



## **Australia's legendary band, GALAPAGOS DUCK**

Galapagos Duck appears in the pages of many jazz history books and has received awards both in Australia and internationally. With its unique approach and extraordinarily wide popular appeal the group has become a household name all over this country and has had a significant influence on young musicians over the years through its many recordings, volumes of original music scores, performances in night-clubs, in concert halls, on TV, in jazz festivals, in various movies, with dance groups, and in a variety of other settings and also particularly through its frequent school concerts and workshops all over the country and overseas.

### **The Group's Members**

Over the many years of Galapagos Duck's life there has been the occasional change in the group's lineup but Galapagos Duck prides itself on being able to choose from the finest talent Australia has to offer. The present lineup is no exception. All are respected performers and music writers who in combination, still being mostly long time members, are able to maintain Galapagos Duck's unique flavour, versatility and wide popular appeal which has always been the hallmark of this group.

#### **Greg Foster**

**trombone, blues harp, chromatic harmonica.**

A musician, music teacher and special education teacher, Greg was a member of popular groups Heart 'N' Soul, SCRA and The Harbour City Jazz Band before joining Galapagos Duck in 1976. He has written and arranged original music for each of these and other groups including arrangements for Renée Geyer and Mickey Leyton with the Peter Martin Big Band at the opening of the Sydney Opera House. His musical background is wide and varied spanning the genres of Rock, Jazz and Classical. He has performed with most of Australia's greats including Don Burrows, James and John Morrison, Tommy Emmanuel and Roger Frampton. He has also played with classical orchestras and in 1993 performed as featured soloist with The Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House. Greg has led Galapagos Duck since 1993.

#### **Rodney Ford**

**drums, percussion and vocals**

Rodney has performed with Australian jazz artists Roger Frampton (Jazz Co - Op), Errol Buddle, Jim Kelly and Mick Kenny (Crossfire) .Jim Pennel, Greame Lyall, and with overseas artists including Herb Ellis, Barney Kessel, Eberhard Weber and Jamey Abersold . He has recorded in many different fields of music including with Tommy Emmanuel and country artist, John Williamson. Rodney was resident drummer for J.C. Williamsons for three years in shows including The Wiz , Man of la Mancha and Chorus Line . After many years of reading gigs , he chose to pursue his vocal endeavors in various Jazz Rock Latin groups. Rodney joined Galapagos Duck in 2002.

#### **Stephan Schafer**

**saxophones, clarinet, flute, bass.**

Born and raised in Nuremburg, Germany, Stephan studied classical saxophone with Günther Priesner at the Meistersinger - Konservatorium in Nuremburg from 1988 to 1994. 1989 Stephan

came third in the prestigious national competition "Jugend musiziert". During the time in Germany he already worked as a freelancing musician with various jazz, latin, funk and rock bands, Chamber Music Ensembles, the opera, Theatre Shows and Big Bands. In 1994 he migrated to Sydney, Australia. He has recorded and worked with most of the greats in the Australian jazz scene and, having often performed with Galapagos Duck since 2007 he joined officially in 2010.

## **Bill Risby**

### **piano, electronic keyboards**

Bill is one of the most versatile keyboardists in the country. He has played and recorded in virtually every musical style. He performs with his own trio and a number of other contemporary jazz bands. With a background in both jazz and classical, Bill Risby has performed extensively in Australia, played with many international artists, including Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra and Julio Iglesias, a diverse array of Australian popular artists from Marcia Hines to Daryl Braithwaite and of course with Galapagos Duck over the years and has recorded six albums to date.

## **Emile Nelson**

### **electric fretted and fretless bass, double bass and vocals.**

Emile is comfortable in any musical situation from jazz to country, latin ,fusion, and pop. He has recorded and played all styles. His main instruments are Fretted and Fretless 4, & 5 string basses Acoustic Bass, stick bass and Vocals. In 1997 at the age of 25 Emile was one of the 10 finalists in the worldwide bassplayer magazine bass playing competition. The only finalist from Australia. After receiving his associate diploma in Jazz at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Emile furthered his studies and experience in New York. He has played and recorded with many international and Australian artists of extremely diverse musical styles and has over the years played with Galapagos Duck..

## **The Recordings**

The Removalists	St. James	Moomba Jazz '76	Ebony Quill
Magnum	Right On Cue	In Flight	This Time
Voyage of The Beagle	Endangered Species	Habitat	Lonely George
Out Of The Blue			

## **The Name?**

Naturally enough the most commonly asked question is "Where did you get the name?" The inspiration came from Spike Milligan and was somehow derived from one of his comedy sketches involving the auctioning of a "Giant Galapagos Turtle upon wheels with clockwork revolving eyes". The connection between this and a jazz band and a duck may seem a little tenuous, however it is a fact that Spike, the creator of most of the lunacy of the Goon Show, a jazz musician himself, became a friend and admirer of the band during his many trips to Australia, and has even appeared on national TV with the group. Spike said "Galapagos Duck are the sort of group which play the sort of music, which if you haven't heard them for four years, and hear them again, they're still ahead. They play the music, man. And they play it great."

Spike, a keen conservationist and ecologist, wrote the words to one of the songs on Galapagos Duck's Endangered Species Album, "Poor Little Bustard" (Music by Bob Egger, a former Duck member).

## **The Tours**

Galapagos Duck has toured extensively throughout the world including England, Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium, India, Sri Lanka, China, The Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Laos, Vietnam, New Zealand and the USA.

On its travels Galapagos Duck has appeared in many of the most prestigious jazz festivals in the world. Apart from those in Australia others include the Montreaux Jazz Festival in Switzerland,

Jazz Yatra Festival in Bombay, The American Musexpo in USA and the Singapore International Jazz Festival. Much of its national and international touring has been with the assistance of Musica Viva Australia and under the auspices of the Australian Foreign Affairs Department. One visit to Kuala Lumpur was to perform Galapagos Duck's original music score with Comscapes Malaysian Dance Company, a dance suite locally choreographed, which raised thousands of dollars for the World Wildlife Fund, Malaysia. The band has embarked on similar ventures in Australia, writing original scores for The Australian Ballet Company, The Aboriginal and Islander Dance Company and for dance performances in movies and in The Australian Bicentennial TV Spectacular.

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