

## Fact Sheet – Knoxville Jazz Orchestra

**Band name:** Knoxville Jazz Orchestra

**Musical style:** Big band jazz

**Hometown:** Knoxville, Tennessee

**Current CD:** *Blues Man from Memphis: More from the Musical Mind of Donald Brown*

**Instruments used:**

5 woodwinds (2 alto saxes/flutes, 2 tenor saxes/clarinets, 1 baritone sax/bass clarinet)

4 trombones

5 trumpets

piano

bass

drums

**Record label:** Blue Canoe Records

**Website:** <http://www.knoxjazz.org>

**Points of note:** The Knoxville Jazz Orchestra is a 501(c)3 organization. Since its inception in 1999, the group has performed dozens of concerts, both at home and abroad.

Internationally recognized artists who have appeared with the band include pianists Monty Alexander, Donald Brown, Hank Jones and Mulgrew Miller; saxophonists Seamus Blake, Don Braden, Vincent Herring, James Moody and Greg Tardy; trumpeters Bill Mobley, Marvin Stamm and Byron Stripling; trombonists Wycliffe Gordon and Paul McKee; vocalists Deborah Brown and Annie Sellick; and organist Dan Trudell.

The KJO has four CD recordings to its credit. The current CD, ***Blues Man from Memphis***, is a dynamic collection of material from one of jazz music's most important living composers: Donald Brown. The recording features international jazz stars John Clayton, bass; vibraphonist Stefon Harris; saxophonist Greg Tardy; and Brown himself on piano. Arrangers featured include Bill Mobley, Brown and orchestra director Vance Thompson.

The band is comprised of professional musicians, some with years of experience in other top-flight jazz ensembles (Woody Herman, Mel Lewis, Tommy Dorsey).

Other ongoing projects include the Knoxville Jazz Youth Orchestra, an honors jazz big band for area high school students. The group is chosen by audition each fall, then rehearses through the school year. The band is coached by veteran jazz educator Don Hough and performs throughout the year.

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