

## ALLY brief bio's

**Gai Bryant-soprano/alto saxophones, flute:** Gai Bryant has worked with Korean taegum maestro Won Hyang-Juan, Jim McNeely(US) Carl Orr, Mark Simmonds, Paul McNamara, Sandy Evans, Jackie Orzaczky, Jann Rutherford, Lloyd Swanton, Janet Seidel, Don Burrows, Roger Frampton and others. She has toured with her own groups within Australia performing at major jazz venues and jazz festivals. Internationally she has toured to Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Sweden and Finland performing with her own groups and as a guest instrumentalist. She is currently working with and composing for 18-piece Afro-Cuban group Palacio de la Rumba, 9-piece Caribé performing with Grammy-nominated Cuban pianist Elio Villafranca and Global Jazz group ALLY featuring Brazilian poet Dai Moret.

**Giorgio Rojas-percussion:** Giorgio was born in Peru into a musical family. He and his family moved to Australia in 1993 forming a well-regarded Latin band Mi Tierra which toured throughout Australia regularly. In 2008 Julio joined acclaimed dance show 'Burn The Floor' performing in China, Germany, Japan, Holland, Canada, USA and New Zealand. He is currently playing with MI Tierra, Gonzalo Porta, Camino, Mucho Mambo, Kriolla Collective, Roots percussion group and Ursula Yovich. Julio continues to play with James Ryan and Gai Bryant appearing at major Jazz and World music festivals in Australia and New Zealand.

**Julio Candela-percussion:** Julio was born in Callao, Peru. He has lived in Australia since 2007. Julio has worked with Sarambé, Sensación Latina, and Magdalena's Mira band. He has appeared with Negroni, El Orqueston, Jarana Criolla, Son Sensación and Mucho Mambo. He is currently working with Gai Bryant's ALLY alongside fellow Peruvian Australian Giorgio Rojas.

**Harry Birch-double bass:** Harry is a graduate with a bachelor of music (Jazz Studies) from the University of Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He majored in electric and double bass. His teachers there included Craig Scott, Mike Nock, and Matt McMahon. Harry is passionate about the role of bass across music genres. He currently plays with Holopeak, Another Green World and ALLY.

**Daniel Pliner-piano:** On piano/keyboards the master Daniel Pliner, whose talent is justified as one of the most sought after musicians in town. He shares his talent with various bands and music projects. Barefoot Divas, The Strides, Watussi, Caribe, ALLY and Ursula Yovich are a few of the hot Australian bands and artists that Pliner collaborates with.

**James Greening-trombone:** Search **JAMES GREENING - TROMBONE** and a plethora of projects past and present will hit the screen. James Greening has been a leading voice in the music scene in Sydney and Australia for more than thirty years. Trombones, pocket trumpet, slide trumpet, tuba, sousaphone and diddly bow bass add to James' diversity as a performer. His roots are in any music that grooves, expressed more often in jazz as a founding member of seminal Australian jazz bands such as **Ten Part Invention**, **Wanderlust**, the **catholics**, the **Umbrellas** and the **Australian Art Orchestra**.

**Dai Moret-spoken word:** Daiane is a Brazilian born spoken word poet and mother. Her art navigates personal experiences whilst deconstructing given identities, embracing elements of Brazilian culture and retelling narratives while re-signifying herself through it. She is a two-time Grand Poetry Slam winner and has featured at Poetica, Newcastle Fringe Festival, Sydney Writers Festival, National Reconciliation Week and Melbourne Spoken Word Festival.

When we can we add Ryan Menezes to the mix!

**Ryan Menezes (Melbourne) drum kit:** Ryan is a drummer whose versatility and sensitivity to music has found him playing in various situations from Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and Various Jazz settings to Pop/ Rock and R&B projects with local as well as international artists. Among others, Ryan has performed/recorded with Gary Pinto, Sam Keevers, Alex Pertout, Los Cabrones, The Tom Fryer Quartet, Daniel Merriweather, Jacqueline Gawler, Glenn Cannon, Frank Gamble and the late great Dave Valentin.