

“A cross between Noel Coward and Billie Holliday” – that’s how Geoff Morris of Phoenix FM described Jo's songs during an interview with Jo’s daughter, Peta, on his Wednesday morning talk show. Phoenix is a 24/7 community radio station based in Bendigo, Australia. Geoff played three of his favourite numbers during his morning show while chatting with Peta about the history of the songs and the composer.



Peta explained that Jo had been an excellent classical pianist and had always performed her own songs at the piano until she married and had children. After that, she carried on writing songs but only the family got to hear them. Peta said, "Growing up singing my mother's songs, I thought they were well known standards. It wasn't until I was an adult that I realised other people didn't know them!"

They talked about Jo coming up to her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June and how great it would be if one of her songs could be recorded by then. Geoff was particularly enthusiastic about *Passed the Place*. "It's a lovely bluesy sort of song," he said, "A definite K.D. Lang sort of song ... or for someone in Australia to hear, be captivated by it and record it." He encouraged any performers listening to get in touch.

Towards the end of the interview, Peta told Geoff about a musical story for children that Jo wrote called *Tommy Tune*. "The character, Tommy Tune, is a melody that floats around in the air hoping that someone will hear him. All he wants is for his song to be heard. And that's just like mum. In the story, Tommy's determination wins through! Hopefully it will be the same for Jo."

Geoff will be playing more of Jo’s songs in the coming weeks. You can listen to Phoenix on 106.7 FM in Bendigo or at <http://phoenixfm.org/stream.html> from anywhere in the world!