



Changing the musical landscape in the Northern Rivers
with their unique blend of vocal jazz, blues and original music.

NICKI PARROTT bass/vocals

Returning to Australia after nearly 30 years in New York City, Nicki Parrott started her musical training at age four. She studied jazz at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music under the direction of Don Burrows and was awarded an Arts Council grant to study bass with Rufus Reid in New York.

Nicki was bassist and vocalist for the legendary Les Paul for over 10 years, in addition to performing at most of the world's top jazz venues and festivals including The Jazz Cruise and sold-out performances at Birdland and Dizzy's in NYC.

Nicki has performed with such jazz greats as Randy Brecker, Clark Terry, Bucky and John Pizzarelli, Dick Hyman, Joe Wilder, Michel Legrand, Lee Ritenour, Jose Feliciano, Scott Hamilton, Houston Person, the New York Pops Orchestra, Tommy Emmanuel and legendary producer Arif Mardin. Nicki has also appeared with rock and roll elites such as Paul McCartney, Todd Rundgren, Slash and Steve Miller.

She has recorded more than two dozen vocal records for Venus Records (Japan), Arbors Records (USA) and Ooroo Records (USA).

STEVE RUSSELL piano

Long regarded as one of Australia's finest jazz pianists and accompanists, Steve has appeared with a comprehensive list of Australian and international artists including Nancy Wilson, Chuck Findlay, Dale Barlow and Kristen Berardi, and performed support gigs for Wynton Marsalis and John Scofield. His innovative compositions, described by Australian jazz doyen Tony Gould as "state of the art", feature on two CD releases, the live-recorded *Dark Matters*, and the award winning studio album, *When The Light Comes*.

Steve is also highly regarded for his work as Musical Director for the Queensland Music Festival, Opera Queensland, and the Queensland Performing Arts Trust. He is a passionate music educator and has published a book on piano technique, *Calm Hands*.

MARTHA BAARTZ sax/flute

Martha Baartz has performed extensively Nationally and Internationally including Glastonbury Festival (UK), The Edinburgh Festival, The Melbourne Festival, and The Brisbane International Jazz Festival and has a Master's in Music Performance (award of Academic Excellence 2010) from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

Martha is well known for her compositions performed in The Baartz Freeman sextet, Baartz's Brew and The Denson Baartz Quartet. She has recorded four successful albums of original music and her compositions are often played on Radio National, Jazz Track. Martha currently teaches saxophone at Southern Cross University (SCU) and Lindisfarne Grammar School.

She has performed with Australian greats; Dan Sultan, Renee Geyer, Jimmy Barnes and Ian Moss (Motown show), Sandy Evans, Bob Sedergreen (2008 Don Banks award winner) Andrea Keller (Aria winner) and Michelle Nicole (Wangaratta Jazz vocal award winner) and international superstars The Funk Brothers, The Temptations and Martha and the Vandala's. She is a first call session and freelance artist having recorded with Australian premier R&B/Soul band The Teskey Brothers.

DAVE SANDERS drums

Dave has been involved in virtually every aspect of the music industry and music education and has gained the reputation as one of the most versatile and in-demand drummers and drum teachers in Australia.

Dave's ability to cross the boundaries of genre and style has made him an asset to many acts within the music industry both as live performer and experienced studio musician. Sensitive to the music and musicians around him, Dave is just as happy to sit back and play swinging brushes as he is to smash through a high volume, high energy show.

Dave's performance credits include Monica Trapaga, Rhonda Burchmore, Rodriguez, Pete Murray, Grace Knight, Lisa Hunt, Margaret Urlich, Leonardos Bride, Bob Barnard, Jim Kelly, Jack Thorncraft, Don Burrows, George Golla, Mickey Rooney, Lady Rizo, Tom Burlinson, ACRE, The Eurogliders, Ian Date, George Washingmachine, Leigh Carriage and Petula Clarke.

FOR BOOKING INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
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