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***Jazz Australia Cruise Newsletter # 2
on the Ruby Princess..... to the Fiji Isles!
March 21st to April 4th 2020 and featuring
Stevenson's Rockets with special guest Brett Iggulden***



Stevenson's Rockets



Brett Iggulden

First, it is with great sadness that I must tell those of you, who have not already heard the news, of the sudden heart attack and death of cornetist Jim Cullum from San Antonio, Texas, on August 11th at the age of 77. His very many fans and friends from around the world, including me, have been in shock since receiving this sad and unexpected news. Jim was very much looking forward to performing with *Stevenson's Rockets* on the next Jazz Australia Cruise in March next year.

May I suggest that you Google Jim's name and you will read about the incredible jazz legacy he has left enthusiasts around the world, and details of the Celebration of his Life that took place last weekend on August 31st in San Antonio. The Mayor, after paying tribute to Jim, declared August 31st to be ***Jim Cullum Day*** for posterity in San Antonio; this honour speaks for itself of the high regard in which Jim was held in his home town. He was a great contributor to San Antonio all his life, as was his father, clarinetist Jim Cullum Snr. before him. Between them they also established and ran The Landing Jazz Club on the Riverwalk in San Antonio for 40+ years until just a few years ago and which was one of my favourite places to visit in the world. Jim will be greatly missed by his large family, the many musicians who passed through his bands over 50 years, and a multitude of friends around the world. He has been described as 'the keeper of the flame' of classic jazz in the USA.

Now for the good news.... which is, that Brett Iggulden has willingly stepped into the breach and will fill the trumpet chair for next year's Jazz Australia cruise!

Brett, who has always approached jazz with unbridled passion, as those of you who are already fans will attest, is also a saxophonist and a fine vocalist.

This popular Australian multi-instrumentalist who hails from Bellingen, or did so until recently, first made a name for himself on the Aussie jazz scene, as leader of the legendary *Red Onions Jazz Band* in Melbourne which he co-founded with Allan Browne and Bill Howard in 1960. The band toured extensively throughout Europe during the 60s and became a household name both here and abroad. As a young man, Brett also recorded with jazz legends Ade Monsborough, Len Barnard and Smacka Fitzgibbon amongst others. He also performed with American jazz luminaries such as Ralph Sutton and Scott Hamilton.

Brett's contribution to music in Australia was recognized with an award of the Order of Australia [OAM] in 2002. His love of obscure and forgotten melodies of the past is evident in his vast repertoire, which ensures that his performances are certain to contain the sound of surprise, an essential ingredient in good jazz!

Brett's collaboration with the highly regarded Melbourne all-star jazz ensemble *Stevenson's Rockets* on next year's Jazz Australia Cruise, promises jazz delegates who have already booked [80 to date] something very exciting to look forward to on the cruise, and I welcome Brett and his wife Prue on board!

Stevenson's Rockets is an all-star line-up of Australia's leading jazz musicians, reed player and leader Dr. Jo Stevenson; Steven Grant, piano; Chris Ludowyk, bass and trombone, and popular multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Ian Smith on drums, vocals and special effects!! With the addition of Brett Iggulden, this is one mighty jazz ensemble and anything is possible! It will be a very exciting jazz experience.

There will be eleven jazz concerts on The Ruby Princess, which includes a Welcome Cocktail party at the end of our first day on board, with the compliments of Trans World Travel, followed by exclusive afternoon concerts each day, leaving the mornings free for excursions on the Fiji Islands of Lifou, Loutaka, Savusavu and Dravini plus Suva and Noumea, and the evenings free for the ship's own entertainment which is always impressive. The Ruby Princess has recently been refurbished and is the new jewel in Princess's crown, pardon the pun!

The excursions to the islands on this trip offer wonderful and unique experiences of singing, dancing, and spectacular rituals such as fire-walking.

Once again Robert Matthews at Trans World Travel will answer all your questions about excursions, accommodation and transfers amongst other details.

The price of next year's Jazz Australia cruise begins at \$2,799 per person for an Inside Stateroom; which *includes* the \$600 jazz levy; \$100 for Trans World Travel's commission; and all taxes. Please note that this is the same jazz component and commission as last year's jazz cruise in spite of this next one being 4 days longer!

Bookings have now been open for six months and there is not a lot of choice left, however don't be put off by that, talk to Robert. The ship is already heavily booked but we still have a few good staterooms being held in our name, *but don't dally!*

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me first on 03 5258 3936 or 0409 019 067 and give me your contact details, and then ring Robert Matthews at Trans World Travel in Melbourne on 03 9670 1185 to book. Robert is a meticulous travel agent, as those who joined us last year will already know, and he will look after every detail of your booking.

You may also like to refer to the *Jazz Australia* website www.jazzaustralia-vic.com for details of the two previous Jazz Australia cruises, plus other Jazz Australia events and stories. It makes interesting reading!

I look forward to sharing next year's Jazz Australia cruise with you and hope that you might send this newsletter on to any of your friends who could be interesting in joining us.

Diana Allen
Jazz Australia