

Hello Joburg  
**Q&A**  
 WITH  
*Aymeric Péguillan*  
 CO-OWNER & MANAGER OF THE ORBIT



South African Jazz has never been the same since March 2014 when The Orbit opened its' doors to Johannesburg (and the rest of the world of course). Better known to musicians and patriots as the Home of Jazz, The Orbit is open 6 days a week from 5pm – 2am on Tuesdays to Thursdays and from 1pm – 2am on Fridays to Sundays. With a variety of live performances every night, our appreciation and perception of African performances has shifted completely.

But all too often, we hear people complain about the “high prices”, the arbitrary hours, the one-sidedness of booking Jazz muso's as opposed to Kwaito stars and the silence required during the shows. So we've highlighted these observations in order to magnify the beauty of The Orbit. It is usually our imperfections which make our light shine even brighter so here you have it Joburgers, Aymeric Péguillan, the co-owner and manager of The Orbit – Home of Jazz answering our grappling questions:



**WHAT DISTINGUISHES THE ORBIT FROM ALL THE OTHER LIVE MUSIC VENUES IN JOHANNESBURG?**

The Orbit is an art performance space first and foremost and it is dedicated to the promotion of Jazz music, both South African and international. It showcases universal music, and is always a peaceful gathering that brings a lot of different people together in terms of origins, social environment, age and gender, in a multi-cultural city of note. The Orbit is a platform for established and young artists alike, where musical projects blossom and new collaborations are born. The artists are the VIPs here, this is Home for Jazz musicians. It also, on occasions, crosses over to other genres of improvised music. What makes The Orbit special is that the majority of patrons come to listen to great music in a classy and sophisticated venue that still remains simple and relevant.

*The Orbit registers itself in the legacy of famous past Johannesburg club such as Kippiès and Bassline and wants to rival with the best Jazz clubs in the world.*

**IS IT SAFE TO SAY THAT IT MAY TAKE A FEW YEARS BEFORE WE SEE A SHIFT IN PEOPLE'S ROUTINES TO ACCOMMODATE FOR HOME-GROWN TALENT TO SELL OUT SHOWS?**

It takes time to build a live music venue to get the general public, and not just the avid jazz lovers, to come and appreciate good art, especially when so many have pre conceptions about Jazz. But believe me, we have already converted a few to the beauty and the uniqueness of Live Jazz. We want to provide exceptional memories of creative processes. We are strating to notice an impact on the jazz scene in terms of new creations and collaborations.

**PEOPLE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT ARTISTS ALSO HAVE TO EAT. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THE NOTION THAT PAYING R80 – R150 FOR ENTRANCE (ALONE) IS TOO MUCH?**

In recent years, with the absence of good live music venues for Jazz, it has become a habit not to pay for music when you go to a restaurant or a club. It's a nightmare for musicians! We find it strange that many can pay R200 to go to the movies, to the theatre or a concert at the Dome, but can be reluctant to pay for Live Music of the highest quality in a club setting. At the end of the day, we want to pay these artists as best we can and by supporting this venue in a regular fashion. In fact, listening to quality music is quite cheap in Joburg if compared to European, Asian or American cities where cover charges can go up to R1000 for a club gig in a major venue.

**LAO TZU ONCE SAID “SILENCE IS A SOURCE OF GREAT STRENGTH”. HOW MUCH DO YOU, AND THE ORBIT AGREE WITH THIS QUOTED PHILOSOPHY?**

Of course, there is no greater love than showing respect for artists when they perform and we strongly encourage that. There is time for enjoying your wine and food, and there is time to value the great musicianship of these artists who give us a lot when they come on stage. It's a mutually beneficial relationship, one that enriches everyone. Most people would not think of talking inside the Theatre or at the movies when they have paid and we feel this very reason should anchor live music venues.

**WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE ORBIT A YEAR OR FIVE YEARS FROM NOW?**

Our main mission is to promote great quality South African Jazz music locally and internationally. For us, the most important objective is to be recognized as a venue that values the Jazz genre and those who perform it. Provide artists with a quality environment that attracts quality audiences. What matters is to find consistency on a daily basis.

In closing, it's safe to say that The Orbit has made significant headway in changing the perception and experience of Jazz in Johannesburg. With phenomenal music, great food, safe and secure parking on Juta Street as well as a sound vision – not even our Presidents policies could stop the motion in Orbit!

The Orbit has recently installed a top-of-the-range generator to ensure the “show must go on!”

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**THE ORBIT**  
 Live Music & Bistro

THE ORBIT - HOME OF JAZZ - is where local and international musicians reach new heights with unlimited creative spirit, and gravitate around each other in harmony and spontaneity to produce the most original and inspiring music. Live on stage 6 nights a week! A truly unique Joburg experience.

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