



The Mike Vax Big Band

The current MVBB is made up of musicians from many of the most famous big bands, such as: Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, Buddy Rich, Clark Terry, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Cab Calloway, Ray McKinley, and Tex Beneke. These musicians are some of the finest to reside in the Bay Area.

Leader Mike Vax is a product of the City of Oakland and the Oakland Public Schools, having graduated from Oakland High School in 1960. He has led a big band off and on since his days at College of the Pacific over 45 years ago. A few of his credits include being first trumpet, soloist and road manager of the Stan Kenton Orchestra, as well as being co-leader while Mr. Kenton was recovering from surgery; leading the Dukes of Dixieland in New Orleans; producing and/or music directing for over 30 jazz festivals; and performing workshops for more than 2500 high schools, colleges and universities all over the world. He is currently an International Artist for the Getzen Musical Instrument Company.

The goals of the MVJO are to perform meaningful music, talk about the importance of the jazz heritage in America, bring jazz music to young people, and to offer our audiences a relaxed, entertaining atmosphere. The group performs a jazz concert series at selected high schools and colleges around the Northern California, as well as having performed at Alice Arts Center in Oakland, the Woodminster Amphitheater, the Calvin Simmons Theater, Kimbals Nightclub, the Julia Morgan Theater, and Yoshi's Nite spot in Jack London Square. The MVJO has also performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, The Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, and the Filoli Mansion Concert Series, plus many other venues.

Guest Artists performing with the band have included: Bob Florence, Terry Gibbs, Lennie Niehaus, Pete Rugolo, Eric Merienthal, Pete Escovedo, Fred Radke, Bill Perkins, Don Haas, Cami Thompson, Denise Perrier, and Joe Williams.

FRIENDS OF BIG BAND JAZZ IS the support group for the MVJO. This nonprofit corporation has sent students to summer jazz camps on scholarships, donated funds to high school music programs, helped musicians in need (over \$50,000.00 so far), donated funds to the Oakland Youth Orchestra, and raised funds for Oakland Parks and Recreation; as well as performing benefits for area music departments, Lion's Blind Centers, and the Oakland Ballet. Recently, FBBJ made a sizeable donation to Habitat for Humanity for the New Orleans Musicians' Village.

Contact Info for Mike Vax Music Productions and Friends of Big Band Jazz
www.mikevax.net * www.bigbandjazz.net
vaxtrpts@aol.com * 925-872-1942