

Her life's a lot of jazz

Zoe Lewis
on work experience

WHEELER'S Hill resident Anita Harris's love of music has always been a family affair.

Her father accompanies her on piano as part of a quartet and one of her career highlights also involved her family, she said.

"One jazz festival . . . we got five out of six immediate family members up on stage," Harris said.

"We talk about (getting all six together), one day it will happen."

The Anita Harris Quartet has just released its second CD, *The Wee Small Hours*, in which Harris sings a selection of jazz songs, including mainstream and lesser-known songs.

Harris said the second CD was different to the group's 1998 release *Moments in Time*.

"Themes in the first and second CDs are the same sort of jazz, . . . but I'm a different singer from the first CD," she said.

"It was a joy to produce. A lot of work was done behind the scenes.

"It was a challenge but certainly fun."

Harris made her jazz debut at the 1993 Merimbula Jazz Festival, but said she had been singing jazz many years before. Since then she has appeared at many other events including the South Coast Jazz Club, Victorian Jazz Club and Victoria's Grape Grazing Festival.

Harris said her influences were obviously a lot of jazz.

"Rosemary Clooney, Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee . . . Diana Krall for something a bit more contemporary," she said.

But her music listening tastes varied a lot.

"I began as a classical music student," she said.

Despite the long wait between their first two releases, she said the third release was not far away.



Wheeler's Hill singer Anita Harris.

Picture: HILTON STONE