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Caption: ORC Jazz L-R: Luis Ortiz, Kyle Manning, Mitch Davis and James Buchanan

ORC adds to its repertoire

Friday night's Music in the Gardens at Orange Botanical Gardens will see the launch of an exciting new era for Orange Regional Conservatorium (ORC), when ORC Jazz makes its debut performance.

The ensemble's performance at the 'Beat of Summer, Roots and All' concert, marks the launch of ORC's new Contemporary Studies Unit, and features teachers Kyle Manning (piano), Mitch Davis (drums), James Buchanan (guitar) and Luis Ortiz (bass).

"The Orange Regional Conservatorium recognises the growth of the popular music scene and we're keen to facilitate it and offer development in that area," says ORC director Graham Sattler. "We have such fantastic resources so creating a contemporary studies unit was a natural progression."

Prominent local musician Kyle Manning is excited to be part of the ORC's new development.

"I have spent the best part of my career working as a contemporary musician in jazz, blues, rock and pop, and it thrills me that the ORC has the foresight to make these genres part of their curriculum," Mr Manning said.

"Perhaps the most exciting part about this new direction is that in no way does it take away from the focus on classical styles at ORC. There is a rich heritage of classical music at the Con, and we see ourselves more as an exciting new part of the big picture."

'Beat of Summer, Roots and All' will feature the quartet performing some of the great jazz standards of our time, including works made famous by Miles Davis, Roberta Flack, John Coltrane and Nat King Cole.

The Music in the Gardens concerts are the first of approximately 40 Public Concerts the ORC organises each year in which professional, student and amateur musicians enrich the cultural life of the region and gain valuable experience through exposure of their talents.

"As well as offering classical events throughout the year we hope to add contemporary events to the calendar, such as workshops, master-classes and concerts," Mr Sattler said.

Friends of the Orange Botanical Gardens and the Orange Regional Conservatorium present Music in the Gardens 'Beat of Summer, Roots and All' at the Orange Botanical Gardens on Friday 13 February from 6.30pm to 8pm. For more information contact the ORC on 6361 7974 or visit www.orangecon.org.au