



The
**RODGER FOX
BIG BAND'S**
50th Anniversary
Celebrations
PROPOSAL



**RODGER FOX
BIG BAND**

50th
ANNIVERSARY
2023



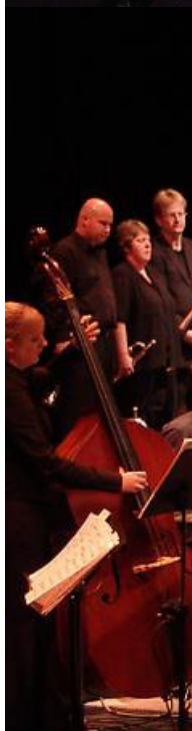
The
**RODGER FOX
BIG BAND'S**
50th Anniversary
Celebrations
PROPOSAL

The Rodger Fox Big Band celebrates 50 years of sensational jazz performances in 2023. It is, by every measure of quality, contribution and longevity, New Zealand's premier big band.

The 50 th Anniversary will kick off in early March 2023 with a series of tours around New Zealand's main and provincial centres.

As we emerge from the constraints of a global pandemic, we believe it's time to break the shackles, celebrate an important milestone in the New Zealand arts scene, and enjoy some unrivalled musical performances.

RODGER FOX BIG BAND



The band leader and trombone maestro, Rodger Fox, has been the band's driving force and constant presence throughout 50 years.

He is, without doubt, a music and jazz legend. In New Zealand, and beyond, his position in jazz is unrivalled and, in the arts, he is to jazz what Jon Trimmer is to dance, Kiri Te Kanawa is to Opera and Sam Neil to acting.

In 2022, Rodger was recognised in the New Year Honours with a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his work as a band leader, musical director, musician and educator.

The band itself has won numerous awards and accolades, including six Tui awards for the best New Zealand jazz recording. Over the band's illustrious history, it has performed tirelessly across New Zealand and overseas, while recording nearly 80 New Zealand compositions.

The Rodger Fox Big Band has performed with some of the biggest names in jazz, blues and contemporary music including Michael Brecker, Steve Gadd, Randy Crawford, Joe Williams, Robben Ford, Patti Austin, Kurt Elling, Diane Schuur, Mike Stern, Chris Cain, Eric Marienthal, John Fedchock, Bill Cunliffe, Steve Houghton, Chris Cain, Dick Oatts, Charlie Musselwhite, Jon Papenbrook, Alex Sipiagin, Bob Sheppard, Bruce Forman, Charley Davis, Denise Perrier, Alan Broadbent and Jim Pugh, to name but a few.

New Zealand artists the big band has performed with include Holly Smith, Midge Marsden, Mark Williams, Erna Ferry, David Feehan, Debbie Harwood, Hammond Gamble, Larry Morris, Tim Beverage, Roger Manins, Lisa Tomlins, Brian Smith, and others.

In recent years this has included collaborations with international classical artists Michael Houstoun and Simon O'Neill- Classical meets Jazz - and a Big Band CD release, Reimagined! The Rodger Fox Big Band plays Sir Dave Dobbyn and most recent CD release, The Rodger Fox Big Band plays Hone Tuwhare.



RODGER FOX BIG BAND

50th ANNIVERSARY

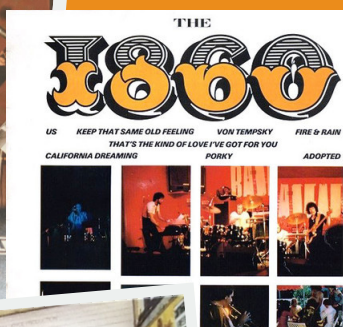
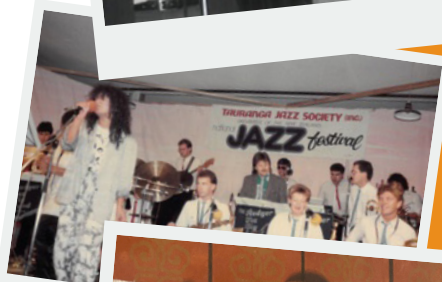
CONCERT

TOUR SCHEDULE

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the Big Band, five concert series are planned for 2023 kicking off in early March.

Each of these concert tours will have an educational component - **Jazz on the Road** - 'Changing Lives Through Music'.

Jazz on the Road is an exciting and challenging series of one day workshops and concerts delivered by the Rodger Fox Big Band, featuring international jazz musicians/educators.



The
five-concert
series
planned are:

1 The Big Drum Off **6-12 March 2023**

**Palmerston North, Wellington,
Christchurch, Hamilton and Auckland.**

A full-on drum spectacular featuring three of the world's greatest drummers in concert with the Rodger Fox Big Band.

Outside of the concerts will be a series of educational drum workshops under the banner of International Drum-day.

The three renowned drummers taking part are:

i. Dennis Chambers

Dennis Chambers is a drumming legend who has recorded and performed with artists such as Santana, Steely Dan, Parliament/Funkadelic, John Scofield, The Jacksons, The Brecker Brothers, Victor Wooten, Mike Stern, and many others. Dennis is mostly known for his ability to perform with impeccable and funky timing in virtually any style, as well as his fast chops – but he's perhaps most noted for his jazz-fusion, funk, and Latin music playing.

ii. Gregg Bissonette

Gregg is an American jazz and rock drummer. He has played on albums by dozens of artists, including David Lee Roth's first three solo albums. Drummer with the Ringo Starr All-star Band and has performed with Maynard Ferguson.

iii. Peter Erskine

Peter has appeared on 700 albums and film scores and has won two Grammy Awards plus an Honorary Doctorate from the Berklee School of Music. He has played with Weather Reports, Joni Mitchell, Steely Dan, Diana Krall, Pat Metheny and the Stan Kenton and Maynard Ferguson big bands.

**For more information about the
Rodger Fox Big Band, please visit
rodgerfoxbigband.com**

2 The Saxophone Summit **4-10 April 2023**

**Wellington, Palmerston North, Napier,
Tauranga & Auckland.**

Featuring four world-renowned jazz saxophonists
Bob Sheppard, Gary Smulyan and Kenni Holmen
in concert with the Rodger Fox Big Band.

3 Four Hands, Two Pianos & One Big Band **Queen's birthday, 30 May - 5 June 2023**

**Wellington, Queenstown, Christchurch,
Blenheim, Auckland & Palmerston North.**

This concert series will present two grand pianos on the stage at
one time backed by the Rodger Fox Big Band. The two pianists are
New Zealand's iconic classical pianist Mr Michael Houstoun and
internationally acclaimed American pianist Mr Bill Cunliffe.

4 The World Blues Revue **29 August - 3 September 2023**

**Palmerston North, Queenstown, Dunedin,
Auckland, Wellington & Christchurch.**

The Rodger Fox Big Band has always had a long association
with the blues.

Returning will be the one and only Mr Chris Cain from the USA
and two New Zealand blues hero's the ever-loving Midge Marsden
and Ms Erna Ferry. Our new friend is a guitarist/vocalist from
California, the Wildman of the blues, Mr Josh Smith.

5 The Brother Man Tour **Labour Weekend, 17-22 October 2023**

Featuring King Kapisi and The Rodger Fox Big Band
**Auckland, Palmerston North, Queenstown,
Dunedin, Wellington & Christchurch**

'Brotherman - Crossover Thoughts' is a project that infuses the modern
big band sound with that of Aotearoa-New Zealand Hip-hop.

RODGER FOX BIG BAND

at a Glance

- Since the inception of the Rodger Fox Big Band, over 300 young musicians have been members of the Big Band with many going on to become professional musicians and music teachers.
- The Rodger Fox Big Band have run over 1,500 Master Classes (Jazz on the Road - Changing Lives through Music) for secondary school jazz musicians over the years - conducting Master Classes in each centre the Big Band performs.
- Jazz on the Road is an exciting and challenging series of one-day workshops and concerts delivered by the Rodger Fox Big Band and featuring international jazz musicians and educators.
- In 1972, when Rodger Fox first formed the Big Band, there were only two secondary school Big Bands - today there are some 165 secondary school Big Bands. This growth has been largely due to the influence of Rodger and the Big Band.



Fox snaps up chance to record in Capitol Studios

Tom Hunt

JAZZ man Rodger Fox is off to the City of Angels to record in the studio of legends.

Capitol Studios in Los Angeles has recorded artists such as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole and The Beach Boys, and more recently the likes of Green Day and Robbie Williams.

"It's unbelievable the fact he will be recording in an intimate studio in the heart of the United States the three days intensively famed studios, House recorded its debut album in 1958."

"All the big class studios have been in the United States to be able to have the recording in a single session."

"This is something most New Zealand musicians would never have the chance to experience."

RODGER FOX

Friday Night
Saturday Night
Sunday Night

Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Friday
Saturday
Sunday



RODGER FOX BIG BAND

at a Glance

- The impetus for forming the Big Band came when the older jazz musicians in Wellington were reluctant to engage with the next generation of musicians. Rebuffed by the establishment, Rodger was undeterred and established the Rodger Fox Big Band.
- This experience led Rodger to actively encourage and engage with younger musicians whom he has mentored and welcomed into the Big Band, helping them develop their craft.
- The Rodger Fox Big Band has a diverse songbook ranging from Glen Miller and the swing era, Duke Ellington to collaborations with New Zealand's own internationally renowned tenor Simon O'Neill and concert pianist Michael Houston. More recently, Rodger has 'Reimagined' the songbook of Sir Dave Dobbyn, and is currently collaborating with New Zealand-Samoan hip-hop artist King Kapsi.
- This year Rodger, with the support of Youthtown, created the Young Jazz Band-it competitions to support jazz music programmes and jazz understanding through the distribution of New Zealand-inspired, popular compositions arranged for secondary and intermediate school jazz ensembles.



SIMON O'NEILL & RODGER FOX
WAGNER MEETS BIG BAND IN CONCERT WITH THE RODGER FOX BIG BAND



Young
Jazz
Band-it

RODGER FOX BIG BAND

at a Glance

- Looking ahead, Rodger is working to establish a New Zealand Jazz Orchestra to provide a career pathway for young emerging jazz musicians as the NZ Symphony Orchestra does for classical musicians.
- To become financially viable, the NZJO would require a funding commitment from Government to meet an annual operating budget of \$1.8M for the first five years. To put this in context, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra receives funding from government funding bodies such as Creative New Zealand and Cultural & Heritage.
- Rodger believes that the time has come for jazz to be given due recognition and treated with the same courtesy as the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, NZ Regional Orchestras, NZ Opera and Ballet. Establishing the NZJO would provide such recognition and realise substantial cultural and other benefits while requiring only modest Government support.

RODGER FOX
BIG BAND
50th
ANNIVERSARY
2023