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Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band shares the rhythms of the South with the world

Brigham Young University’s Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band sweeps audiences back in time to the toe-tapping Dixieland tunes of America in the 1920s. The band will play a variety of Dixieland jazz favorites at (PLACE) on (DATE) at (TIME).

“It’s joyful music,” said director and founder of the band, Dr. Steve Call. “There’s just no way you can not feel happiness when you listen to ‘When the Saints Go Marching In’ or ‘Sweet Georgia Brown.’”

Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band prepares performances by listening to and copying recordings of great musicians of the past. Improvisation is a big part of traditional jazz and each musician has a role. The trumpet plays an embellished melody, the trombone creates a lower counter melody, the clarinet is responsible for high-pitched harmonies, and the piano, banjo, tuba, and drums lay down a solid beat.

(more)
Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band

Jazz is uniquely indigenous to the United States and is certainly an American treasure. Jazz originated in New Orleans during the first two decades of the twentieth century. It dominated the popular music scene of the 1920s and eventually evolved into swing and big band music during the 1930s. As musicians looked back to discover the music’s origins in the late ‘30s, traditional jazz was re-born in a Dixieland revival.

Few collegiate ensembles are performing early jazz forms such as Dixieland. BYU’s Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band provides a rare opportunity for listeners to enjoy America’s musical heritage. The band members, many of whom have performed professionally, are among BYU’s most talented student musicians. Jazz Legacy also presents concerts and workshops to school groups and other interested regional audiences.

The Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band was invited by Utah’s Senatorial and Congressional Delegation to represent the state of Utah at the Kennedy Center’s State Days concert series in July 1998. During their Washington D.C. tour, the band played several venues in the area. In January 2002, the band represented the best of jazz education by making their fourth appearance at the annual International Jazz Educators’ Association Conference in Long Beach, CA.

Jazz Legacy originates in the School of Music in the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation’s largest private universities with an enrollment of more than 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 120 foreign countries.

(End)
Artistic Director

Dr. Steve Call, artistic director of Brigham Young University's Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band, has helped preserve the unique sounds of traditional jazz and Dixieland music in the United States. Call founded the ensemble as one of the few collegiate groups in the nation still performing early jazz music. The band will play a variety of traditional Dixieland jazz favorites at (PLACE) on (DATE) at (TIME).

As a performing jazz artist himself, Call said founding Jazz Legacy had personal significance for him. “It’s happy music and fun music,” he said, “and there’s much historical importance to this music. It’s important for music students to learn about the early jazz masters and learn to play in their styles.”

A native of Brigham City, Utah, Call holds degrees from Utah State University, the University of Utah and has done graduate work at North Texas State University.

Since joining the BYU faculty, Call has taught tuba, euphonium, and jazz piano performance. He also teaches jazz improvisation, jazz history, and leads the jazz combo program. Call is a founding member and organizer of TUBA (Tubists’ Universal Brotherhood Association) and has authored articles and reviews for trade publications and has published two chapters in The Tuba Source Book.

A man of many talents, Call has been a tuba soloist for years. His distinguished career includes recitals and concerto performances throughout the United States. He was tubist with the orchestra of Utah’s Ballet West for five years and has frequently played and recorded with the Utah Symphony.

As part of the Macmillan-Mcgraw Hill Share the Music series, Call's recording of Tubby the Tuba was released on CD in 1995.
Upcoming Performances

Artist Manager
Karson B. Denney
801-787-9373
karson_denney@byu.edu

Performing Arts Management
306 Hinckley Center
Provo, UT
801-422-3576
perform@byu.edu
pam.byu.edu

Jazz Legacy Dixieland Band
originates in the office of Performing Arts Management at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.