
News Release

SYNTHESIS

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Brigham Young University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY BAND JAZZIN' THINGS UP

Swinging beats, catchy tunes, and funky rhythms that are sure to keep you dancing all night long is the least one can expect during a Synthesis performance, the award-winning instrumental jazz ensemble that hails from Brigham Young University. Synthesis frequently travels throughout the world presenting popular and original music with new, innovative, swinging beats, all while exhibiting their first-class music and utmost professionalism. Synthesis will be performing at (PLACE) on (DATE) at (TIME).

Synthesis puts on a show as loose and as astounding as Louis Armstrong's freestyle. The group's repertoire flows indiscriminately through swing, jazz, blues, rock, fusion, gospel, and Latin styles. Along with their original music, they play the timeless numbers from jazz legends like Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and Louis Armstrong. These musicians put it together and break it down in a night of jazz music you've been waiting to hear.

Don't let their university name deceive you: Synthesis plays throughout the world as peers to professional artists and groups at jazz festivals, concerts, and events on two continents. This summer, the group will debut a joint performance with BYU's Contemporary Dance Theatre as the two tour alongside one another in Nauvoo, Illinois. The group most recently toured to Brazil, bringing their smooth jazz sounds to one of the most prestigious showcases of its kind – the Rio das Ostras Jazz and Blues Festival, where they performed for thousands of people. In July 2010, Synthesis toured jazz festivals in Denmark and Norway. They played at the Copenhagen, Kongsberg, and Aarhus Jazz Festivals, sharing stages with some of the best jazz talent in the world. They toured England in 2008, playing with world-renowned tenors Stephen Duffy, Freddie King, and Todd Gordon; they visited Spain and Portugal where they were the highlight of national television; they were one of only three bands to take the stage at the International Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland; and the list goes on.

(more)

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In February 2002, Synthesis had the unique opportunity to perform for the world at the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games. The band performed at Tabernacle Park, an Olympic venue in Provo, Utah, during the two-week Olympic Games. Visitors from around the world were able to see 15 BYU groups performing at Olympic venues, as well as in the Games' Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

But beyond sitting on their laurels, Synthesis does what they do because they love it. No matter where in the world they entertain, their passion and music never need a translator. Transcending language barriers through their music, Synthesis touched the hearts of the people of Siberia, as expressed by John Galbraith of Novosibirsk, Russia: "Everyone who attended the concert felt the magic of your mood as you lit up the room with enthusiasm and energy. For two hours we were treated to something much more than a well done concert. (We) were swept away in the power of oneness.... Each one sensed a unity.... Each was proud to be a part of it."

Ray Smith, director of Synthesis, performs and records music professionally in addition to serving as the director of jazz studies and a professor of woodwinds at BYU. Smith's talents have been requested by recognized artists such as Kurt Bestor, Johnny Mathis, and The Supremes. Having an experienced musician like Smith at the band's helm is crucial to the success that Synthesis has enjoyed throughout the years.

Synthesis originates in the School of Music at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of approximately 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 110 foreign countries.

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