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Great Tropical Jazz Party Swings in 2010

The Great Tropical Jazz Party (www.magneticislandjazz.org), now in its 14th year is an annual festival of exciting jazz beneath the palms on tropical Magnetic Island, north Queensland.

Commencing on Friday 27 August 2010, the GTJP features internationally acclaimed jazz musicians. The festival programme includes three nights and two days of jazz, culminating in an informal Jam Session on the Sunday night. Held amidst the lush tropical gardens of the All Seasons Magnetic Island Resort, the stage is set poolside, creating a relaxed, intimate venue that attracts jazz lovers from all over Australia. The jazz festival is the signature entertainment event on Magnetic Island.

The GTJP has earned an impeccable reputation since its inception in 1997 for offering top class entertainment in a relaxed setting, becoming one of Australia's premier jazz events. Festival Director Marilyn Sheather says, "Every Jazz Party seems to be bigger and better than the one before. We're able to attract quality musicians simply because the musicians love to play on Magnetic Island."

"The festival is unique in that all sessions are held at the one venue. This enables musicians who are between sets to sit back and enjoy the music and camaraderie of their peers, which creates a lively buzz amongst the crowd," she says.

"Jazz musicians clamour for an invite to play at the iconic festival, with first timers usually blown away by the venue and the surroundings," Marilyn enthuses. "Many musicians bring their partners and families as well. It's such an intimate, friendly setting that encourages families to linger and enjoy the balmy nights and warm days of Magnetic Island."

The festival has a very relaxed groove and is well supported by both the local community and by jazz aficionados who travel to specifically to north Queensland to enjoy the party.

The 2010 programme features seven bands and more than 40 leading jazz musicians, playing exciting Jazz styles from mainstream to contemporary. Kristin Berardi, an internationally acclaimed singer, composer and educator, graduated from the Brisbane Conservatorium of Music majoring in jazz voice. She has since gone on to perform with some of jazz's most respected musicians, winning the coveted International Vocal Competition at Montreux Jazz Festival in 2006.

Kristin Berardi will team with the John Hoffman Quintet for the feature concert on Saturday night, while Kirwan High School Band opens proceedings on Friday night. Other highlights include Miles Kind of Blue, a tribute to Miles Davis, and the return of the enormously popular Neilsen Gough Quartet.

A glamorous Black & White Cocktail Party fundraiser will be held at the All Seasons Resort on Monday 28 June 2010, with all proceeds going towards the Great Tropical Jazz Party, which is organised by the non-profit Magnetic Jazz Association.

Weekend passes cost \$70, which allows admittance to all five day and night sessions. Single session tickets are also available.

Event dates: Friday 27 August 2010 to Sunday 29 August 2010

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Editors Note

Magnetic Island is located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, just 20 minutes by ferry from Townsville. The island is predominantly green space and National Park, with a permanent population of approximately 3000 residents. Magnetic Island enjoys an average of 320 days of sunshine a year, with 20 beaches and bays providing plenty of opportunities for visitors to experience the delights of this tropical island.

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