

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

SYNTHESIS

AMERICAN BIG BAND JAZZ

LIVE IN CONCERT

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SYNTHESIS

"Your band was the highlight of the entire convention. . . . One of the finest student performances I have ever heard."

—JEFF BENEDICT, JAZZ PROFESSOR, CAL STATE LOS ANGELES

"The public was involved by the band's joy, their unity, and their great music sound and sense of humor. All performances terminated with requests of encore."

—GIUSEPPE PASTA, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, TERNI, ITALY

THE ENSEMBLE

Synthesis, Brigham Young University's award-winning instrumental jazz ensemble, is recognized throughout the world as one of the top university bands in the United States. Synthesis travels throughout the world presenting popular and original music with new, innovative swing beats. Since beginning in 1968, the ensemble has built on an exhilarating musical tradition that combines swing, blues, jazz, pop, Latin, funk, and fusion styles.

The ensemble puts on a show as loose and astounding as Louis Armstrong's freestyle. Along with their original music, they play timeless numbers from jazz legends like Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Glenn Miller.

A past sweepstakes champion of the Pacific Coast Collegiate Jazz Festival, Synthesis has performed at numerous European jazz festivals, including Montreux, North Sea, Copenhagen, Edinburgh, Umbria, Antibes, and San Sebastian. They entertained at the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games and aboard the *Queen Elizabeth II* as part of the Big Bands on the Sea concert series.

Synthesis originates in the College of Fine Arts and Communications' School of Music at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA.

DIRECTOR

The high caliber of Synthesis is largely attributed to the band's talented artistic director, Ray Smith. Gifted with musical genius and an extraordinary ear for jazz, Smith has led the ensemble to international recognition.

In addition to directing and teaching at BYU, Smith is active professionally as a performer, studio recording musician, and clinician.

"I want you to know BYU's Synthesis was the hit of the latest cruise. They distinguished themselves musically with their outstanding performances for dancing and in concert. . . . Standing ovations followed each performance. . . . The nearly 2,000 passengers recognized them as young, attractive, brilliantly gifted players that really understand how to perform big band swing and jazz. . . . In a word, they were sensational."

—KENNETH R. JENSEN, LAGUNA WOODS, CALIFORNIA

"The visit of BYU Synthesis was a wonderful experience to those . . . who had the opportunity to come in contact with the members of the group. And the performance with Dr. Ray Smith as a conductor was a memorable treat for all people who had a chance to hear them."

—HILKKA OSKI, PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR, TAMPERE, FINLAND

