

## TEN PART INVENTION & BERNIE MCGANN QUARTET TOURS 2004

by John Pochée

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*John Pochée at the drums: very proud of the band, with everyone playing at their absolute best... PHOTO COURTESY JOHN & SHIRLEY POCHÉE*

**N**ow that I am back from touring, I thought I might add a little on Ten Part Invention's trip to the USA. Of course the Chicago Jazz Festival was wonderful to perform at and we also gave a performance in small groups with everyone featuring their compositions, which were very enthusiastically received.

We then went on to play at a wonderful club The Hothouse which is a non-profit association that presents two bands a night. Some of the Festival Committee came to hear how we sounded in a club setting and went away suitably impressed. I was very proud of the band, with everyone playing at their absolute best. We turned James Greening loose on the blues with one of his dynamic plunger solos. As the trombone

player from Malachi Thompson's Africa Brass, who were following us said, "... You guys are smokin', I mean smo..o..o..kin!"



*This photograph taken in 2006 is the trombonist then with Malachi Thompson's Africa Brass, at a concert following the death of Thompson. He could well be the unidentified trombonist to whom John Pochée refers in the above paragraph...PHOTO CREDIT MARK LADENSON*



*James Greening: he was turned loose on the blues with one of his dynamic plunger solos... PHOTO COURTESY AUSJAZZ.NET*

I must mention the wonderful concert we did at Iowa University, which had been organised by the music director John Rapson who visited Australia last year. We played in their auditorium, which was packed with 400 people. When we came on stage the reception was just fantastic; we did two sets and they loved every note. For all of us, this was an unforgettable experience.



*John Rapson, music director at Iowa University...*

As we did throughout the tour, we featured a lot of Sandy Evans's compositions and the music department arranged with Sandy for these to be available for the students to study. Another highlight of the tour was our first performance, which was at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage, arranged by the Australian Embassy. Everyone had a great time and the concert was broadcast live and can still be viewed on website [www.kennedy-centerorgimillennium](http://www.kennedy-centerorgimillennium).





*Sandy Evans: many of her compositions were featured throughout the tour, and the music department at Iowa University arranged with Sandy for these to be available for the students to study... PHOTO CREDIT TOMAS POKORNY*

I came back home for a couple of weeks and then went on tour with the Bernie McGann Quartet, with Lloyd Swanton and Warwick Alder. First to Europe where we performed across Germany. Then we went to Amsterdam where we played at the famous Bimhuis where I have always wanted to play. Had a great time and saw several old friends.





*The Bernie McGann Quartet included L-R, John Pochée, McGann, and Lloyd Swanton (above) plus trumpeter Warwick Alder. Alder is pictured below with McGann.*



Then on to Scotland, to Edinburgh and Aberdeen where they have a great club, The Blue Lamp. Finally we performed on the Guinness Jazz Festival, Cork, Ireland on the Saturday and Sunday. When I enquired if there was anything to drink, they told me that for the first five years the Guinness was free to musicians and the company almost went broke! So, a bottle of wine had to suffice but they had us in a great hotel

with complimentary dinners, which were sensational. What a long trip to come home, Cork to London, then on to Frankfurt and Singapore before arriving home safe and almost sound. Great experiences! ... but, if anyone needs a drummer, I'm available.



*John Pochée (right) pictured with his wife Shirley in 1999: if anyone needs a drummer, I'm available... PHOTO COURTESY JOHN & SHIRLEY POCHÉE*

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*Editors' note: Ten Part Invention's welcome home concert will be Dec 4, 2004 and the Bernie McGann Quartet will play on Dec 10 at the Side On Café, Annandale.*