



**Media Release – 31.03.07**

**MICHELLE NICOLLE QUARTET - APRIL 2007 JAZZ TOUR - to New Zealand, Turkey, Estonia, Finland and Singapore – with Foreign Affairs and Australia Council support**

One of Australia's foremost jazz musicians, Melbourne based vocalist **Michelle Nicolle**, considered by many as Australia's first lady of jazz, will undertake a three week international cultural promotion tour for Australia in April/May 2007 with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Images of Australia Branch and the Australia Council.

**Michelle Nicolle** will be touring with her quartet comprising Sydney guitarist **Carl Dewhurst**, drummer **Ronny Ferella** and bassist **Tom Lee**, both from Melbourne, and perform at 3 international jazz festivals in New Zealand, Estonia and Finland. An important feature of the 3 week tour will be an Australian jazz showcase presentation as part of the Australian government's Anzac cultural program in Turkey with concerts in both Ankara and Istanbul.

Winner of the 2001, 2003 and 2004 - Australian Jazz Vocalist of the Year Aria Award - Michelle Nicolle's profile has risen steadily during the past 10 years and she has become known as Australia's finest jazz singer. Michelle has released 5 beautiful albums, all of which were received with high acclaim, and her latest CD 'What Kind of Fool' was released at the end of 2005. In 1998 at the Wangaratta International Jazz Festival (Victoria), Michelle won the prestigious National Jazz Award and the judges included the legendary bebop singer Sheila Jordan (USA), and the current Blue Note vocal star Kurt Elling (USA). - **"Australian jazz singing doesn't come any better than this"** - (The Weekend Australian). In 2003 and 2006 Michelle Nicolle with her quartet toured Australia and in 2004 they toured Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand. In March 2005 the Michelle Nicolle quartet featured at the Java Jazz Festival in Indonesia, and in July '05 performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland as well as Singapore's Ozmosis Festival.

The Turkey performances on 17,18,19,20 April are part of Australia's Anzac cultural program and it is in the spirit of this friendship that the Australian Embassy in Turkey, in association with the Australian-Turkish Business Council and the Ankara Jazz Association, is seeking to develop cultural ties between Turkey and Australia. The Michelle Nicolle performances are seeking to promote a contemporary and positive cultural image of Australia to Turkish audiences, and will assist the Australian Embassy to promote Australian culture in helping to build a bilateral relationship with Turkey beyond the shared history of Gallipoli. The DFAT Images of Australia Branch intermediacy endeavours to promote ongoing relationships between the artists and presenters and venues in Turkey, and positively influence Turkish perceptions of Australia.

In Estonia and Finland the Michelle Nicolle Quartet will perform at premium annual international jazz festivals in the Nordic countries, where Australian jazz musicians not often enough get an opportunity to show the calibre of Australian jazz performance. En route back to Australia the Michelle Nicolle Quartet will do 3 shows at Singapore's recently refurbished leading jazz venue, the Southbridge jazz club. Throughout the tour endeavours will be made to foster new promotional and marketing opportunities for Australian jazz artists presentation and contacts for CD distribution. Page 2 of this release contains the schedule of the Michelle Nicolle Quartet tour.

**HENK VAN LEEUWEN  
CULTURAL PROMOTIONS**

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Michelle Nicolle Quartet April 2007 – New Zealand, Turkey, Estonia, Finland, Singapore Tour Schedule –  
[www.michellenicolle.com](http://www.michellenicolle.com) - [www.henk.com.au](http://www.henk.com.au)

14 April - NZ Christchurch International Jazz Festival – Great Hall, Arts Centre  
<http://www.jazzfestchristchurch.com/performers-and-shows/display/19020>

The Turkey program following is part of the Australian Government's Anzac Cultural Program (enq:  
[Elif.Barutcuoglu-Wade@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Elif.Barutcuoglu-Wade@dfat.gov.au))

17 April - Turkey Ankara Swisotel  
<http://ankara.swisotel.com/>

18 April - Turkey Ankara Australian Ambassador's residence

19 April - Turkey Istanbul Babylon Jazz Club -

[www.babylon.com.tr/b2003/en/program/programDetay.asp?etk\\_id=1059&ay=4](http://www.babylon.com.tr/b2003/en/program/programDetay.asp?etk_id=1059&ay=4)

20 April - Turkey Istanbul Anzac dinner-concert Turkish and Australian delegation Austrade

24 April - Estonia Jazzkaar International Jazz Festival – Tartu  
[www.jazzkaar.ee/artist.php?l=est&id=393](http://www.jazzkaar.ee/artist.php?l=est&id=393)

25 April - Estonia Jazzkaar International Jazz Festival - Talinn [www.jazzkaar.ee/artist.php?l=est&id=393](http://www.jazzkaar.ee/artist.php?l=est&id=393)

26 April - Finland April Jazz Festival – Espoo -  
[http://www.apriljazz.fi/2007/en\\_html/artists.html](http://www.apriljazz.fi/2007/en_html/artists.html)

27 April - Finland April Jazz Festival – Espoo  
[http://www.apriljazz.fi/2007/en\\_html/artists.html](http://www.apriljazz.fi/2007/en_html/artists.html)

28 April - Finland April Jazz Festival – Espoo  
[http://www.apriljazz.fi/2007/en\\_html/artists.html](http://www.apriljazz.fi/2007/en_html/artists.html)

30 April - Singapore - SouthBridge Jazz Club  
<http://www.southbridgejazz.com.sg/>

01 May - Singapore - SouthBridge Jazz Club  
<http://www.southbridgejazz.com.sg/>

02 May - Singapore - SouthBridge Jazz Club  
<http://www.southbridgejazz.com.sg/>

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