Daring to dream: New jazz journal kicks off with exhilarating gig

By Jessica Nicholas

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Jazz

Dingo Launch
Thornbury Theatre, April 30

It’s been 10 years since UNESCO designated April 30 as International Jazz Day. It’s been a lot longer than that since Australia had its own national jazz magazine. So the launch of biannual journal Dingo on April 30 was deliberately symbolic.

In Dingo’s case, the focus is Australian jazz within a global context. Melbourne musician Adam Simmons (one of the magazine’s creators, along with Cal Barry and Perri Winter) is a passionate advocate for the national jazz scene, and sees the magazine as a way of supporting the sector at all levels.

Dingo’s gala launch at the Thornbury Theatre reflected the inclusive approach, with representatives from the next generation of jazz, including all-female ensemble Poet Street and the Jazz Melbourne Youth Band, who conjured up a wonderfully persuasive big-band sound with their tribute to Count Basie.
Torrio! (pianist Paul Grabowsky, saxophonist Mirko Guerrini and drummer Niko Schauble) delivered an exhilarating set, brilliantly controlling the dynamics of their three-way conversation as they veered between freewheeling squalls and exquisite balladry.

We also heard the premiere of a nine-piece ensemble (*Artists in Music*) led by composer/saxophonist Sam Boon, whose wildly inventive arrangements encompassed dreamlike textures, loping waltzes and pulsating grooves.

The back cover of the new magazine ends with a quote by Simmons, noting that *Dingo* is about “daring to dream”. Simmons and his team have dared to dream that the time is right for their ambitious enterprise; here’s hoping it’s one the jazz community will embrace and nurture, and be nurtured by in return.

**The inaugural edition of *Dingo* is available at newsagencies and at [dingojazz.com](http://dingojazz.com)**