

dungeonjazz

MEDIA RELEASE

June 18, 2010

Orchestral jazz Newcastle debut

Mace Francis has worked and studied in **Italy and New York**, picked up a swag of awards, was personal assistant to **Lalo Schifrin** and has written some of the most engaging new music and arrangements since the legendary **Paul Grabowsky**.

In its fifth year, his now renowned **Mace Francis Orchestra** twelve piece kicks off their 2010 east coast 'Neverever' tour at **Adamstown's Jazz Dungeon** at 7.30pm **Thursday July 1**.

Mace Francis and his orchestra – an abbreviated history:

2009

Artistic Director of the **Western Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO)**.

2008

Musical Director of the **WAYJO Composers Ensemble**.

Lecturer in Arranging/Composition at **The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)**

2007

Awarded **Most Outstanding Individual Contribution to Jazz** by the **Perth Jazz Society**.

MFO performed with American Jazz Legend **Jim Pugh**.

Musical Director for the **Perth Jazz Society's 35th Anniversary Gala Concert**.

Personal assistant for **Lalo Schifrin** for his **Jazz Meets the Symphony** concerts with **Western Australian Symphony Orchestra**

2006

Performed at the **International Association of Jazz Educators** conference – **New York City** – with **Frank Foster**.

2005

Commissioned by **Qualitaly** to compose **Visioni dall'australia** (Visions from Australia) – a collaboration with **Glenn Romanis** (didgeridoo) - **performed in Bra (Italy)**.

One of four composers commissioned to contribute original music for **WAYJO's concert program at the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) conference in New York City 2006**.

Guest Composer and Conductor with the **Bennett's Lane Big Band** (Melbourne)

2004

Winner of the **APRA Professional Development Award – Jazz**.

Formed **MFO** (Mace Francis Orchestra)

Travelled to **Vienna** to study composition with **Ed Partyka**.

2004 continued

Musical component of a two-week cultural exchange **Qualitaly** to Torino, Italy.

Winner of the international composition award **Scrivere in Jazz 2004** – open age section, **Sassari, Italy**.

Recipient of the **WAYJO Scholarship** for outstanding performance and lasting contribution.

Completed **Bachelor of Music – Jazz (Composition & Arranging) with First Class Honours** at WAAPA

2003

Awarded the **WAYJO Patrons Award for Outstanding Contribution and Professionalism**.

2001 – 06

Guitarist for the **Western Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO)**.

2001

Music component in **Response** - a series of live improvised dance and music performances directed by choreographer **Jo Pollitt**.

1999

Musical component of ten week cultural exchange **Arte Link 2000** to Italy.

1998

Completed **Diploma of Jazz and Popular Music** - Gordon Institute of TAFE Geelong Victoria.

1997

Member of award winning School Jazz Band.

Winner Battle of the Bands Victoria – The Hounds

What the critics say:

"These layered compositions and scoring convey colour, atmosphere and movement far more effectively and with greater interest than the stock standard arrangements often heard from big bands.

Francis, understandably, has attracted international interest with his outstanding orchestra and compelling compositions." **John McBeath - The Weekend Australian**

"His themes are melodically pleasing and rhythmically strong. Francis has definite goals in mind, and has assembled a first class ensemble to help him reach them." **Jack Bowers - allaboutjazz.com**

"Lyrical, beautifully-textured, unrushed... a little-big-band that sounds bigger than its twelve-member-strength." **Doug Spencer – Weekend Planet – ABC Radio National**

"... Mace's name can rightly be spoken in the same rarefied breath as giant jazz genius Paul Grabowsky, whether we're talking composition, or orchestration. ... You haven't heard how brilliantly bent a big band can be, until you've heard the MFO." **Lloyd Bradford (Brad) Syke - Australian Stage Online**

Doors open at 7.00pm, gig commences 7.30pm.

A concert/coffee shop style venue, **dungeon jazz** is in the Adamstown Uniting Church, corner of Brunner and Glebe Roads, Adamstown, Newcastle N.S.W.

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For further information: www.dungeonjazz.com.au

www.macefrancis.com