

JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Media Release
Monday 20 April 2009

DANCE INTO THE NIGHT WITH SWINGIN', SMOKIN' JAZZ BAND

Judith Wright Centre presents

MIGUEL

"This young Brisbane octet led by trumpeter, vocalist, composer and arranger Michael Rogers is a sidestep into the swing era and beyond, delivered with sophistication... bound to attract a youthful following." The Weekend Australian

Following the release of critically acclaimed debut album *The Opener* and performances at Woodford Folk Festival, eight-piece jazz band **Miguel** will ignite the dance floor at the **Judith Wright Centre** for one-night-only on Saturday 30 May 2009.

Charismatic frontman Michael Rogers (also renowned from Brisbane gypsy band, Doch) says **Miguel** will perform a "party-starting mix of big band jazz, funk, soul and Latin".

"This gig is sure to get people dancing; we've got a damn hot rhythm section, big brass arrangements, smooth vocals and tunes infused with funk, soul and Latin," Rogers said.

"We describe the music as 'swingin', smokin', booty shakin' cabaret' because it's reminiscent of the big band jazz style but performed by our small jazz band in an intimate theatre setting," he said.

Performing music from their debut album, *The Opener*, Miguel is renowned for its humorous and enthusiastic approach to performing music reminiscent of the swing era.

Michael Rogers (trumpet, vocals) is flanked by a stellar line-up of pedigreed musicians including Tom Raymond (clarinet), Mikael Strand (trombone), Tim Franklin (tenor sax), Josh Hatcher (baritone sax) Dave Spicer (keys), Sacha Kloostra (drums) and Georgia Weber (bass).

Michael Rogers says he conceived the idea of **Miguel** upon first hearing the music of Vince Jones and James Morrison.

"**Miguel** originated as a steady, consistent and sometimes irritating voice in the back of my mind since I first heard Vince Jones and James Morrison when I was 11 years old," Michael said.

"I've always been drawn to this music in this size ensemble as it combines some of the punch of the big band style with the intimacy of a small jazz group - the colours are limitless," he said.

For one-night-only **Miguel** will perform in the intimate 300-seat Performance Space at the Judith Wright Centre on Saturday 30 May 2009.

-ENDS-

Date	Saturday 30 May
Time	7.30pm
Venue	Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre
Tickets	\$27 - \$35
Bookings	07 3872 9000 or judithwrightcentre.com

For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
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ABOUT MIGUEL

miguel.com.au

Sure, you could call it cerebral jazz - if you're using the part of your brain reserved for paperback pulp fiction fantasy where Shirley Temple serves cocktails to Tito Puente in a maraschino-cherry poppin' jazz joint by a hot lazy ocean. And if you're thinking a blindingly bright Miami Beach circa 1950's, where swingin' bikinis cha cha cha with swizzle stick-em up good time dance tunes, then you're driving down the right highway. So much the better if you happen to pick up a kerbside kicking Elmore Leonard. If you pull over in your T-bird for a martini in an ultra outré lounge, where a five piece brass cartel backed up by a damn hot rhythm section are playing sparkling, sleazy dirty blue-light jazz to small tables of single strangers, well, you're in our neighbourhood and we'd ask that you send us a picture postcard. That last sign was a billboard for 50's influenced big band swing jazz with a nod to funk and soul and a love affair with Latin, right? With smooth crooning vocals and a late night penchant for parties? At the dance hall on the number 5 exit? Flip the indicator now – this is your lucky day... Fronted by charismatic trumpet player and vocalist Michael Rogers, Miguel features a stellar line-up of pedigreed musicians - Tom Raymond (clarinet), Mikael Strand (trombone), Tim Franklin (tenor sax), Josh Hatcher (bar. sax) Dave Spicer (keys), Sacha Kloostra (drums) and the delightful Georgia Weber on bass.

ABOUT THE ALBUM – REVIEW BY THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

"This young Brisbane octet led by trumpeter, vocalist, composer and arranger Michael Rogers is a sidestep into the swing era and beyond, delivered with sophistication. Two tracks were recorded at the 07-08 Woodford Festival, including a Latino version of Hooray for Hollywood from a 1937 movie. Earlier still is St James Infirmary, popularised by Louis Armstrong's 1928 recording of the blues folk song and given traditional treatment for Roger's melancholy vocal. The leader's solo trumpet ability is showcased on Groove Merchant, a 1967 bop composition, while the full force of the group is heard on Caravan, featuring an underlying riff from Josh Hatcher's baritone sax with strong solos from Tim Franklin's tenor and Dave Spicer on piano. The six originals are varied but all encompass a stylish retro musicality infused with humour and enthusiasm. It's pleasing to hear Tom Raymond's nostalgic clarinet leading on a Middle Eastern sounding ballad, Masada. With all its members in their late 20s, Miguel is bound to attract a youthful following."

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

MICHAEL ROGERS (trumpet, vocals)

A prolific writer and composer, Michael is the driving force behind Miguel's heady blend of good time jazz, dance floor dominating Latin and relentless Hollywood referencing. With a formidable musical talent matched only by his onstage charisma and impeccable dress sense, Michael's career as a solo and ensemble musician has taken him around Australia and overseas, where he has worked with Doch, the Queensland Orchestra, and many contemporary artists such as James Morrison, Tony Gould and Jim Pugh. While certainly enjoying the musical life Miguel offers, Michael believes that Miguel is the fastest route to a polished wooden speedboat on Lake Como. Michael Rogers is a Yamaha Australia Artist.

MIKAEL STRAND (trombone)

When not dreaming of the day Miguel plays a club in Havana, Mikael plans to educate the masses in the mysteries of the trombone, and is testimony to the fact that nice guys don't finish last – they are in fact, just getting started.... If the members of Miguel were cocktails, Mikael would be rocket fuel, with his diverse musical tastes and commitment to sending the vein in his forehead into overdrive during his solos putting him on stage with groups such as Kafka, The Saints, The West End Composers Collective, Resin Dogs, Butterfingers, and the Doch Gypsy Orchestra. Mikael has toured extensively at home and abroad, bringing out the bone at festivals including the Melbourne International Jazz Festival, the Kuranda Reggae Festival, and his favourite stage – the Woodford Folk Festival.

GEORGIA WEBER (double bass)

Georgia looks forward to touring when Miguel travel her way – in a really old car... black and shiny like the JFK car...except she will have her own and it will be pink. Having wielded her much-loved double bass for over a decade, playing at major jazz festivals around Australia including the Melbourne Women's and Noosa Jazz Festivals, not only has Georgia cemented herself as professional player, but she's done so while maintaining perfectly manicured nails, an additional non-music degree and mothering a *chi chi* three year old Chihuahua named Princess Veronica. And despite overwhelming audience adoration due to her fantastic selection of vintage frocks and unwavering domination of the bass during Miguel's most alarming dance tunes, it's not all glamour for our blonde bombshell - Georgia is sometimes mistaken for the stripper at weddings, and believes that the person to play her in a film would be Veronica from *Betty and Veronica*.

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DAVID SPICER (*piano*)

With over 20 years of playing experience and seven years of tertiary musical study vying for possession of his soul, Dave is a sought after studio musician with numerous recordings, TV, wireless, and festival appearances to credit, including the soundtrack for a television series released in 2006 featuring internationally renowned chef, Mirko Grillini. David has studied in Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney, New York and Chicago and currently holds a position educating within Griffith University, Queensland Conservatorium of Music. David is also the director of the School of Music Online Pty Ltd and he has been educating students, teachers and professional musicians since 2000. And if this impressive pedigree combined with Dave's tasteful contributions to Miguel are creating a 'butter wouldn't melt' impression that matches his baby-face, you'll be gratified to know that Dave is also known for making some of the most socially unacceptable calls within the band – an honour he shares with drummer, Sacha.

TOM RAYMOND (*clarinet*)

Tom began studying piano at age four and at age seven, upon hearing Benny Goodman, chose to take up the clarinet. Several years later, he's learned to play it quite well and can regularly be heard screaming through the top end in Miguel. Since riding his very powerful motorbike away from university, Tom has recognised his true love lies in improvised music and he has sought expression through the mediums of clarinet, bass clarinet, piano and piano accordion. He performs with the Brisbane Bass Clarinet Collective, The Charlie Moorland Trio, and has headlined festivals all around the country with highly acclaimed Brisbane Balkan gypsy dance group, Doch. Tom believes that if Miguel was a city it'd be... short on women, and when pushed to nominate a favourite car opts to wave jauntily from the Aston Martin DB4.

TIM FRANKLIN (*tenor sax*)

Nominated almost unanimously by Miguel as the best poker face in the band, Tim's a country boy who has made some pretty decent headway in the big city, having played with James Morrison, TQO, Tom Burlinson and John Hoffman. Citing his musical influences as Bach, Muddy Waters, Coltrane, and Hendrix, Tim's vision for Miguel is to take the saxual healing to the Village Vanguard via cruise ship. It's the quiet ones you've got to watch. Tim ain't a drinker, yet doesn't drive the Miguel tour bus, keeps himself tidy during a poker game and takes the rest of the band's cash, and would be played by a young Clint Eastwood in the Miguel star-vehicle remake of the original Oceans 11. If that doesn't sound like a man to beware of, you should ease up on the martinis.

JOSH HATCHER (*baritone sax*)

If Miguel were the Big Easy, Josh would be the easy, and the sax would be the *big*. He's both the sweet and the lowdown of the Miguel crew, with the distinctive sounds of the bari sax underpinning Miguel's signature sound. Somehow striking an unnervingly wholesome balance between laid-and enthusiastic, Josh has studied saxophone with teachers of ranging backgrounds including John Zappia, John Babbage, Brad Millard and Mark Spencer. Where does this take a fella like Josh? He is now an alto and baritone saxophone specialist who works with Moot, The Upsteppers, Kafka and BIOYA Jazz Orchestra, and is currently developing his own new project. He is also busy as a studio musician and arranger working with artists such as Tara Simmons and The Optimen.... Eight people at a dinner party, dead or alive? Josh prefers them alive, please.

SACHA KLOOSTRA (*drums*)

Sacha's gift for walking the fine line between taste, intuition and volcanic eruption is evident as he travels easily between jazz, Cuban salsa, blues and funk to lay down the law with Dave and Georgia in the rhythm section. A regular fixture in a number of groups on the Brisbane circuit, Sacha has played at many of Australia's most esteemed festivals including Wangaratta, yet he pines still for a support slot with Boyz II Men. Apart from 'sad things and the moon', Sacha can be seduced into sadness by alcohol and old memories, and is the one member of the Miguel crew who won't give Tim the crown for best poker face.

That's me, except that I'm horrible at poker. Tim is better at poker but the face has nothing to do with it.