

# Smooth jazz for the cooler nights in Balmain

THE sultry sounds of smooth jazz will soon become a regular feature of the Balmain peninsula when The Monkey Bar hosts its first ever Smooth Jazz Café event this month.

Smooth Jazz Café is a two hour jazz show featuring a six-piece in-house band jamming with guest musicians on tunes ranging from Nina Simone classics to more recent sounds from pop artists like Norah Jones.

The event, to be held in the main room of The Monkey Bar on the first Sunday of each month, is the brain-child of professional saxophonist, teacher and manager Jaime Gibson.

“In the sound checks of some of the big musical shows around town I realised that smooth jazz was the style of music that many musos really liked to play,” Jaime said.

“But there was no venue dedicated to providing solely modern smooth jazz so we decided to approach The Monkey Bar to get a venue to do this,” he said.

“Balmain for me has always been the hub of the Sydney music scene

so it’s a great place for it.”

Jaime said that smooth jazz was an eclectic style of music mixing traditional jazz with funky beats and a bit of R&B.

“It all originated in the 1980s in Los Angeles,” Jaime said.

“It is music for people in their 20s through to their 40s who like sophisticated and cool tunes,” he said.

“There will be a 45 minute solo set by the guest artist each month, starting in August with [Sydney saxophonist] Igor, and then a one hour show kicking off at six o’clock with the full in-house band,” he said.

“There’s nowhere else in Sydney now where you can hear jazz in this format on a regular basis.”

Smooth Jazz Café kicks off on Sunday July 2 at The Monkey Bar, 255 Darling St, Balmain, 5pm to 7pm, entry is free.

Visit [www.smoothjazzcafe.com.au](http://www.smoothjazzcafe.com.au) for details.

- David Barrett

Email your entertainment listings and events to [editor@villagevoice.com.au](mailto:editor@villagevoice.com.au)



Members of the Smooth Jazz Café band Paull Betts and Kristine Palma. The band kicks off its monthly performance at The Monkey Bar in Balmain on Sunday July 2.