
Fact Sheet

SYNTHESIS

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Brigham Young University

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- Synthesis, an award-winning jazz ensemble from Brigham Young University, combines swing, blues, jazz, pop, Latin, funk, and fusion styles in an exhilarating, high-quality performance.
- During the summer of 2013, Synthesis brought their smooth, professional jazz sounds to Brazil, where they participated in one of the most prestigious showcases of its kind – the Rio das Ostras Jazz and Blues festival. During the course of their three week tour, they instrumentalists performed for almost 50,000 people.
- In July 2010, Synthesis toured Norway and Denmark, presenting at several venues throughout the country, including the Aarhus, Copenhagen, and Kongsberg Jazz Festivals. These jazz festivals are some of the countries' most important and prestigious jazz venues, hosting talent from throughout the world.
- Synthesis brought their exciting sound to several top jazz festivals in the United Kingdom during the summer of 2008. In Edinburgh's 30th International Jazz Festival, Synthesis performed with three well-known jazz tenors. They also played in the Birmingham Jazz Festival as well as the Marlborough International Jazz Festival, which was cited by Tower Records as one of the top events of its kind in the British Isles.
- In 2006, Synthesis celebrated its 35th anniversary when they performed at jazz festivals throughout Spain and Portugal. The group was selected to perform at the 41st San Sebastian festival, mingling with dozens of well-known jazz performers. At the Ninth International Festival of Jazz in Ezcaray, a Spanish television crew filmed Synthesis for a broadcast on Spain's nationwide channel 2, Televisión Española.
- The band presents a musical feast of popular and traditional numbers, as well as original arrangements by group members. Renditions of favorites by jazz legends such as Duke Ellington, Harry Connick Jr., Glenn Miller, and Benny Goodman are staples of every program.
- Formed in 1973, the 18- to 20-member group holds rigorous annual auditions to choose its members from among BYU's finest jazz musicians.
- Synthesis performed for visitors to various sporting venues in Provo, Utah, during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. In addition, the group spent time at several California Jazz Festivals during the summer of 2002.
- In June 2001, Synthesis performed on the *Queen Elizabeth II* cruise ship. The musicians, bound for England, participated in "Big Bands on the Sea" and performed for audiences both on land and on sea. As one of three bands asked to participate, they were the only college band on board.
- Synthesis has performed at prestigious jazz festivals throughout the world, including the Antibes Jazz Festival in France. Past honors include winning the Pacific Coast Collegiate Jazz Festival and taking first place in the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow, Idaho.

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- Synthesis' director, Ray Smith, is a professor of woodwinds and the director of jazz studies at BYU. In addition to his teaching activities, Smith is active professionally as a performer, studio recording musician, and clinician.
- 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 more than 30,000 students from across the United States and 120 foreign countries.