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.”

—HILKA OSKI, PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR, TAMPERE, FINLAND

For more information contact BYU Performing Arts Management | Oliver House, Provo, UT 84602-8500
pam.byu.edu | e-mail: perform@byu.edu | 801-422-3576 | fax: 801-422-5646
BRIGHHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

SYNTHESIS

High resolution versions of these photos and more are available online at http://pam.byu.edu/.
Synthesis Songs & Composers/Arrangers

But Not For Me       G. Gershwin/Mintzer
Incredible Journey      Bob Mintzer
The Happy Song      Bob Mintzer
Samba Del Gringo      Gordon Goodwin
Sing Sing Sing      Benny Goodman
I Could Write a Book      Rogers and Hart
Salute to the Big Bands      Miller/Goodman/Brown
It Had Better Be Tonight      arr. For M. Buble
Blackbird      Paul McCartney/Tomaro
The Nearness of You      H. Carmichael/Richards
L-O-V-E      Nat King Cole
The Way You Look Tonight      Jerome Kern
Too Close for Comfort      arr. Gordon Goodwin
I Wish      Stevie Wonder
It’s Only a Paper Moon      Harold Arlen
Fly Me to The Moon      arr. For Frank Sinatra
I’m Gonna Live Til I Die      Queen Latifah/Clayton
(It’s Just) Talk      Pat Metheny/Curnow
When You’re Smilin’      arr. Tom Kubis
The Incredibles      Duke Ellington
Tribute to the Duke      Glenn Miller
In the Mood      Gordon Goodwin
Jazz Police      arr. Dennis DiBlasio
Sesame Street      Glenn Miller
String of Pearls      Woody Herman
Tribute to Woody Herman      Stan Kenton/Curnow
Stan Kenton Hits Medley      D. Ellington/Niehaus
Take The A Train      Matt Harris
Mira Mira      arr. Tom Kubis
I Thought About You      Les Hooper
Back in Blue Orleans      arr. Gordon Goodwin
Play that Funky Music      arr. For Bill Watrous
A Time For Love      Glenn Miller
American Patrol      Benny Goodman
Fling Flang Flung      R.E.M.
Everybody Hurts

(end)
CONTACTS

Performing Arts Management  | Brigham Young University | 306 Hinckley Center, Provo, UT 84602-8500 | 801-422-3576

Troy D. Streeter
Artist Manager
801-422-3575
Cell: 801-310-4973

Tickets and more information available at: http://pam.byu.edu
University Band Jazzing Things Up!

Hard swinging, catchy tunes, funky rhythms, and infectious spontaneity that are sure to keep you dancing all night long are the least one can expect during a Synthesis performance. The award-winning instrumental jazz ensemble that hails from Brigham Young University frequently travels throughout the world presenting popular a wide gamut of musical styles, all while exhibiting their first-class musicianship and professionalism.

Synthesis puts on a show that is creative and astounding. 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 as well as modern numbers from current legends like Gordon Goodwin, Alan Baylock, and Mike Tomaro. Synthesis musicians put it together and break it down in a night of jazz music you’ve been waiting to hear.
The Tours

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, such as sharing the Cotton Club stage at the Pori Jazz Festival with the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra and Jon Faddis All Stars. In fact, Synthesis was the 2013 winner of DownBeat Magazine’s Top College Big Band award. In 2016, the group will go on an extended tour to the Baltic States, covering Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In addition, they will also tour Sweden and Finland. Synthesis most recently toured 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 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 and Scotland in 2008, where they opened at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival and the Wigan Jazz Festival, and also played 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 showcased on the Big Band Night at the International Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland along with Gerry Mulligan’s New York Big Band and have performed at the prestigious international jazz festival two other times since then; and the list goes on.

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.

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.”

(more)
The Director

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. Smith recalls the excitement of being part of the jazz world: “There’s something in our music that bespeaks the freedoms we enjoy that is appealing to people all over the world. Music brings us all together—we’re more the same than we are different. And once the similarities are uncovered, we can all rejoice together.”

Following a 1998 tour through Russia and Finland, Victor Tregoubov, of Novosibirsk, Russia praised Smith, saying, “Ray [was] not only a super conductor and soloist, but as a master of ceremonies created such a special atmosphere and warm contact with the audience.”

Smith’s dedication to Synthesis extends beyond his experience as the ensemble’s artistic director. As an undergraduate at BYU, Smith played lead alto saxophone with Synthesis. He also played first clarinet with the Wind Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestra. After graduating from BYU with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1975, Dr. Smith enrolled at Indiana University, where he earned both a Master’s and a Doctoral degree and had the privilege of studying under many great musicians, including David Baker—one of the top jazz educators in the world.

Upon leaving Indiana, Smith taught at Murray State University in Kentucky for three years before returning to BYU to accept a faculty position in 1982. Smith is currently the director of jazz studies and a professor of woodwinds at BYU.

Smith has recorded music on numerous occasions as well, including back-up music for Frank Sinatra, a stage presentation for Dick Tracy at Disneyland and Walt Disney World, and for national ads.
such as Buick ‘92, Chevy Heartbeat of America, Chevrolet GEO, and The Children’s Television Network. He also contributed to the theme for Good Morning America.

Smith has toured and recorded with a number of artists, including Sam Cardon, Mike Dowdle, Kurt Bestor, and Lex de Azevedo. He has performed with numerous traveling entertainers, such as Johnny Mathis, The Supremes, John Davidson, and The Fifth Dimension.

Synthesis is produced by the School of Music at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation’s largest private universities with approximately 30,000 students from across the United States and 110 foreign countries.

(end)

PERFORMANCES

7 July- 1 August
Europe- Extended Tour

CONTACTS

Performing Arts | Brigham Young University | 306 Hinckley Center, Provo, UT 84602-8500 | 801-422-3576
Management

Troy D. Streeter
Artist Manager
801-422-3575
Cell: 801-310-4973

Tickets and more information available at: http://pam.byu.edu
“The Synthesis concert by [the] BYU jazz musicians was incredible! I knew they were good, but wow! What a great evening!”

  
  Kent Walter, Director of Music and Arts, International School, Aberdeen, Scotland

“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

“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 2000 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 BYU Synthesis jazz band performed always in an outstanding and very professional way... National and local media reported the various events very positively...The public was involved by their joy, their unity, and their great music sound and sense of humor. All performances terminated with requests of encore . . . They are special and dedicated people. We loved staying with them all, getting acquainted and learning from their good spirit. We will always keep a sweet memory of these days that we spent together.”

  
  Giuseppe Pasta, National Director of Public Affairs, Terni, Italy

“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. We wish you the best of everything, and we would like to see you here again in the future.”

  
  Hilkka Oksi, Public Relations Coordinator, Tampere, Finland

“I would like to thank you, Ray [Smith], not only as a super conductor and a soloist, but as a master of ceremonies, [who] created such a special atmosphere and a warm contact with the audience.”

  
  Victor Tregoubov, Big Band Director, Novosibirsk, Russia

“What a wonderful experience to have you in our Siberian cities of Tomsk and Novosibirsk. The performances were well attended and everyone who went felt the magic of your mood as you lit up the room with enthusiasm and energy . . . For two hours they [the audience was] treated to something much, much more than a well-done concert. They were swept away in the power of oneness . . . Thank you our dear young talented [performers] for remembering Siberia . . . For us, the warmth of those encounters will remain fresh for a long, long time. If grandeur and opulence do not matter to you, then please know that you have performed to one of the best audiences you will ever have.”

  
  President B. John Galbraith, Novosibirsk, Russia

(end)
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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.

• 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.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>1. Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>1. Nauvoo, Illinois (with CDT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>1. Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>1. Norway, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>1. England, Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>1. Spain, Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>1. California (International Association of Jazz Educators Conference)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>1. New York City, Queen Elizabeth II Cruise Ship, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999-00</td>
<td>1. The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany (World Expo 2000), Switzerland,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>1. Russia, Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>1. Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>1. Switzerland, Netherlands, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>1. Japan, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>1. Norway, Sweden, Finland</td>
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<td>1989-90</td>
<td>1. Soviet Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>1. California (Berkeley Jazz Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>1. Belgium, France, Netherlands, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Florida (Naje Disney Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>1. California (Berkeley Jazz Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Illinois (Chicago Music Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>1. California (Naje Disney Festival)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>1. California (Berkeley Jazz Festival)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983-84</td>
<td>1. (Fullerton Jazz Festival)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1982-83  1. California (Holiday Bowl)
1981-82  1. California (Holiday Bowl)
1980 81  1. California (Berkeley Jazz Festival)
1977 78  1. California (Berkeley Jazz Festival)
1976 77  1. Romania, Hungary
1975 76  1. Southern California
1973 74  1. Southern California
1972 73  1. Northwest U.S.
1971 72  1. Arizona

(end)
The following information outlines the technical requirements of Synthesis. We appreciate the assistance of the facility management in providing the best your facility can offer.

**Load-in**  
Please have the required set-up completed, as specified in the diagram, when we arrive. We require a minimum of two hours load-in and set-up time before the house is opened for theater patrons.

**Sound**  
Synthesis travels with a full sound system, but may require access to house speakers from our mixing console. Please have someone in the hall who can accommodate such a connection.

**Cords**  
Outlets are necessary for the electrical instruments as specified in the diagram.

**Lighting**  
Sufficient lighting in order for 20 musicians and instruments to be well lit and visible to the audience.

**Piano**  
A recently tuned grand or baby grand piano is preferred. However, if no piano is available, we travel with an electronic keyboard.

**Stage**  
The stage should be 30' wide by 24' deep and large enough to accommodate the setup shown on the attached diagram. Risers are requested for the brass section (16' wide x 12' deep x 16" tall). 20 chairs should also be provided.

**Load-out**  
A minimum of one hour for strike and load-out time is required.

**Diagram**  
The preferred set-up is outlined in the diagram on the back of the page.

Please send the *Performance Site Questionnaire*, floor plan, and any additional facility information available to Performing Arts Management.

(more)
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