

Salt City Jazz Orchestra

Institutional overview (one page)

Classic swing. Salt City soul.

Contact

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Who we are

Salt City Jazz Orchestra is a Syracuse-based 17-piece concert jazz orchestra dedicated to preserving and presenting the classic big band tradition for contemporary audiences, with an emphasis on Basie-forward repertoire and ensemble excellence.

Mission

To present and sustain the classic big band tradition in Central New York through high-quality concert performances, disciplined ensemble practice, and inclusive pathways for emerging and established musicians.

Core activities

- Concert programs (45, 75, or 90 minutes) for theaters, jazz series, civic events, and fundraisers.
- Sustainable biweekly rehearsals supporting artistic rigor and long-term continuity.
- Intergenerational learning: strong student musicians and seasoned community players sharing the bandstand.

Repertoire focus

- Basie-forward swing tradition (authentic published editions).
- Adjacent canonical big band literature (Ellington/Strayhorn, Thad Jones, Holman, and related works).
- Programming designed for broad audiences and presenter needs.

Community impact

- Expands access to a historically significant American art form through local, repeatable concert programming.
- Builds regional infrastructure for large-ensemble jazz (reliable roster, sub bench, and presenter-ready materials).
- Creates paid work and professional experience opportunities as engagements are booked.

2026-2027 priorities

- Rehearsal access: secure consistent rehearsal space and remove participation barriers.
- Public performances: produce 1-3 concerts/showcases and establish a repeatable annual cycle.
- Documentation: capture high-quality audio/video for presenters and community outreach.
- Partnerships: collaborate with local presenters and education partners in the Syracuse region.

Support needs (examples)

- Rehearsal underwriter (space + COI/insurance if required).
- Concert underwriter (venue, production, marketing, musician fees).
- Documentation sponsor (photo/video + electronic press kit assets).
- Student participation support (stipends or fee relief).

Get involved

We are seeking presenting partners, rehearsal support, and community champions to launch a sustainable concert jazz orchestra in Central New York.