



Nat Bartsch:

PIANIST/COMPOSER

Nat Bartsch (b. 26/04/84) is a young jazz pianist/composer based in Melbourne, Victoria. She began classical piano lessons from the age of 4, and following high school she completed a Diploma of Music Performance at Box Hill Institute, where she began to discover the world of jazz and contemporary playing.

In 2007 Nat completed a Bachelor of Music Performance (improvisation) at the Victorian College of the Arts, undertaking tuition with Paul Grabowsky, Tony Gould and Andrea Keller. Upon graduation she was awarded the inaugural Lionel Gell Foundation Travelling Scholarship, which funded studies the following year in Zurich and Oslo with ECM recording artists/pianists Tord Gustavsen and Nik Bärtsch (who shares a remarkably similar surname). They have had a lasting impression on Nat's sound and direction as an artist.

During her studies at the VCA she formed the Nat Bartsch Trio (with Josh Holt on double bass, initially Jeremy Hopkins on drums, and since 2008, Leigh Fisher on drums.) Her trio has gained a reputation for playing touching, beautiful music, showcasing Nat's original compositions and her arrangements of contemporary Australian and indie songs. In 2006 the trio was awarded the Athenaeum Prize for 'Best Improvisation Ensemble'.

The trio perform regularly in Melbourne's jazz scene, have toured to Brisbane and will be debuting at the Ellington Jazz Club, Perth in March of this year. Recently they performed as the opening act for the inaugural Walsh Bay Jazz Festival in Sydney. In May 2009 Nat toured to Japan, where she undertook a very successful sell-out tour to Tokyo and Fukuoka, performing her trio's music in collaboration with Japanese bassist Seigo Matsunaga, and drummers Akira Nakamura and Sebastiaan Kaptein.

Nat has collaborated with vocalists such as Gian Slater, Nadene Satch and Rebecca Ari, violinist Xani Kolac, guitarists Robbie Melville and Nico di Stefano, and saxophonist Andrew Brooks. Nat has also performed her compositions solo, most memorably sharing the stage with her teacher and mentor, Andrea Keller, in a double performance for the Melbourne Jazz Co-operative in December 2008.

Nat Bartsch Trio independently released their debut EP in 2008, which has since been broadcast regularly on ABC Classic FM, as well as 3MBS and RRR. They recently recorded their debut album for Mal Stanley's Jazztrack Program on ABC Classic FM, due for broadcast and release in 2010. They are also planning extensive touring in 2010-11.

In addition to her extensive work as a jazz artist, Nat regularly works as a session keyboardist and backing vocalist on Melbourne's live scene, working with acoustic singer-songwriters, and funk, RnB and soul groups. She also composes music for film, with credits including 'Neon Blue' and 'Supermarket Musical Massacre' (D.I.Y Art Films) and 'My Father is a Wonderful Man' (Break-in Productions). See: www.natbartsch.com - for bookings:

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