

Introducing our Judges for 2019!

We are delighted to announce that **Hollie Smith** will be joining our esteemed new judging panel this year. This panel will also comprise of:

Mat Fieldes

Cameron Allen

Dixon Nacey

Stephen Thomas BMus (Hons)

Hollie Smith really needs no introduction as a major artist in her field. However what you may not know about her is that she has spent 25 years in New York, completing a Master's degree at The Juilliard School, touring the world, performing and teaching in many international festivals. She has also taught on the faculty of the Horace Mann School in NY for 20 years.

Mat Fieldes earned his Master's degree from The Juilliard School where he studied with Eugene Levinson, Principal Bass of the New York Philharmonic. He is a very active bass player on the New York freelance scene today. Equally comfortable in Classical, Jazz, Rock, Hip-hop, R&B and Broadway genres, he has collaborated with such luminaries as Joe Jackson, John Cale, Ornette Coleman, Jim Steinman, Sufjan Stevens, Steve Vai, Peter Erskine, Paquito D'Rivera, Kristjan Jarvi, Joe Williams, Arturo Sandaval, Toni Tennille, and Kelli O'Hara. He was honoured to perform with the Gorillaz, live at the Apollo theatre, and hip-hop legend Jay-Z at Radio City Music Hall. He performed on Joe Jackson's album, "Symphony" and Barry Manilow's Gold album "In the Swing of Christmas".

Mat tours extensively as solo bassist for Absolute Ensemble, an electro-acoustic crossover chamber orchestra, which performs at major venues worldwide including Sydney Opera House and London Barbican. The ensemble has won the German Record Critic's Award and a Grammy nomination in the 'Best Small Ensemble' category for its album Absolution (Enja Records).

He has performed on many Broadway shows and as an Orchestral and Chamber musician he has

played with the New Zealand Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Key West Symphony (Principal), Long Island Philharmonic, Westchester Symphony, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, New Zealand String Quartet, New Zealand Trio, Continuum, Bronx Arts Ensemble and has recently appeared in major festivals in Mexico City, Bremen, El Paso, Adelaide and Montpellier.

Stephen Thomas BMus (1st class honours).

Stephen is an experienced musician and drum teacher who has taught drums for the last seven years in various high schools and performing arts schools around Auckland.

He is also an industry professional and has played drums throughout New Zealand and overseas with some of NZ's best pop and jazz artists such as Avalanche City and Nathan Haines.

He is passionate about passing on his experience to young people who are hungry to learn and he is committed to ongoing development in both his performance and teaching practices.

Stephen graduated from the University of Auckland with a BMus(Hons) with First Class Honours in jazz performance drumming in 2012 and studied at the New Zealand School of Music at undergraduate level, completing his BMus degree in 2009.

He has performed at numerous festivals including the Tauranga Jazz Festival with Nathan Haines, many Theatre shows and TV appearances. Key performances include:

- Opening for Robbie Williams with Avalanche City 2015
- House band for APRA Silver Scrolls 50th Anniversary 2015
- Rock Divas with APO feat. Julia Deans & Anika Moea 2015
- Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park House Drummer 2014
- Rodger Fox Big Band feat US trombone player John Fedchock 2011
- Lakeside Rotorua 2009 to over 20,000 people – Session
- Percussionist
- Vector Arena Opening Ceremony 2007 - Spacifix

- Performance at famed “The Roxy” nightclub in Los Angeles

Dixon Nacey is a guitarist based in Auckland, New Zealand, whose 25 year music career has seen him perform with some of New Zealand’s top jazz & pop musicians as a backing artist and session player. Notably: Rufus Wainwright (USA), Alma Micic (USA), Ron Thaler (USA), Matt Penman (USA), David Friesen (USA), Larry Ransome (USA), Denise Perrier (USA), Andy Irvine (USA), Andrew Dickeson (Aus), Natalie Dietz (Aus), Michel and Shem Benebig (New Caledonia) Annie Crummer, Whirimako Black, Stan Walker, Che Fu, Jason Kerrison, Hollie Smith, Vince Harder, Ria Hall, Troy Kingi, Rob Ruha, Tami Nielson, Julia Deans, Anna Coddington, Nathan Haines, King Kapisi, Tama Waipara.

Dixon is the Artistic and Musical Director for the Coca-Cola Christmas in the Park show has held for 4 years (2016-2019)

He has recorded three albums with the ‘Samsom Nacey Haines Trio’, the first of which was a finalist in the 2009 Jazz Tui of The Year Award.

Dixon currently teaches jazz at Auckland University.

Cameron Allen’s teaching pedagogies are designed to ensure all learners develop holistically as caring, competent, well-disciplined, community contributing, life-long learners. His students are encouraged to strive for excellence and are led by example. He continually evolves his own perspectives and skills, looking for new ways to cross curricular boundaries, and exploit new advancements in both the music and education sectors.

Cameron brings a wealth of worldly experience as a professional musician and is highly experienced in secondary education. He has been working in secondary education as an itinerant teacher, specialist classroom teacher, and head of department for 15 years. Allen’s teaching

specialisation is in the field of contemporary and jazz music, music technology, composition, and theory. Allen has toured the world as a professional saxophone player with career highlights including a 10-day tour with the late Michael Brecker, and performances at BB King’s Jazz club on 42nd Street in Manhattan with Grammy award nominee James Hunter. He has performed and recorded with NZ acts including: Neil Finn, Jesse Sheehan, The Veils, The Opensouls, Julien Dyne, Nathan Haines, Tama Waipara, Katchafire, The Silver Scrolls Orchestra, House of Shem, LatinAotearoa, Isaac Aesili, Funkomunity, The Rodger Fox Big Band, The Relaxomatic Project, and The Doughboys.

At the secondary level, Allen has taught junior and senior music classes from years 7-13, including the designing of curriculums at years 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13. Currently he is employed as Head of Music at Northcote College where he is planning, in April 2020, to travel with students to New York City, presenting and recording new original compositions by NZ composers. He has extensive experience directing ensembles including jazz orchestras at Birkenhead College, Carmel College, Westlake Girls High School, and Westlake Boys High School.

Cameron is active within the community organising public fundraising concerts, a local music festival, street performances, and has been responsible for national music tours and music camps. He is primarily a wind player with the Saxophone family being his main focus, although he also doubles on flute and oboe. He is currently best known for his performances in mainly experimental jazz contexts, with his quintet ‘Circling Sun’ and as a member of a 4-piece Jazz-Country outfit ‘The Doughboys’

‘**The Committee**’ is a collective made up of some of the most skilled musicians and experienced educators in the country. It’s their shared goal to reach

promising students they are to impart

music and excited their



wealth of knowledge and experience with our
Southern Jam participants.