

## NIGHTLIFE

For those sleepless nights

## THE ORBIT: MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

About two years ago, while talking over coffee in Melville, Aymeric Peguillan and Dan Sermand decided to open a jazz club. It wasn't an unexpected idea – Aymeric ran Peg's Cozy Corner in Troyeville between 2000 and 2002, and Dan was an executive music producer in Sweden.

They were discussing the dying jazz scene in Joburg and about how once it had played an important part in Joburg's culture and nightlife - where legends were born. It was a rich, dynamic scene, with venues like Kippies, Rumours Lounge and The Blues Room.

Four months after opening its doors, the owners and partners (including Kevin Naidoo), have so far succeeded in what they set out to do: rejuvenate jazz in Joburg and create a place where jazz can be heard by all.

Jazz, as Dan says, is "music without borders – it's timeless, appeals to all age groups and all wallets". To this end, the location was a vital decision in the opening of the club. The partners saw the venue as an integral part to the success of the club. It had to be "non-exclusive", in a "democratic" area, welcoming to all, and Braamfontein's continuing revival goes hand-in-hand with the idea of a jazz revival.

Jazz musicians and aficionados were consulted before the venue was secured, making sure that 81 De Korte Street (previously Narina Trogon) was, without doubt, a place musicians would want to play at and people would want to patronize.

Dan says, "you don't open a jazz club to make money, you open it for the love of the music" and the atmosphere in the upstairs room during a gig is tangible as musicians (local and international) and music lovers bring jazz to life.

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The club is open from Tuesday to Sunday, opening at lunch time and closing at 2am. During the week, at lunch time Wits students from the music department are allowed the opportunity to perform on the stage downstairs in the restaurant, giving them exposure and experience. Every night a gig is held upstairs, in a room that holds 250 people seated, and an extra 50 people standing space. All seats have a view of the stage and musicians. Dinner can also be ordered from the bistro-style menu while the musicians play.

For a truly memorable night out, visit The Orbit's website (where the line-ups are listed about two month's in advance), and book a seat!

**The deets:**

**81 De Korte Street, Braamfontein  
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**[www.theorbit.co.za](http://www.theorbit.co.za)**

