



Manawatu Standard
Palmerston North New Zealand
Globe Theatre Performance Review

Wizard and Oz rocked

2007

REVIEW

The Wizard & Oz.

Globe Theatre, Monday, February 12.
Reviewed by Stephen Fisher.

Already a big name on the Australian jazz festival circuit the dynamic jazz duo of Andrew Farrell - otherwise known as the Wizard - and David McMillan filled the Globe Theatre with an amazing variety of both popular and original standards, all given very distinctive treatment by these two great musicians.

On their first promotional tour of New Zealand the duo romped through big ballads, rock'n'roll, a little bit of boogie through to jazz as they mixed works by Pink Floyd, Billy Joel and Elton John with a selection of their own extraordinarily evocative works.

That these two are highly trained musicians was obvious throughout the evening as some superb piano playing by the Wizard explored each song with great intensity and a huge variety of stylistic work, while McMillan proved he was a very versatile vocalist with a great vocal range who also accompanied many of the items with some great guitar work.

Passion and complete commitment flowed from the stage throughout every song and the sadly small audience became completely won over. No doubt Wizard and Oz will be touring the country again soon and hopefully they will attract the larger audience they deserve. You have one more chance to catch them locally if you cant wait. Wanganui Opera House - 8pm tonight. Dont miss them!



Wanganui Chronicle

Wanganui New Zealand

Royal Wanganui Opera House Review

Wizard and Oz have the magic

Wizard & Oz
Royal Wanganui Opera
House, February 13.
Reviewed by April
Pearson.

ELECTRIFICATION had little to do with electronics in Tuesday night's passionate performance from Wizard & Oz.

Australians Andrew Farrell (Wizard) on piano and David McMillan (Oz) on acoustic guitar, who have performed together for 20 years, treated the small but enthralled audience to an evening of sheer enjoyment of musicality.

Their brilliant musicianship took us on a roller-coaster ride through an eclectic mix of genres, serving up a menu as diverse as the classical *Canon in D* by Pachelbel, to stompin' backwood's *Steam Roller Blues*, to impassioned flamenco.

The pair are not interested in stage showmanship, wandering on and off with a grin and

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a gesture and a "Well, we'll leave now" at interval. Their colourful dress and Andrew Farrell's wonderful cascading locks denote individuality rather than exhibition.

These guys love music and want to share it, and inspire others to become involved; so much so, that they advertised free entry for music students and their teachers.

Outstanding memories for me were: Andrew Farrell's rich, melodious rendition of *Red Shoes*; the delicate *As Old as the Hills* and the boogie woogie bellyroll *Smokin' the Piano Down at Calico Joe's*, both David McMillan's compositions, and his own toccata-style *Eternal Flow*, so evocative of strong visual images. *The Dream of Owen* showed that he is truly at one

with his piano. Perhaps there is a slight tendency in some pieces to get a bit carried away with trills in the upper register. This is unfortunate, and his only lapse in what is otherwise stylish good taste.

David McMillan brings a more macho (though certainly not Ocker!) element to the mix. The thunderous, passionately sung *For we Live by Cannon Fire!* had the audience in an uproar, as did his proud flamenco, performed solo. Song for Meredith was powerful and soaring.

The two voices and instruments blended harmoniously throughout the show, and there was a tangible feeling of wholistic empathy.

And what a pleasant surprise to find them stationed at the exit to meet their audience! Being able to express my enjoyment of such a gracious and inspiring performance was the icing on a very palatable cake!