



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 The 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 The Duck's unique flavour, versatility and wide popular appeal which has always been the hallmark of this group.

Greg Foster

trombone, flugabone, blues harp, chromatic harmonica, electric bass, clarinet, and didgeridoo.

A qualified high school music teacher and special education teacher, in demand as a session musician, was member of popular groups Heart 'N' Soul, SCRA and The Harbour City Jazz Band before joining The Duck in 1976. He has written and arranged original music for each of these and other groups. He has also played with classical orchestras and in 1993 performed as featured soloist with The Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

John Conley

electric fretted and fretless bass, electric guitar, double bass, clarinet, vocals, percussion.

Born in Melbourne, moved to Canberra where he studied classical guitar and played double bass in Canberra Youth Orchestra. In early '70s studied at NSW Conservatorium of Music. Played and recorded with many bands including Errol Buddle, Col Nolan, Winnifred Atwell, Four Kinsmen. Joined The Duck in 1981. His extensive writing for the band includes the ballet "Austorizon" for the Australian Dance Theatre and four songs nominated in the jazz category of APRA awards.

Adrian Cunningham

saxophones, flute, clarinet, piano and vocals.

Adrian has been a featured soloist with notable Australian artists such as James Morrison, Don Burrows, Emma Pask and Galapagos Duck. He has performed extensively overseas in New York, Japan, Indonesia and Africa, and has studied with internationally renowned clarinetist and recording artist, Eddie Daniels. In 2003, he featured with his own band at Sydney's major jazz festivals, including Manly International Jazz Festival and Darling Harbour. In 2004 he performed in Switzerland's prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival. He joined the Duck in 2004.

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 The Duck in 2002.

Matt Baker

piano, electronic keyboards and vocals.

Matt completed the 4 year Bachelor of Music Jazz Studies degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 1999. Since then he has performed in New York and played at Jazz Festivals all over Australia. He performs regularly with his own trio and with John Morrison's big band, Swing City. Matt was the pianist behind many segments of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. He has played with James Morrison, Don Burrows, Monica Trapaga, Harry Connick Jr. and Wynton Marsalis. Matt joined The Duck in 2001.

The Recordings

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| 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 the 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 The 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 The 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.

Contact

Email: theduck@galapagosduck.com

Phone: +61 (0)419 493 059 **Fax:** +61 (0)2 9652 0770

Post: PO Box 111, Glenorie, NSW, AUSTRALIA, 2157