

BOITUMELO TLHOAELE

IT'S been six months since The Orbit jazz club opened its doors to become Joburg's premier spot for live music.

Those who love live jazz might agree that the Braamfontein club could become to the city what the Blue Note Jazz Club is to New York, the Bird's Eye to Basel in Switzerland and Ronnie Scott's to London. It's a nest for appreciators of the genre where music, meals and ideas are shared.

Every week from Tuesday to Sunday, The Orbit is ignited with live music from South Africa's finest jazz musos. International artists have also occasionally formed part of the weekly lineup and co-owner Aymeric Péguillan says more are to follow in the coming months. On any one of the days audiences can enjoy the likes of Marcus Wyatt, who has recently been leading the Tuesday night jam sessions, trumpeter Feza Fezile Faku and bassist Herbie Tsoaeli, among others.

Thanks to the club's good sound system, equipment and engineering team, every gig is a pleasurable listening experience.

The club also operates as a restaurant, which offers a moderate selection of food, including easy-eating salads, sophisticated risotto and fragrant lamb curry.

Péguillan says they wanted a venue that would be uncompromising on quality and able to marry the experience of good food and music.

"People enjoy the fact that music comes first, that we are serious about it and put a lot of resources and energy into making sure musicians can perform in good conditions."

Péguillan says the club's strength lies in great programming and in being a good space for artists' creativity to flourish.

There have been memorable

Jazz goes into orbit



HIGH IDEALS: Aymeric Péguillan and Dan Sermand, co-owners of The Orbit in Braamfontein, Joburg, want their jazz club to be a place where artists' creativity can flourish.

Picture: Tsheko Kabasia

performances, CD launches and recordings. Saxophonist Steve Dyer recently launched his album *Confluence*, and next month pianist Thandi Ntuli and Nduduzo Makhathini will launch their projects.

While Péguillan is usually the front man – the one seen with plates

in his hands or tending to the needs of guests and the artists – it is with the help of two partners that the place is enjoying such success. He co-owns the venue with musician-turned-producer Dan Sermand and businessman Kevin Naidoo.

The three had a vision last year to

join forces to revive the live jazz scene, which had taken a back seat since venues such as Kippies ceased to exist and those that remained failed to keep the excitement barometer high.

"It is really critical to be delivering on our promises, be it on the pro-

gramming and music side or [the] bistro side. We need to be consistent all the time with our programming so that people know what is the identity of our venue, a jazz club that aims at being the best in South Africa," Péguillan says.

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