

'Jazzy Jess' Biography

A respectful jazz idiom used to describe a talented female musician, '**Jazzy Jess**' is also the name of a new project brought to you by one of Newcastle's most talented singers – **Kristy Nardelli**.

Kristy has performed in various jazz ensembles across the Hunter Valley such as The Dungeon, The Exchange and countless others around Australia. She has taken on the pseudonym of '**Jazzy Jess**' because it is so often used to describe her talent as a singer and performer.

Supporting Kristy on piano and keyboards is **Damien Clift**, a protégé of Terence Koo. Damien is currently studying at the University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music majoring in jazz piano accompaniment and improvisation. Damien has a gift for subtle accompaniment and always provides a perfect foundation for Kristy as she explores the possibilities of jazz standards and new repertoire.

On drum kit you will find **Cole Bussey**, a current student of the University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music where he is studying percussion and drum kit. Cole is a focussed jazz musician, always ensuring that his drumming performance supports the rest of the ensemble and never dominates. Cole's brush technique and style is exceptionally well developed and makes him one of the most sought after drummers on the jazz scene.

A familiar face on double bass is **Mansell Laidler**, a veteran of the jazz scene. Mansell has had great experiences playing with The Paul McNamara Trio, Terence Koo, Neville Ure, Half Nelson and Daryl Aberhart among many other ensembles, both large and small at venues such as The Dungeon, The Exchange and at the Newcastle Jazz Festival. He is currently completing a Bachelor of Music degree majoring in jazz bass under Peter Gray and Paul Laszlo at the University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

Jazzy Jess is a brand new jazz ensemble consisting of four well established Newcastle musicians. **Jazzy Jess** is the perfect sound for any event or venue that demands class, elegance and professionalism.