

The Reno
Jazz Orchestra
Chuck Reider, Music Director



Media & Press Kit
2017

BIG BAND
JAZZ
IS ALIVE
IN NEVADA



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA

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THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA RJO INTRODUCTION

/// Jazz is joyous, alive, and always in the moment and that is our motivation to bring memorable big band jazz performances to our community. Nothing in my 40-year music career is as exciting and fulfilling as standing right in front directing the music. This motivation based upon the simple love of that grand sound and the rush and wonder of playing 17 pieces to an audience totally engaged in the performance. It is magic! ///

Chuck Reider, RJO Music Director

THE MISSION OF THE RJO

Our mission is to build a greater appreciation of jazz in Northern Nevada by providing outstanding big band performances, promoting the artistry of Reno Jazz Orchestra musicians through a variety of ensembles, and supporting jazz education through a mentorship program in middle schools, high schools, and colleges.



For high resolution images by David Rocco, the RJO's official stage photographer, visit renojazzorchestra.org





THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JAN
29**

House Concert

**FEB
APR**

Spring Mentoring Program

**FEB
04**

Note-ables Gala
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno

**FEB
11 - 12**

Jazz in the Schools
UNR Nightingale Concert Hall, Reno

**FEB
02**

Jazz in the Schools Concert featuring Tom Scott
UNR Nightingale Concert Hall, Reno

**APR
29**

Reno Jazz Festival Noon Concert
UNR Nightingale Concert Hall, Reno

**JUL
29**

Roots in the Blues
Artown, Wingfield Park, Reno

**JUL
31**

Roots in the Blues
Sand Harbor State Park, Lake Tahoe

**SEP
01**

A Night with Denise Dontelli and the RJO
Whitney Peak Cargo Concert Hall, Reno

**SEP
02**

A Night with Denise Dontelli and the RJO
Sand Harbor State Park, Lake Tahoe

**DEC
16 - 17**

Annual Jazz for the Holidays Concert
UNR Nightingale Concert Hall, Reno



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA **HISTORY, PASSION, PURPOSE**

The city of Reno made its name through entertainment and music entertainment was key to bringing in tourists. Entertainers such as Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. required world class musicians and with the promise of steady employment, they came. These musicians arrived with a passion for big band jazz that lives today in Reno and the RJO is proud to continue to bring big band jazz in all its flavors. It's an intense love, this love of music, which has made Reno a magnet for world class performers. In the past, this thriving city had the demand, the means, and the incentive to build intimate, high-class showrooms in its downtown casinos, specifically for the big band productions. The city became known for its extravagant shows. In fact, at its peak, the world's largest performance stage was built in Reno. Several of these spectacular showrooms still exist, and they make playing live an especially satisfying treat. But whatever venue, historical or modern, the demand for big band jazz continues.

Formed in 1997, the RJO is the region's leading jazz organization, presenting numerous concerts and educational programs throughout Northern Nevada. We program a wide range of styles – early jazz, swing, bebop, Latin, fusion, and contemporary – performed primarily through our premiere 17-piece jazz orchestra.

We achieved 501 (c) (3) non-profit status in 1998. RJO provides a growing number of annual performances, including regular appearances at the Reno Jazz Festival, Jazz and Beyond- Carson City, Reno's Artown, the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival Monday night series, and our annual Labor Day and Christmas concerts.

These shows are a mix of ticketed concerts produced by the RJO, contracted appearances, and grant-assisted free public concerts. Recent programs include "At the Crossroads- exploring the musical world of Carlos Santana", "Such Sweet Thunder- the genius of Duke Ellington", "The Jazz Soul of Porgy and Bess", and guest artists such as Tierney Sutton, Bobby Caldwell, Bob Mintzer, and Patti Austin. We have produced four CDs, the latest being "Bring Me the Funk of James Brown".

In addition to the busy performance schedule, the Orchestra stays active in jazz education. This list includes RJO's annual Jazz in the Schools program where 15 middle and high schools perform on stage at UNR's Nightingale Hall after which a nationally recognized clinician works with them to improve their jazz styling; the Mentor Program brings RJO musicians as "artists in residence" and has increased in size and scope each year. In addition, the Orchestra brings in internationally renowned jazz artists each year who give music workshops for students that are also open to the public. All our education activities described above are funded through grants and the generosity of private donations so there is no charge to the schools or students to participate.



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA JAZZ IN THE SCHOOLS

As musicians and an orchestra, we are very motivated in producing the art form that would keep jazz alive in our schools. This means not only live performances, yet also intensive teaching programs, such as our annual Jazz and Education in the Schools programs.

Chuck Reider, RJO Music Director

In collaboration with UNR's Jazz and Improvisational Music Program, the Reno Jazz Orchestra's annual *Jazz in the Schools* event takes place each February in the Department of Music's prestigious Nightingale Concert Hall. The event helps to prepare the school groups to perform in the annual Reno Jazz Festival and introduces them to the UNR campus, the Department of Music, and the UNR jazz faculty.

Each year, this all-day event features jazz clinics presented throughout the day by nationally recognized guest clinicians from music departments and schools from around the country. Several clinics are offered by members of the UNR Jazz Faculty. The clinicians critique each student group's performance and then work with that group immediately after their performance to improve their jazz performance skills.

As part of the day's event, the Reno Jazz Orchestra hosts a 1-hour open rehearsal with our guest artist. This year our guest was legendary Tom Scott who discussed jazz improvisation, rehearsal techniques, and maybe most importantly what motivated him to become a jazz artist. Sunday afternoon following Jazz in the Schools is a full RJO performance with our guest artist. Student participants are given free tickets to the Sunday concert as well as discounted tickets for their parents,

In recent years, guest clinicians have included Craig Faniani from Sacramento, former director of the award-winning Rio Americano High School Band Program in Sacramento, John Davis, director of the Jazz Program at the University of Colorado, Boulder, George Stone of Cuesta College San Luis Obispo, and Robert Knop of Cal State San Bernardino.

Although not all UNR Jazz Faculty members participate each year, members include jazz pianist Adam Benjamin, M.F.A.; guitarist Joey Berger; guitarist Ed Corey, lecturer in music composition and theory; trumpet player Larry Engstrom, D.M.A., Director of the School of the Arts; saxophonist Peter Epstein, Director of Jazz Studies and associate professor of world music, jazz and improvisational music; string bassist Hans Halt; percussionist Andrew Heglund, D.M.A., associate professor of music theory and percussion; percussionist, Cody Remaklus, M.F.A.. This event is free and open to the public with no cost to the participating students or schools.



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA THE RJO MENTOR PROGRAM



There is no art without intention.

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington



With a mission to **"Keep Jazz Alive in Northern Nevada,"** the Reno Jazz Orchestra provides a variety of concerts throughout the year that we all look forward to sharing with locals and visitors alike.

What perhaps is just as rewarding are the investments our band and supporters make to keep our RJO Mentor Program and Jazz in the Schools Programs rich in education and music throughout Northern Nevada.

This music immersion program started in 2010 when Reno residents Dallas Smith and Susan Mazer (owners of Healing Healthcare Systems) fully funded a pilot mentor program. Since then, the program has grown to include both a fall and spring program serving ten schools each year.

The Mentor Program brings RJO musicians to selected schools to work with both the band director and students to expand their jazz knowledge and skills. Each mentor works with their assigned band about once a week over the course of several months on areas the band director feels there is room for improvement. Such things as jazz phrasing, articulation, and improvisation are some examples.

If the band director needs more help with the rhythm section, one of our RJO rhythm section musicians will be assigned. If the brass (trumpets and trombones) need some fresh advice, then an RJO brass musician will go.

Sample School Mentorship Locations ~

- Billingshurst Middle School
- Cold Springs Middle School
- Swope Middle School
- Reno High School
- Wooster High School

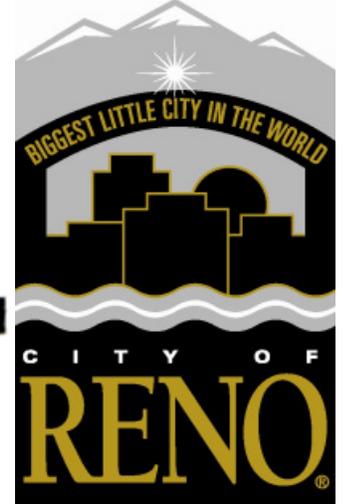
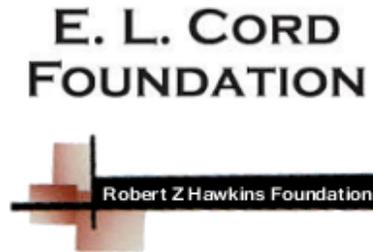
Sample Mentors ~

- Hans Halt – RJO bassist and member of the UNR Jazz Faculty
- Jim Garaventa – RJO Tenor Saxophonist and Reno Jazz Festival Adjudicator
- Bryan MacCallister – Pianist, UNR grad student
- Jonathan Phillips – RJO Alto Saxophonist and WCSJ Teacher
- Nat Kline – Tenor Saxophonist, UNR grad student
- Ben Caiazza – Trumpet, UNR grad student recruited by the RJO to provide experience in working with younger adults



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA GRANTORS & CORPORATE SPONSORS

Our Distinguished List of Grantors & Corporate Sponsors.





THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA DONORS & CORPORATE SPONSORS

To keep our mission alive, the RJO offers a variety of programs that help fund our vision.

With a shared interest among its members, the RJO's mission is the development of cultural values -- in this case the perpetuation of jazz music, jazz music education, the living history of jazz culture.

We aim to continue to create an atmosphere that perpetuates an appreciation for jazz music, culture, and history, such that from our artistic and educational efforts comes musical inspiration ... that sends the next generation of jazz musicians to new and exciting jazz worlds of their own making. The inspiration of exploring the world of jazz both new and old with our audiences... a grand voyage!

In 2017, the Reno Jazz Orchestra will mark its **twentieth-anniversary** keeping jazz alive in northern Nevada. To meet the ongoing growth in our population and to provide more cultural and educational opportunities for it, this is the time to expand and enhance RJO's performance and educational programs.

Performance

- Offer a six-concert subscription season featuring the RJO backing the finest nationally-known jazz musicians.
- Finding an intimate venue for performances featuring just the RJO.
- Commission composers and arrangers to write material specifically for the RJO.

Education

- Reaching out to more students by adding more schools to the Jazz Mentor program to ensure greater participation in the Reno Jazz Festival and The Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra.
- Providing jazz education opportunities through private lessons, improvisation workshops, and shared performances with RJO musicians.
- Offer in-school performances by RJO musicians.

Administrative

- Enhancing staff to provide increased outreach activities.
- Opening a business office in Reno.
- Hiring both an Executive Director and Music Director

Be it through a Corporate sponsorship, individual donation, or through kind-kind offers, support of our new initiatives will increase the RJOs visibility in the community thereby generating increased resources and steady funding to grow our program in support of our mission: To grow and celebrate Jazz in Northern Nevada.



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA DONORS & CORPORATE SPONSORS

Our supporters receive a variety of benefits according to the level of membership.

~ 2017 DONOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM ~

The Reno Jazz Orchestra is grateful for the committed volunteers and donors that support our performances and youth education programs.

Depending on the level of participation, Reno Jazz Orchestra donors are recognized in our Performance Programs, Website, in selected Direct Mail, and Emails to our fans. In addition, all Legacy and Leadership levels are invited to exclusive Intermission Receptions and guest artist "Meet and Greet" events.

RJO Partner Program

Band Fans Level ~ \$100 - \$499 (Benefits include invitations to private performances, backstage "Artist Meet & Greet" parties, early ticket purchase opportunities, and special seating.)

RJO Partner Level ~ \$500 - \$999 (RJO Partners receive Band Fans Level benefits plus recognition in our Performance Playbills and on our Website.)

~ LEGACY AND CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS ~

In addition, we also offer Legacy and Corporate Sponsorship Levels that include the benefits noted above plus a variety of integrated and customized advertising, marketing, and community relations opportunities.

Annual Jazz Legacy Levels

Platinum Donor	\$20,000+
Gold Level Donor	\$10,000 – \$19,999
Silver Level Donor	\$5,000 – \$9,999
Bronze Level Donor	\$1,000 – \$4,999

Corporate Gift Giving

An outright gift is the most convenient and easiest form of giving. Cash is the most common way to support the Reno Jazz Orchestra. Donors can support the Annual Fund which is an unrestricted fund that allows the RJO to give to the most pressing needs; donors can also choose to financially support specific programs.



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA BIOGRAPHIES

Music Director

Chuck Reider

Chuck has been a professional trombonist for over forty years, starting his career in San Francisco where he received a Bachelor's Degree in music from San Francisco State University. He moved to the Reno-Tahoe area in 1978 where he played his first casino gig at the Cal-Neva which featured Johnny Ray and a new upcoming comedian Jay Leno.

As a showroom musician, he performed with all the great entertainers from Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. to Diana Ross and Willie Nelson. He has performed with the Reno Philharmonic since 1984 which included two performances with the great Pavarotti. Chuck is a founding member of the Reno Jazz Orchestra and has been the Music Director since 2006. Music is his passion, and he is committed to the RJO's Mission bringing our community world-class big band performances and motivating the next generation of jazz musicians through the RJO education program.

Trumpets

Mark Curry (Lead)

Mark settled in Reno after touring with musicians Ray Charles and Woody Herman. He founded the business Curry Precision Mouthpieces, which sells mouthpieces for brass instruments. Mark appreciates "learning new and sometimes strange music styles: It's a key part of the RJO."

John Beckman

John played in the 28th Army Band at Ford Ord, Calif. He's performed in the Reno-Tahoe area since 1968 with notable musicians such as Buddy Rich and Ray Anthony. John associates jazz with emotions like love, hate, sadness, and excitement.

Terry Burns

Terry worked with headliners including Debbie Reynolds, Jack Jones, Madeline Eastman and Phil Woods. He fondly remembers his elementary music teachers who began his interest in jazz. Terry loves meeting new people and discovering each person's unique talent.

Andrew Woodard

Andrew played in the U.S. Army Studio Band at Fort Mead, Maryland. Later, he joined the United States Bicentennial Band and Chorus. They played for at high-profile events including a gala where President Gerald Ford was the guest speaker. Andrew recalls a nod of approval from Tony Bennett during a solo: "It was worth all the years of practice."



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA

BIOGRAPHIES

Trombones

Dean Carter (Lead)

Dean has played in the Reno-Tahoe area for 25 years. He's performed with Sammy Davis and worked with renowned signers Frank Sinatra and Aretha Franklin. Dean relates jazz to pure joy. "Jazz is built on the attraction and the environment it's in."

Joe Cadena

Joe left a concert of trumpeter Clifford Brown greatly inspired. After serving in the Air Force, he started his professional career with the Terry Gibbs "Dream Band." Joe joined the RJO "to play with the best musicians in town creating the highest quality music."

Rich Lewis

Richard is a founding member of the Reno Jazz Orchestra. He began playing in the Reno-Tahoe area during the late 1970s, during the casino showroom era. Richard graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a music education degree. Now, he teaches music in the Washoe County School District.

Saxophones

Peter Epstein (Lead)

Peter has developed into a unique and highly personal performer, composer, and educator with a sound and musical presence that is instantly identifiable – despite playing and recording in an astonishing variety of styles, genres, and groups. Peter has performed in more than 25 countries and appeared on over 50 recordings.

Dallas Smith

Dallas studied different styles of music, from classical to East Indian classical to American Jazz. He loves the impromptu abilities of jazz music and sound of big band. Dallas feels as though "time stands still when he plays with friends."

Doug Coomler

Doug has an accomplished career that includes performances with some of the finest musicians and singers in America. Today he is a faculty member at the University of Nevada Reno, owns a private teaching studio, and is the Director of the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Jim Garaventa

Jim is a founding member of the Reno Jazz Orchestra. He has played in the Reno-Tahoe area since 1975, during an era of casino showroom bands that began in the 60s. Jim loves the diversity in jazz music. He believes that "there are not clear lines as to what jazz is or isn't."

Mauro Di Gioia

Mauro is the founder of ReedGeek, a business in Reno that provides a reed accessories that helps create a high-quality sound for woodwind musicians of all ages. Mauro loves the complexities and fingerprint sound of individuals and ensembles.



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA BIOGRAPHIES

Rhythm

Hans Halt, bass

Hans began his career in Bay area Latin bands. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, he became a music professor at the University. Hans has been around music since he was a kid. He played piano, guitar, electric bass and built his career on the upright bass.

Bill Hecht, piano

Bill has led a very diverse career. He was the pianist for the Engelbert Humperdinck 1983 World Tour, performed with Little Anthony and the Imperials, Chuck Berry and many more. Bill sang in various productions with Nevada Opera Chorus and Reno Philharmonic Chorus and composed and arranged music for many of the more popular IGT slot machines.

Andy Heglund, drums

Andrew began playing professionally during high school for a steakhouse house band. He enjoyed the opportunities to learn different styles of music. Now, he enjoys teaching music at the University of Nevada, Reno. Andrew remembers his mom taking him to a concert featuring the drummer Buddy Rich, a musician "that greatly impacted his passion for jazz."

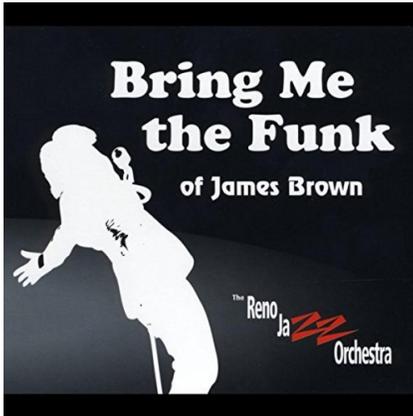
Joey Berger, guitar

Joey is an alum of the University of Nevada, Reno. He enjoys playing a variety of music including jazz and rock. At the age of 12, he remembers struggling to wrap his hands around a guitar. Joey credits his appreciation and love of jazz to his school teachers and mix tapes.





THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA DISCOGRAPHY



BRING ME THE FUNK OF JAMES BROWN

Live performance, August 2014

Original CD release, November 26, 2015

Album Notes by Chuck Reider, Music Director

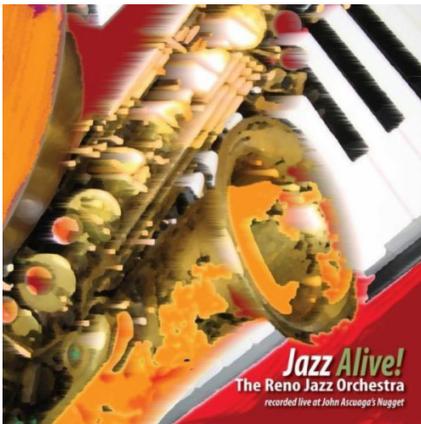
Available:

- RenoJazzOrchestra.org
- CDBaby.com
- ITunes.com
- amazon.com
- barnesandnoble.com

On a rainy night at Sand Harbor State Park/Lake Tahoe, a small but enthusiastic audience, braving the elements, inspired the band and singers to bring the funk.

James Brown had many hits before Cold Sweat, but it was that tune recorded in 1967 that brought funk to the world of music. Funk caught fire throughout jazz and pop world during the 70's and 80's, and its funkiness continues today.

The RJO knew it was time to bring James' funk to our audience, not only his music but those that took to the funk such as Herbie Hancock, Chaka Khan, Marvin Gaye, and of course Tower of Power. With the help of our featured vocalists, the band, and arrangers Hans Halt, Bill Hecht, Jim Garaventa, and I, Chuck Reider, the funk came to life. Enjoy!



JAZZ ALIVE! The Reno Jazz Orchestra

Recorded live in John Ascuaga's Nugget Celebrity Showroom Feb. 17-18, 2011

Album Notes by Chuck Reider, Music Director

Available:

- RenoJazzOrchestra.org
- CDBaby.com
- ITunes.com
- amazon.com
- barnesandnoble.com

The RJO is comprised of some of the most talented musicians in our area, but we are only a part of a very talented jazz community. With that in mind, I felt it important to share the stage with some good friends. I have had the pleasure of working with Cami Thompson and Tony Savage throughout my career. I succeeded Tony as RJO Music Director, and it was great to have him come back for a visit. Larry Engstrom is not only a gifted instrumentalist but educator as well. Peter Epstein was recruited by Larry to teach at UNR, and you will agree Larry picked well! Leonard Neidhold is not only a great jazz trombonist but is also the Reno Philharmonic Principal Trombonist. Though not featured as a soloist, Ron Legg joined us on Roger Hogan's Blues Ballad, and it was a joy to share the stage with Ron on the stage he first graced as a section saxophonist and then leader of the Nugget band.

In the audience Friday night were two standard bearers of the jazz community. Jerry Genurio and Bob Barnes defined not only the sound of jazz but showed those of us coming up not only how to play but how to be musicians. The jazz community also has some promising young talent and with the generosity of Tom Gordon, the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra recorded on the Nugget stage Friday (2/17) afternoon before the evening RJO performance.

I am very proud of the RJO's performance on this CD. It was an honor bringing the jazz community together for this project, and the two performances that comprise this CD are two evenings I will always treasure. Jazz is alive in Reno Nevada, and this CD is the proof.



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA DISCOGRAPHY



The Reno Jazz Orchestra: 2000

Studio Recording, 1999

Original CD release, 2000

Review by JACK BOWERS, *All About Jazz*

Available:

- RenoJazzOrchestra.org
- CDBaby.com
- ITunes.com
- amazon.com
- barnesandnoble.com

The members of the three-year-old Reno Jazz Orchestra cut their musical teeth in casino house orchestras backing every leading star from Presley to Pavarotti, and many of them have logged road time with such name-brand ensembles as Herman, Kenton, Basie, Rich and others. Co-leader Jack Caudill calls the RJO's middle-of-the-road repertoire "night club-type" big band music. If that's so, please reserve my front-row table without delay. Even though the orchestra isn't publishing anything I've not heard before, I could hang out in its library for hours on end without ever considering the experience wearisome. After all, how could any reasonably well-equipped big band fail to please when unraveling compositions and / or arrangements, as the RJO does, by Tom Kubis (half a dozen), Bob Florence (two), Sammy Nestico, Eric Richards or Mike Crotty. Every one of them is captivating in its own way, and the RJO performs every one of them as if to the manor born, opening smartly with Nestico's always bracing "Warm Breeze" and closing with Kubis' amiable arrangement of the age-old standard "Bye Bye Blackbird." Sandwiched between them are Kubis' quasi-Latin romp, "Peanut Face," and his deft arrangements of Billy Strayhorn's "Take the 'A' Train" and the standards "Paper Moon," "Smile" and "It Could Happen to You"; Florence's toe-tapping original, "BBC," and his dynamic treatment of Stanley Turrentine's "Sugar"; Crotty's well-aimed swipe at Lee Morgan's "Speedball," and Richards' luminous sketch of Strayhorn's unrivaled ode to hopelessness, "Lush Life." As one would expect, the RJO encompasses an arsenal of sharpshooting soloists, a number of whom are showcased on various selections. They include tenors Ron Starr ("Paper Moon," "Blackbird") and Jim Garaventa ("Smile"), trumpeter Mark Curry ("Peanut Face"), trombonist Leonard Neidhold and guitarist Frank Falcioni ("Lush Life"). Also brandishing their chops are flugel Dickie Mills ("Warm Breeze, 'A' Train"); pianist Peter Supersano ("Warm Breeze," "Sugar"); Starr, Gavarenta and drummer Tony Savage ("Sugar"); Savage, Curry, Supersano and trombonist Joe Cadena ("BBC"); and Starr, Garaventa, Falcioni and Savage ("Speedball"). Although the RJO sounds about like any other able-bodied big band playing these charts, that's beside the point; the music itself is what's important, and the Reno Jazz Orchestra is bringing it to audiences who may not otherwise undergo such an enlightening experience. And for those who've already enlisted in the cause, here's yet another reason to be gladdened by the knowledge that exemplary big bands continue to arise and flourish in cities and towns large and small both here and abroad. Here's to you, RJO, for a charming and colorful debut; long may you swing!



Reno Jazz Orchestra Live: Back to Blues

Studio Recording, 1999

Available:

- RenoJazzOrchestra.org
- amazon.com



THE RENO JAZZ ORCHESTRA CONTACT INFORMATION

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