirens, a night of magic & music - Kerri Simpson, Wendy Rule, Monique Brumby, Spensers Live

Preview: 20 Luau Cowboys, Marquis of Lorne 5-7.30pm

21 March, Chris Smither, Brunswick Town Hall

21 April, the Twoks, Toff in Town

4 May noon and 5pm 7 May, the Twoks, Melbourne International Jazz Festival, Fed Square Stage

Tracks: Grant Lee Phillips, 'Little moon', *Little moon* (YepRock/Shock)

The Twoks, 'Luckier than fish', *It won't end that way* (indie)

Luka Bloom, 'Monsoon', *Amsterdam* (Shock)

Ken Emerson, 'Tropico Pacifico', *Hawaiian tangos, hulas & blues* (Hana Ola)

Tom Forsell, 'Pilgrim rumba', *When two worlds collide* (indie)

John Prine, 'Hello in there', *Souvenirs* (Oh Boy)

21 APRIL 2010

Spotlighting Charlie Gillett

In memoriam of the contribution of this great English DJ, the first to document the rise of rock'n'roll in his book *The sound of the city*, we devoted this show to his 2CD set *Sound of the city: Memphis*. From the early years of Stax with the dream house band of Booker T & the MG's and main man Otis Redding through to AGP - formed by ex-Stax and Muscle Shoals all-round man Chips Moman - we featured tracks that connected the dots along to Alex Chilton - who died within days of Charlie Gillett last month - and the Box Tops' megahit, aka the perfect pop music hit at 1:53, with songwriter-producer Dan Penn's work.

This 2002 CD, along with its *The sound of the city* housemates *New York City*, *New Orleans* and *Chicago*, is somewhat of a collectors' item now. Best place to try is Amazon UK.

See two blogs back for part of the interview from when I visited Charlie at his London home in 2002.

Tracks: 'I've been loving you too long (to stop now)', Otis Redding

'Your good thing', Mable John

'Over easy', Booker T & the MG's

'Dark end of the street', James Carr

'The letter', Box Tops

'Third rate romance', Amazing Rhythm Aces

'Po' black Maddie', North Mississippi All Stars

19 MAY 2010

Two whole hours of 'No. 9'!

For our PBS Radio Festival show, we decided to highlight shining tracks that lurk on a CD, often unnoticed after their flashy precursors, hidden towards the end. We redressed those bitter twists of fate that sentence gems of songs to shine, unnoticed and unheralded, at the 'dark end of the street'. This is the 'Wordy-Gurdy' segment of the two hours.

'A little Italy rag', Amazing Rhythm Aces, *Too stuffed to jump* (ABC Records)
'How long blues', Ramblin' Jack Elliott, *A stranger here* (Anti/Shock)
'Down the road a-piece', Chuck E Weiss, *Old souls & wolf tickets* (Ryko)
'Oliver Galop', Blind Tom played by Jack Davis, *Oxford American Southern Music CD, 2005* (Oxford American)
'The clock', Johnny Ace with the Beale Streeters, CD1, Charlie Gillett's *The sound of the city: Memphis* (EMI)
'This is always', King Pleasure, *Moody's mood for love* (Blue Note)
'Corner stone', the Skatalites, *Guns of Navarone: the best of the Skatalites* (Trojan Records)

16 JUNE 2010

We reviewed two stunning gigs at Stonnington Jazz Fest: some new discoveries brought to light with established artists. Paul Williamson's Hammond Combo featured a stellar line-up of guests to take us way into the stratosphere with his blues-soaked jazz, and we were halfway there with the opener, the unbelievably gifted 23-year-old Sarah McKenzie Sextet. The luminous Kiwi songstress Tina Harrod opened for steel-guitar maestro Lucky Oceans guesting with Joe Chindamo's Coen Brothers Project. From her latest CD we featured a co-write with bassist-bandleader Jackie Orszaczky, to whose memory the album is dedicated. Exactly what a festival should do - bring us musos from all corners of this continent.

Our feature CD was the soundtrack of the 1970s for far too few people: the greatest unknown album ever. That's no small claim. I can back it up with two things.

One, finding the least worn-out of my several LP copies. Roger Taylor used his new Akai turntable and presto! A CD to accompany any occasion and tracks for my iTunes. The new technology enables my favourite LP snap crackle and pops - a perfect blend of old and new tech. The album stood the test of time to the extent that it didn't leave the car player once it was rediscovered.

Two: the telephone didn't stop ringing with listeners wanting to know more. Good news is that the CD version is available and WAR is reportedly working on a new album.

Checking a YouTube version of 'Spider John', recorded 3 May 2008 at Threadgills, Austin TX, I found a comment that 'Willis was a spirit around Austin when I was there in the '80s - apparently he got asked a lot if he was going to make another album, and he was famous for answering "Why, is there something wrong with the first one?"'

I'd have to agree that the year he spent recording resulted in a timeless product, one of my desert island discs. As with US writer Hal Johnson: see his review on Amazon (scroll right down). <http://www.amazon.com/Willis-Alan-Ramsey/dp/B00000JKG2>

The connection with Leon Russell's Shelter Recording Co resulted in the album being made, Russell himself supplying piano on 'Goodbye Old Missoula'. We ended with a track off Russell's 1973 album under his Hank Wilson persona, the classic

Hank Williams homage that came at the height of his rock'n'roll career. Of course he was in cahoots with Willie Nelson for years, co-hosting the first Fourth of July picnic and undertaking many projects with Nelson. A renaissance musician if ever there was one.

Tracks 'Move on' Tina Harrod, *Temporary People* (Vitamin)

'The ballad of Spider John', 'Goodbye old Missoula', 'Angel Eyes' (Ramsey), Willis Alan Ramsey, *Willis Alan Ramsey*, Shelter Recording Co

'Goodnight Irene' (Ledbetter/Lomax), Leon Russell, *Hank Wilson's back*, Shelter Recording Co

URLs <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IToPFOIylPo> WAR at Threadgill's TX

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willis_Alan_Ramsey

http://www.leonrussellrecords.com/memory_lane.shtml

http://www.amazon.com/gp/pdp/profile/A6VYTKD83YQYC/ref=cm_cr_dp_pdp

21 JULY 2010

To see a world in a grain of sand

After travelling the world, leaving the worlds of writing and academe and music and home, immersing myself in the world of Graham Greene's 1950s Indochina War-era Saigon, I was thinking about all the meanings we attach to this worldly word - *Macquarie Dictionary* alone has 20 definitions. So there was the show - and just as these five made great listening, there were at least another five that cried out for a play.

'End of the world', Julie London, *EMI presents the magic of...* (EMI)

'Good old world' (gypsy instrumental) Tom Waits, *Night on Earth* original soundtrack recording (Island)

'Sweet old world', Lucinda Williams, *Sweet old world* (Festival)

'It's a big old goofy world', John Prine, *The missing years* (Oh Boy)

'All the time in the world', subdudes, *Live at last* (High Street Records)

'Northeast Texas Women', Willis Alan Ramsey, *Willis Alan Ramsey*, Shelter Recording Co

<http://www.elviscostello.com/news/spectacle-elvis-costello-with/24>

18 AUGUST 2010

Pick, slide and twang: time travelling with the blues. There's some old, some new, some borrowed and all blue, tinged with alt.country, swing...

From 1920s blues on a Hawaiian guitar to Melbourne's own Nicky Del Rey & the Slowtown Social Club, Clinkerfield, Miserable Little Bastards and Brothers Grim & the Blue Murders, we closed with an early Robert Randolph to segue into his latest T-Bone Burnett-produced release. And thanks, Matt, for the borrowed component!

'Rain on the vein', Clinkerfield, *Wash Willie's winter away with whiskey VI* is from Clinkerfield's album *a head full of rain & a heart full of puddles*. This version recorded live on PBS at the Tote gig on 25 July.

The charismatic Jimmy Stewart, back from NYC and WA, continues his never-ending Tuesday-night solo residency at Collingwood's Gem Bar & Dining Room, with his 100th Gem show looming in September. Great food and we like the jugs of Lil Creatures too. Long a favourite of the Rainbow's Chick Ratten, Stewart is a performer with an encyclopaedic song book; he trolls through a century of musical styles in a night and, as we've shown in our first track with his band [Clinkerfield](#), he has a fine songwriter's ability to speak the unspeakable. Jimmy Stewart, please cut that solo CD.

Two cautionary tales followed. First up, 'Don't sell it - don't give it away', from Oscar 'Buddy' Woods, *Slidin' on the frets: the Hawaiian steel guitar phenomenon* (Yazoo), who was inspired to take up the steel guitar after hearing a travelling Hawaiian troupe in his hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Second, Jimmy's other band, Miserable Little Bastards, with 'Leave it alone', *Wash Willie's winter away with whiskey VI*.

[Brothers Grim](#) are 'four blues hounds reviving '20s blues in an unwholesome, moon-howling, sweat-dripping, groin-shaking fervour'. We heard 'Dirty Dog', Brothers Grim & the Blue Murders, *Wash Willie's winter away with whiskey VI*.

Last Saturday night we caught the [Moonee Valley Drifters](#) turning 25 at the Old Homestead Inn, now the [Recreation Hotel](#). Next week they're at the Lomond and Craig Horne & the star-studded [Hornets](#) take the baton at the Recreation.

'Down yonder', Nicky Del Rey & the Slowtown Social Club, *Dead pig heaven* - We caught up with Drifters guitarist Nicky Del Rey, so couldn't resist a track from his new outing, and even more specially 'cause it's penned by Louisiana's dearly departed Snooks Eaglin.

'Calypso', from pedal-steel maestro [Robert Randolph & the Family Band](#), came from his 2004 Grammy-nominated album *Unclassified*. I remember him at the New Orleans Jazzfest when Sacred Steel was new in the steel-guitar lexicon, leaving the crowd first open-mouthed then standing and hollering for more.

Tracks: 'Rain on the vein', Clinkerfield, *Wash Willie's winter away with whiskey VI*

'Don't sell it - don't give it away', Oscar Woods, *Slidin' on the frets*

'Leave it alone', Miserable Little Bastards, *Wash Willie's winter away with whiskey VI*

'Dirty Dog', Brothers Grim & the Blue Murders, *Wash Willie's winter away with whiskey VI*

'Down yonder', Nicky Del Rey & the Slowtown Social Club, *Dead pig heaven*

'Calypso', Robert Randolph & the Family Band, *Unclassified*

15 SEPTEMBER 2010

From Alabama-born Willis Alan Ramsey's one and only album (so far) through *Oxford American's* 11th music masterpiece to last night's Jimmy Stewart 100th

gig at the Gem, Collingwood- the music kept on coming, interspersed with snippets of features in the Oxford American.

Oxford American's 11th music edition, containing 53 tracks, contains a 2CD set divided into Southern and Arkansas masters.

Jimmy Stewart's 100th was a finals fever showdown, much black-and-white in evidence, with Jimmy's spectacular entrance breaking through a banner, cheer squad at hand, and some rap to open the set and orange segments at half time. Jimmy's playlist is always beguiling: apart from some fine originals, he matches with aplomb songs like the Wizard of Oz Scarecrow song 'If I only had a brain' with a Joe Cocker-influenced take on Lovin' Spoonful's 'Darling be home soon' and Richard Thompson's 'Vincent Black Lightning'.

On Sunday 26 September he solos at Drunken Poet's fourth birthday bash: recommended.

Tracks: 'Geraldine and the honeybee', Willis Alan Ramsey, *Willis Alan Ramsey* (Shelter)

From Oxford American's 11th music edition:

'Now what you gonna do', Frank Frost,

'I ain't got time', Fem Jones

'Suite for Violin and Piano', William Grant Still

'Gano', Oliver Lake Organ Trio (appearing at Wangaratta Jazz 2010)

'Bring me all the love you got', Claudia Whitten

'Baby please don't go', Billy Lee Riley & the Little Green Men

20 OCTOBER 2010

Wang dang doodle: preview Wangaratta Jazz Fest and more treasures unearthed by Oxford American

Festival time again, and we salivated over acts coming up end of next week at Wang <http://www.wangarattajazz.com> - international jazzers headlined by the likes of ubersinger Kurt Elling and master sax symbol Oliver Lake. The blues stage will jump with our own Fiona Boyes back for a blues revue with Debbie Davies, plus Backsliders, master picker Nick Charles and a host of others. 29 October - 1 November.

And so to the *Oxford American's* 10th anniversary of its music edition, with one CD of future masters, one of masters previously featured.

Tracks: 'Married blues', Kurt Elling, *Close your eyes*, Blue Note

From *Oxford American Southern Music* CDs, 10th anniversary edition:

'Heat', Elton & Betty White

'A jelly behind woman blows my mind', Elton & Betty White

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdLORa8Qv-g&feature=related>

'Travelin' Blues', Blind Willie McTell

'Foolkiller', Mose Allison

'He sends me', Nellie Lutcher

'Lights', Victoria Williams

'Rock me', Sister Rosetta Tharpe

17 NOVEMBER 2010

Review of Wangaratta Jazz & Blues and preview of Queenscliff Music Festival

Wangaratta Festival of Jazz <http://www.wangarattajazz.com/>, 29 October to 1 November, set the town alight, but it didn't manage to dry it out – that weekend would have to be the wettest on record during the fest's 21 years! The blues venue battled on through the torrential rain with marquee tops filling as fast as we could empty them and the Green Room awash with instruments and musos alike needing rescue from wet feet. But what it is about adversity? The Saturday night acts played up a storm that left the heavens whimpering for mercy.

Accolade-ridden US guitarist Debbie Davies <http://www.debbiedavies.com/>, who's shared the stage with Albert Collins, John Mayall and Ike Turner, was indeed holdin' court with our own Fiona Boyes & their Hot Licks Blues Revue and they weren't lying – Fiona's Fortune Tellers rose to the occasion and the hot licks came thick and fast.

Only the Backsliders could've followed this, and they rose to the occasion and left the crowd hollering for more. Other blues standouts: one sensational I missed was grand old man Dutch Tilders at 50 years on, the man who needed no introduction. Newcomer Anni Piper, crowd fave Ray Beadle, and then there was Diesel, channelling the blues in his shirt and vest while keeping to what seemed like a fairly standard, albeit excellent, rock set. Continental Robert offered smooth and grooves, and Nick Charles, polished picking.

And the jazz offered a rich melange of sounds: enjoyed sets by Kurt Elling, Yuri Honing Quartet, Andy Sugg Group, Mike Nock New Quintet, Oliver Lake both solo and in his Organ Quartet.

There's a danger of missing some great music with the record-store-type categories at **Queenscliff Music Festival**: take Atlanta Georgia's Shawn Mullins <http://www.shawnmullins.com/blog.html> who's marked as country, but Slim Dusty he ain't. His latest album Light you Up is #5 on the Billboard charts while he's playing venues like House of Blues in the US. The country genre has offered the most exciting developments over the last decades – have a listen and let your ears be the judge.

We'll be catching him for sure, along with the Mercurials, Mary Gaultier, Colin Hay, Quarry Mountain Dead Rats, Black Sorrows, RocKwiz Live, Kim Churchill and Watusi – and that's just for starters.

Gig of the month: Moonee Valley Drifters www.mooneevalleydrifters.com 25th Birthday Bash, Sunday 5 December, 2-5pm, East Brunswick Club Hotel. Catch some honky tonk, with swing, Cajun, and even Latinish rhythms. And don't forget those dancin' shoes. Guests include James Black; the Drifters include Tom Forsell, Paul Pyle, Nick Grant, Nick Summers and Dude Brockton with guests Brendan Shearson, Rick Dempster, Rob Grenville

Tracks: 'I wonder why? (Blues in D Natural)', Debbie Davies, *Holdin' court*

'The blues has been my Life', Dutch Tilders, *Going on a Journey: Anthology of 50 years of playing the blues*

'Atras de tus Ojos', Debbie Davies, *Holdin' court*

'Sideshow', Mary Gauthier, *QMF CD1*

'Light you up', Shawn Mullins, *Light you up*

15 DECEMBER 2010

It's a wrap

For the last show of 2010, we covered some of our favourite artists and gigs of the year, beginning with the Station Hotel reunion in November, which proved that the entity of the Station was greater than the sum of its parts. The magical vibe was made up of more than the musos: door bitches, both male and female, were in attendance; the groupies; the regulars – the early days bred a scene that typified the mood of the early '70s: idealistic, free, wild and crazy. Those who survived, scathed or not, if they were still living were there – it was good to rediscover old pals like Heckle, Wolfman, Jack, Trev, Sudwix, Lena and the bearers of other nicknames not suitable for a morning show.

Mick Elliot's Band featured Ian (Ferg) Ferguson and Trevor Young; the Pardoners, Sam See, Glynn Mason and Chris Stockley. Then there was Mike Rudd, Bill Putt, Robbo and Daryl Roberts with Spectrum to take the day out in a blaze of euphoria with the classic 'I'll be gone'.

At Queenscliff Music Festival Shawn Mullins did not disappoint. He's a generous and charismatic performer as is Colin Hay, whose anecdotes seem to get funnier with the years.

Tracks: 'Muskrat candlelight, Willis Alan Ramsey, *Willis Alan Ramsey* (Shelter)

'I'll be gone', Spectrum, *I'll be Gonz* (Cellar Music), 3:30

'The ballad of Kathryn Johnston', Shawn Mullins, *Honeydew* (Vanguard)

'Girl of the century', Rosie Flores & the Pine Valley Cosmonauts, *Girl of the century* (Bloodshot)

'Nearly', Nigel Kennedy, *Blue Note Sessions*

'Satin sheets', Willis Alan Ramsey, *Willis Alan Ramsey*

Next show: 9:30am Wednesday, 19 January 2011: Oxford American's 12th music issue: writings and music