

2024 JazzConnect Festival

Scarborough 23-25 Aug 2024

From 23-25 August 2024, JazzConnect turned the Scarborough Beach foreshore into one large music precinct giving thousands of patrons the opportunity to enjoy great local artists, iconic venues and spectacular ocean views. On behalf of the ArtConnect committee, a big thank-you to everyone who contributed and made it such a huge success!!

With 17 fantastic, diverse events across 9 venues, all within easy walk, the program spanned the whole weekend, Friday to Sunday, with a range of free and ticketed events.

The program had something for everyone – with patrons enjoying high energy performances from the likes of Sophie Foster and Steve Hensby Band; dusting off their dance moves with the Matt Cahill Combo; enjoying the latin rhythms of Marcio Mendes, and De Cuba Son; and enjoying a more laid-back vibe with the likes of Shameem, Allira Wilson and the Chris Foster Trio.

The festival was proudly presented by the City of Stirling and supported by the Scarborough Beach Association.

A special thanks to our Venue Partners:



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Friday 23rd August



Livid Lounge Session with GunFu

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Livid Skate Café

For the last few decades, Benjamin Witt has been a stalwart of the Perth music scene; a masterful guitarist and talented songwriter whose music has spanned a range of styles and genres. With his latest music endeavour, the awesomely named GunFu, Witt has assembled some of Perth's finest musicians, with Ben Vanderwal on drums, Marc Earley on bass guitar, Jayden Blockley on saxophone, Harry Mitchell on keys, and Witt holding things down on electric guitar.

With styles influenced by jazz, West African, Cuban and experimental elements, the band creates harmonious tapestries of sound, with improvisational elements ensuring that each performance is unique. A fantastic opener for our weekend festival.

Saturday 24th August



Aaron Caldwell & Bryn Larkin

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Livid Skate Café

Young saxophonist Aaron Caldwell is a new and exciting addition to the Perth jazz scene. Whilst studying at WAAPA he has built an impressive reputation as an improviser and a musician, sharing the stage with many notable musicians including Will Vinson (UK), Shannon Barnett (Ger), Frank Gambale (US). He was joined by his equally as imaginative and talented musical friend Bryn Larkin, master of all things guitar.

These talented young artists are members of the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra and part of the Ambrosia Sextet, a group which explores the idiom of jazz with influences from unusual places – from video games to folk songs. (not included)



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Lucy Iffla & Sorcha Albuquerque

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

ZOIE Café

Both graduates of WAAPA, Lucy and Sorcha are friends and lovers of music who have performed alongside some of Australia's best musicians. Nominated for Best Vocalist in the WA Music Awards, and fresh from the release of her debut album in 2023, Lucy has an elegant and timeless voice beyond her years. Sorcha is a talented guitarist who has shared the stage with notable musicians such as ARIA award-winning bassist Jonathan Zwartz, Peter Bernstein and Julien Wilson.

This performance provided a blend of contemporary and folk melodies with a sprinkle of those jazz classics we all know and love.



Chris Foster Trio

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Rendezvous Hotel Lobby

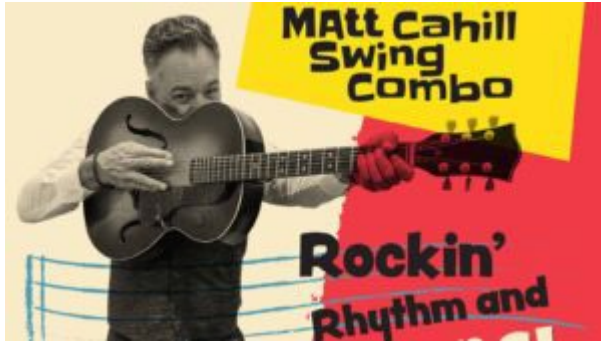
Chris Foster is one of Perth's most in-demand pianists. Chris' extraordinary compositions are crafted specifically for his tight knit trio featuring long-time collaborators Nick Abbey (bass) and Daniel Susnjar (drums).

This performance transported patrons on a voyage through meticulously crafted melodies as Chris performed selections of works from his critically acclaimed and much-loved debut trio album *In Motion*.



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Matt Cahill Combo and Swing Zing Dancers

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

The Lookout (due to weather)

Matt Cahill and his talented combo brought us the best of Rockin' Rhythm and Swinging tunes, to get patrons up and dancing – with the fabulous Swing Zing dancers on hand to help people polish their moves.

Matt Cahill has an impressive musical background that began in Perth where he fronted The Calhoons and toured alongside renowned Australian artists such as Paul Kelly, INXS, Hoodoo Gurus, Baby Animals, and Powderfinger.

In this event, Matt was joined by some of Perth's premier musicians, playing classic swing & jazz tunes of the 40s and 50s - so think T-Bone Walker, Nat King Cole, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, and Dean Martin.



Sunset Samba with Marcio Mendes Duo

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Scarborough Beach Bar

Marcio hails from São Paulo, Brazil's largest city. He has played music professionally since his early 20s and performed with highly respected names of the Brazilian music scene.

Blending English tunes with a thrilling Brazilian flavour, this duo has a natural chemistry that is infectious. Featuring samba, salsa and the rhythms of NE Brazil, there was no way to stay seated for this performance. Patrons experienced a taste of Brazil while enjoying a spectacular Indian Ocean sunset.



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Sophie Foster: Women of Soul

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

The Sandbar

Their songs are iconic. Their voices are unforgettable. From the Queen of Soul herself Aretha Franklin to Etta James to Beyoncé, these women of soul have left an indelible mark on the music industry.

R&B/Soul songstress Sophie Foster and her talented band took patrons on a journey through the genre that is Soul Music and the women who have shaped it. Featuring the music of artists such as Aretha Franklin, Amy Winehouse, Nina Simone, Chaka Khan, Beyoncé, Jill Scott and many more.

Sophie Foster is a sought-after vocalist in Perth's music scene, enchanting audiences with her captivating vocals and commanding stage presence. She has performed with the likes of Chris Isaak, Guy Sebastian, Katey Steele of Little Birdy, Casey Donavon and Melonie Daniels-Walker, and provided backing vocals for legends like Michael Jackson and Mariah Carey.



Bad whip, Lily Morgan, Rein Mali, Luci

8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

El Grotto



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Sunday 25th August



Valentina Macias & Sam Markham Duo

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Livid Laneway

Fellow musicians and friends studying at WAAPA, Valentina Macias and Sam Markham come together for this gig to perform a range of jazz standards and original tunes.

Valentina Macias is a jazz pianist, composer and singer/songwriter, telling stories through song and instrumental compositions. Jazz bassist and composer Sam Markham is making an impact on the local scene, utilizing his playing and compositions to convey narratives and forge connections with audiences.



Allira Wilson & Harry Mitchell

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

ZOIE Café

For this special performance long time collaborators Allira Wilson and Harry Mitchell performed curated sets with beautiful arrangements of songs by Fats Waller, Billie Holiday, George Gershwin and more. Whether Allira and Harry are playing straight ahead jazz or reworkings of contemporary songs, you can expect to hear music performed at the highest level.

"Vocalist Allira Wilson is one of Australia's most exciting talents, skilfully combining jazz harmony with a contemporary edge and soulful dynamic" - Birdland Records

"Harry Mitchell is one of those luminary artists who can't help making their presence felt" - Australianjazz.Net



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Danilo da Paz & Emily Gelineau

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The Sandbar

Emily Gelineau and Danilo Da Paz explore all corners of the world with their music - from Brazil to France and Argentina. Influenced by their recent travels across the globe, the two bring together a unique sound.

With Emily Gelineau on Violin and Vocals, and Danilo Da Paz playing Accordion and Guitar, this duo performs and has been influenced by many styles including Jazz, Brazilian styles of Choro, Samba, Bossa Nova, Argentinian Tango and many more.



The Basiliros: The Music of Dean Martin & Frank Sinatra

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

The Lookout

In this crowd-pleasing show, The Basiliros paid homage to two of the greatest crooners of all time - Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. These two brothers have been singing together since they were kids and their sibling bond is evident in their lively banter and onstage chemistry.

Supported by some of Perth's finest jazz musicians, The Basiliros will take us on a musical journey through the iconic hits of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. From Sinatra's classic "Fly Me to the Moon" and "My Way" to Martin's signature tunes "That's Amore" and "Everybody Loves Somebody," the duo had the crowd tapping their toes and singing along to every word.



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Soul & Jazz with Shameem

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

The Sandbar

Award-winning soul/ jazz songstress Shameem brought to The Sandbar a show featuring an eclectic mix of stripped back soul, jazz and blues.

Shameem has supported major international artists such as George Benson, Michael Bolton, Belinda Carlisle and Ronan Keating, and undertaken tours in Australia, the USA and Canada. Her latest studio recording *Time Does Not Reverse* won the (international) Independent Music Awards Urban EP category, as well as amassing a slew of wins and nominations in the UK Songwriting Contest, USA Songwriting Competition and John Lennon Songwriting Contest.



Latin Sessions with De Cuba Son

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Scarborough Beach Bar

De Cuba Son, established in Perth in 2016, is a dynamic Cuban band showcasing some of the best Latin jazz players in town. They play the classic Cuban repertoire and their own originals with the iconic Havana sound.



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Sandbar Jazz Party with Steve Hensby Band

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The Sandbar

The Steve Hensby Band provides an assault to the musical senses with elements of funk, soul, ska, world, a sprinkle of psychedelia and a dash of folk. The ensemble is a regular in the WA festival circuit and features a great horn section.

Steve Hensby is a Berklee College of Music graduate and West Australian Music Industry award winning musician who has played with the likes of Jackson Browne, Tim Minchin, John Cleary, Steve Poltz, and Randy Feltface.

The perfect finish to this eclectic festival.



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