University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
PROGRAM

Act One

Opening Medley

Sing, Sing, Sing
It Don’t Mean a Thing

Stompin’ at the Savoy
This scene features the dances that were the “craze” at a club setting. It could be the Savoy, Rose Garden or the Cotton Club, but music and dance were the priority and the dance crazes of the day included the Lindy Hop, the Jitterbug and the Shim Sham.

The King of Swing – Benny Goodman
Benny Goodman was one of the big band originators and trendsetters. This scene includes many of his award-winning hits. Several big band enthusiasts consider him the innovator of swing and among the clarinetists, he is possibly considered the best of all.

String of Pearls
After You’ve Gone
Jersey Bounce
Goody Goody
Moonglow
And the Angels Sing

Sing, Sing, Sing
This scene features the famous singers and groups of the big band era such as the Mills Brothers, Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, the Ink Spots, Cab Calloway, the Andrews Sisters, the King Sisters, the Four Freshmen, the Ames Brothers and more.

Java Jive
Mona Lisa
Straighten Up and Fly Right
Orange Colored Sky
Paper Doll

Sir Duke Ellington
The Duke ruled Harlem and his sound eventually spread across America. His band was the house band at the Cotton Club for years.

Take the A Train
Satin Doll
I’m Beginning to See the Light
Mood Indigo
I Can’t Give You Anything But Love
Don’t Get Around Much Anymore
St. Louis Blues

FINALE: It Don’t Mean a Thing, If It Ain’t Got That Swing

Intermission
Act Two

Big Band Legends
This section salutes a few of the legendary big band leaders and the songs that made them famous, including Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Artie Shaw, Woody Herman, Les Brown, Jimmy Dorsey, Count Basie, Guy Lombardo and more.

The Ladies of Big Band
While the music was "king," the big band era gave notoriety to many up and coming female singers and eventually some of them became household names including Doris Day, Billie Holliday, Lena Horne, Peggy Lee, Patti Page, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Shore and Jo Stafford.

Frank Sinatra
In the late 1930s, Sinatra was huge with Harry James and Tommy Dorsey. His rise as a soloist was perhaps the beginning of the end for the "golden age" of big bands. Frank was becoming the main attraction like no other vocalist had done before. He also went on to become one of the most well known and successful entertainers in the world.

Salute to Glenn Miller
Considered by many to be the most popular big band of all time, Glenn Miller’s band had some of the greatest musicians and songs of the big band era. He was also extremely popular during WWII, being an enlisted man himself.

The Songs of World War II
This scene depicts a canteen setting, complete with costumes, re-living some of the memorable songs and moments of World War II.

Today's Big Band
The tradition of big band continues to live and thrive today with the great songs and tunes of artists like the Brian Setzer Orchestra, the Stray Cats, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and Cherry Poppin’ Daddies.
BIographies

Matt Davenport (Writer/Director)
American Big Band was conceived, written and directed by Matt Davenport of Matt Davenport Productions. Matt has written and directed numerous original stage shows, including The American Pride Show in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, which won “Show of the Year” honors in its debut season. In 1998, the success of his #1 rated new show, American Jukebox, helped garner Davenport Amusement Parks’ “Best Shows” award for Busch Gardens, Williamsburg. He was also the creative force behind his company’s national tours of The Tennessee Waltz, Ropin’ the West, Birth of the Beat and American Rhapsody, which was a part of the International Gershwin Centennial Celebration. Matt has also produced and directed several productions of the Off-Broadway hit, Always...Patsy Cline. Matt’s original production, Country Tonite in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee was awarded “Show of the Year” in 2001 and 2002 by the North American Country Music Association. Most recently, Matt directed a production of Forever Plaid at the historic Empire Theatre in San Antonio, Texas.

Lloyd Wells (Arranger/Orchestrator)
Lloyd Wells’ professional career began in New York City, following graduation from the University of Southern Mississippi. He played guitar for several Broadway musicals, including Company and Cabaret. He also played with music industry icons such as Peggy Lee and Tennessee Ernie Ford (for whom he also served as bandleader), and performed on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson. Wells became widely recognized and nationally acclaimed for serving as Music Director/Arranger for Opryland USA. He magically arranged nearly every song that was heard at the famous theme park for most of the park’s entire operating life. Much of the park’s success can be attributed to the outstanding musical contributions of Mr. Wells, including vocal and orchestral arrangements for I Hear America Singing, Country Music USA, For Me and My Gal, Way Out West, Show Boat, and dozens of others. He has also arranged for numerous country music artists, ranging from traditionalists, such as Brenda Lee, to the contemporary sounds of Lorrie Morgan. Lloyd has also worked for The Nashville Network as a Musical Director/Arranger and has arranged for countless special events, including The Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the CMA Awards.

Creative Team
Writer/Director .............................................................................................................................................. Matt Davenport
Arranger/Orchestrator ................................................................................................................................... Lloyd Wells
Choreographers ................................................................................................................................................ Kristi O’Connor, Tom Porras, Laurin Simmons
Musical Director ............................................................................................................................................. Steve Kummer
Vocal Director .................................................................................................................................................. Victoria Venier
Singer/Dancers .................................................................................................................................................. Brooke Bryant, Kyle Henry, Laura McGlothlin, Kyle Gordon, Laurin Simmons, Greg Woodruff, Victoria Venier

Musicians
Band Leader/Pianist ....................................................................................................................................... Steve Kummer
Trumpet ............................................................................................................................................................ Vinny Ciesielski
Trumpet ........................................................................................................................................................... Jim Williamson
Trumpet ................................................................................................................................................................. Mike Casteel
Trombone .......................................................................................................................................................... Roy Agee
Trombone ........................................................................................................................................................... Charles Rose
Saxophone ............................................................................................................................................................ Dennis Bowland
Saxophone/Clarinet ......................................................................................................................................... Jimmy Bowland
Saxophone ........................................................................................................................................................... Doug Moffit
Bass ................................................................................................................................................................. John Ownby
Drums .............................................................................................................................................................. Steve Emahiser

Technical Support
Sound Engineer ............................................................................................................................................... Ed Sharpe
Costume Design .......................................................................................................................................... Cody Ratliff, Arlita Ellis