

Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet

Bio

Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet has been exciting and delighting audiences worldwide since the mid 1990's with their tightly harmonized renditions of jazz, big band swing, pop, doo-wop, original songs and American Songbook classics from Sinatra to Gershwin to Ellington and beyond. The stylishly entertaining quartet has captivated guests at festivals, concerts and special events with their lush harmonies, toe tapping rhythms, inventive lyrics, and versatile repertoire -- all wrapped up in an irresistible stage show fueled by a hot jazz band accompaniment.

The Quartet has appeared on the headliner stages at international jazz festivals in the company of such iconic artists as Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson, Sonny Rollins, the Mingus Big Band, the Neville Brothers, Dr. John, Abbey Lincoln, Pete Fountain, Chris Botti, Branford Marsalis, Joey DeFrancesco, and many others. They have performed concerts in Europe, Canada, and multiple U.S. cities; been profiled on NPR's Weekend Edition, Jazz Smithsonian (hosted by Al Jarreau), Radio Jazz Copenhagen, and many radio programs across the world; appeared as guest artists with American symphony orchestras and European big bands; opened in concert for the legendary Four Freshmen; and entertained at festivals, clubs, and international, national, and regional events of all kinds. Their first CD reached the #2 top spot in jazz sales on Amazon.com. Based in Washington, D.C., The group's fan base continues to expand to all corners of the globe.

In 2008, Sony BMG Records (Europe) released a compilation 3-CD Box Set titled *Ladies and Gentlemen: The Best of Vocal Jazz*. It features a dazzling array of iconic singers and vocal groups who define the jazz genre. Among the featured artists on this special Sony BMG release are Ella Fitzgerald, Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Carmen McRae, Peggy Lee, Betty Carter, Rosemary Clooney, Frank Sinatra, Mel Torme, Tony Bennett, Kurt Elling, Louis Armstrong, Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis, The Manhattan Transfer, Take 6, NY Voices, The Four Freshmen, Lambert/Hendricks/Ross, The Andrews Sisters, The Hi-Lo's, Tuck and Patti, ... and Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet.

Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet's career highlights include the following:

International Jazz Festivals

- La Nuit du Jazz (Nantes, France), with Cote Ouest Big Band
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday, 25th anniversary international jazz festival (Clearwater, FL)
- Ford Detroit International Jazz Festival (Detroit, MI)
- Ottawa International Jazz Festival (Ottawa, CAN)

Concerts, Festivals, Premier Jazz Clubs

- Festival Miami (FL)
- Four Freshmen Society Convention (VA), opening act for FF
- "Radio From Downtown" (MD), featured musical guest in live show with NPR cast
- Sanibel Big Arts Concert Series (FL)
- Kennedy Center Millennium Stage (DC)

- Blues Alley (DC)
- Smithsonian Jazz Café (DC)
- Richmond Jazz Society (VA)
- Blowing Rock Jazz Society (NC)
- Chestertown Jazz Festival (MD)
- Greensburg Concert Series (PA)
- The Mainstay Concert Hall (MD)
- Gettysburg Concert Series (PA)
- Williamsburg Library Concert Series (VA)
- Bluemont Concert Series (VA)
- Lake Anne Concert Series (VA)
- Reston Town Center Series (VA), opening for and tributes to Charlie Byrd
- Takoma Park Jazz Festival (MD)
- Veteran's Park Jazz Series (MD)
- St. Luke's Jazz in the Garden (DC)

Educational Clinics & Concerts

- Harford Community College (MD)
- Tiffin University (OH)
- Old Dominion University (VA)
- Randolph-Macon College (VA)
- Georgetown University (DC)
- Baltimore County Public Schools (MD)

Radio Profiles

- NPR's "Weekend Edition," hosted by Susan Stamberg
- Jazz Smithsonian's "Jazz Singers," hosted by Al Jarreau
- Radio Jazz Copenhagen
- Radio Palermo, Buenos Aires

Symphony Orchestra Pops Concerts

- McLean Orchestra (VA)
- Mary Washington College/Community Orchestra (VA)

Publications

- Taiwan Choral Music Center Newsletter (Taipei, Taiwan)
- The Washington Post
- Four Freshmen Society Newsletter
- Cadence Magazine
- All About Jazz (webzine)
- Jazz Review (webzine)
- Jazz Times

... and many functions for private and corporate clients

Here's what they have been saying about Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet...

- "Four Voices blending together and just swinging like mad!" - *Susan Stamberg, NPR*
- "A vocal ensemble blend that sounds utterly natural and seamless, as if it were simply meant to be. Swings with a nonchalance that belies the group's remarkably fine-tuned vocals." - *Mike Joyce, jazz critic, The Washington Post*
- "Make some room, Manhattan Transfer, New York Voices and Four Freshmen, for the innovative, completely ear catching multi voiced renderings of Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet...There are few groups extant whose voices blend together with such exciting harmonic synergy." - *AllAboutJazz*
- "These folks are not imitators and have developed their own bright jazz style... They have no fear and stride effortlessly between the diverse compositional styles of Chick Corea, George Gershwin and Dizzy Gillespie." - *The Jazz Review*
- "Well worth hearing live." - *Cadence Magazine*
- "Evident throughout are the Manhattan Transfer's tight boy-girl-boy-girl harmonies, their sharp jazz instincts and their same good taste.... UVJQ deserves to be heard." - *JazzTimes*
- "The first time I heard their first CD I was very sure that the UVJQ was one of the best around if not THE very best." - *Jacques Emond, Ottawa International Jazz Festival and Canadian jazz radio host*
- "They create an incredible sonic whole, much greater than the sum of its parts, though all are fine singers." - *Eric Brace, The Washington Post*
- "First rate. Just first rate!" - *Gano Evans, jazz radio host*
- "If there's a space for another vocal-jazz ensemble on the national scene, Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet is poised to claim it." - *Washington City Paper*
- "Their talent and sound is absolutely outstanding! Every bit as good as they Lambert, Hendricks, Ross." - *Four Freshmen Society California Representative*
- "Hope to hear more and more of their music." - *David Alvarez, El Cantor de Jazz (Spain)*