

The Phantom Canoe – Ben Wilcock and The Jelly Rolls



In January 2017 pianist Ben Wilcock set about composing an album of instrumental jazz inspired by Te Arawa legends of Rotorua.

The result is the Jelly Rolls' third album 'The Phantom Canoe', which features nine interpretations of four different stories from the region.

'Kataore' (the taniwha dragon) is a passionate tango and opens the album.

The well known love story of 'Hinemoa and Tutanekai' is interpreted in three variations, one including a cameo bass saxophone appearance by Dan Yeabsley.

'Man and his dog' tells the tale of Ihenga's discovery of lake Rotoiti along with his dog - 'Potakatawhiti'.

The album concludes with *The Phantom Canoe Suite* which includes a chilling portrayal of the famous sighting of a ghost ship on lake Tarawera days before the 1886 eruption. Swamp Thing and Jonathan Buttler Trio percussionist Michael Barker features on the vibraphone.

Recent performances include; The EDU Summer School (Edinburgh Jazz festival), The Wellington International Jazz Festival, CjC Auckland, and the Wellington Jazz Club.

Ben Wilcock & The Jelly Rolls' third album is one to be treasured and absorbed over multiple listens, and can be found on Thick Records' (NZ) USB card series, packaged with MP3s, a 12 min documentary and 'moving liner notes' at: www.thickrecords.co.nz

"Even without knowing the background to the album's conception it's a great listen, one that harks back to the time when jazz was for dancing, with great driving rhythms and phrase constructions that make you want to move"

- NZ musician

The finished product:



New Zealand Herald:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503437&objectid=11870553

Fairfax media:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/news/rotorua-review/93860278/jazz-musician-incites-you-into-the-phantom-canoe>

NZ musician full review:

<http://www.benwilcock.com/phantom%20canoe%20NZ%20musician%20review.jpg>

John Fenton - jazz journalist

"This is good times music and you can feel it deep in your bones"

Full review: <https://jazzlocal32.com/2017/12/12/ben-wilcock-the-jelly-rolls/>

Rotorua Review:

neighbourly.co.nz OCTOBER 4, 2017, ROTORUA REVIEW 11

Out & About



Piano man and lead Jelly Roll Ben Wilcock.



John Rae caught mid drum solo.

Canoe sets sail

The Phantom Canoe set sail on Sunday night as Ben Wilcock and his Jelly Rolls played songs from their Te Arawa legends inspired jazz album.



Bobby Howard provided vocals for a stunning rendition of Ella Fitzgerald's 'Summertime'.



Jelly Rolls bass player Daniel Yeobley.



Jelly Rolls bass player Daniel Yeobley.

Recent Performances

Wellington Jazz Festival album launch



Rotorua album launch, Princes Gate



Auckland Jazz and blues Club



Creative Jazz club, Auckland



Video link to 'Hinemoa's Swim' live at CjC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8XEKGBXvos>

Radio NZ 'Inside out' August 2017

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/concert/programmes/inside-out/audio/201857364/inside-out-part-1-26-august-2017>

Links: <http://benwilcock.com/>

<http://www.thickrecords.co.nz/>