Bernie McGann

Chuck Yates

Ray Martin

Barry Buckley

Ted Vining

Bob Sedergreen

McGann LIVE 81 / 83

The Bernie McGann Quartet

Bernie McGann   *alto saxophone*
Chuck Yates   *piano*
Ray Martin   *bass*
Ted Vining   *drums*

1 Sweet Lucy   *McGann*   9'23"
2 Nights of the Wizz   *McGann*   12'48"
3 Spirit Song   *McGann*   11'28"

Recorded at the Capitol Theatre, Sydney, for the Qantas International Jazz Festival
on Friday 19 January 1981 … Produced by Horst Liepolt

Bernie McGann with the Ted Vining Trio

Bernie McGann   *alto saxophone*
Bob Sedergreen   *piano*
Barry Buckley   *bass*
Ted Vining   *drums*

4 Oleo   *Rollins*   8'51"
5 God Bless the Child   *Holiday*   13'35"
6 Now's the Time   *Parker*   10'48"
7 A Night in Tunisia   *Gillespie*   12'18"

Recorded at the RMIT Glasshouse Theatre, Melbourne, for the Melbourne Jazz Cooperative
on Sunday 24 April 1983 … Produced by Martin Jackson … Recorded by Colin Jones

move

Two of the most prized possessions in my collection of albums, CDs and cassettes are recorded performances of the late great saxphonist Bernie McGann.

I was also most fortunate to be on stage for both of these outstanding events, one in Sydney for the Qantas International Jazz Festival, the other at the RMIT Glasshouse Theatre for Martin Jackson's Melboune Jazz Cooperative.

Over the years I have played my copies to numerous jazz musicians and enthusiasts – all with the same response: *"this should be made available to listeners everywhere".*

Well now it is, with the blessing of all surviving participants – Chuck Yates, Ray Martin, Bob Sedergreen, Horst Liepolt, Colin Jones and Martin Jackson.

The Sydney performance has never before been released. The Melbourne performance was previously released on an Anteater cassette.

Please enjoy ... *Ted Vining*

"Sydney's Bernie McGann has long been regarded by jazz musicians, fans and critics as one of the most important jazz artists Australia has produced … a singularly original and exciting improviser"

ADRIAN JACKSON, JAZZ MAGAZINE 1983

"McGann is a hot-as-a-cracker altoist who burns through standards with a vibrant intensity and a time-worn tone … a fresh and original player"

LEE JESKE, DOWNBEAT

Born in 1937, alto saxophonist Bernie McGann grew up in Sydney and played drums as a teenager. He picked up the saxophone relatively late, at the age of 18. From early gigs with a jazz trio in a Sydney club in the 1950s, McGann gradually progressed to become a highly respected figure in the Australian jazz community.

He was admired for his unique saxophone sound - frequently described as 'dry', 'dark', and 'gravelly' - as well as his originality as improviser and composer. He was controversial, with one club owner refusing to have him work in his club. He developed a sound reminiscent, but not influenced by, Ornette Coleman. His playing has remained rooted in traditional bop, as well as integrating elements of his native land's folk music.

McGann and his cohorts gained greater visibility in America in the late '80s and '90s with the release of various recordings.

A multiple ARIA Award winner, McGann received the Australia Council Don Banks Music Award in 1998. He continued his performing career until the very end, playing in his own Bernie McGann Trio and Bernie McGann Quartet (McGann, Warwick Alder, Brendan Clarke, Andrew Dickeson), as well as with other Australian and international musicians.

Bernie McGann died on 17 September 2013 at the age of 76 from complications after heart surgery.