

MIDLAND YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA

If it's excitement you want, this wonderful big band, which has been described as one of the world's best, has it in abundance!

Unbeaten in the BBC National Big Band Competition for 25 years and twice winner of the Dutch National Big Band Competition, beating adult bands from The Netherlands, Germany and Belgium, MYJO has twice received awards for Outstanding Services to Jazz Education in Miami, Florida and Toronto, Canada, sharing the stage with some of the great names of jazz, including the Yellowjackets and Oscar Peterson.

The band has performed all over the world at major venues and festivals including the famous Montreux Jazz Festival. It has appeared at the Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, the Barbican and Ronnie Scott's Club in London. Many former MYJO players have become well-known in their own right—they include the internationally famous trombonist, Mark Nightingale.

The orchestra has performed with a wide variety of guest musicians, such as Jamie Cullum, Elaine Delmar, Madeline Bell, the late Marion Montgomery, Georgie Fame, Marlene VerPlanck, Jeff Hooper, Jacqui Dankworth, Lee Gibson and Gary Wilmott. It has also been proud to appear with such distinguished players as Benny Carter, Arturo Sandoval, Barney Kessel, Don Lusher, John Dankworth, Stan Tracey and many, many more.

The Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra's CDs include *Everything to Love*, with guest trumpeter Bobby Shew, *Flying Home*, which features a selection of well-known classics, from Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Glenn Miller's Tail End Charlie to Soul Bossa Nova by Quincy Jones, *Twist of the Wrist*, and their latest, *Have You Heard*.

MYJO is led by renowned trumpeter John Ruddick. He was a member of the late Don Lusher's Big Band, and has made numerous appearances with the BBC Big Band, Syd Lawrence Orchestra, Fat Chops Big Band, and the All Stars Big Band. John performs with his own jazz quintet, and at many venues as featured soloist. He has worked with film composer Lalo Schifrin and the late George Shearing, plus Peggy Lee and Bruce Forsyth. John is proud to have been awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Birmingham for his "distinguished musical achievements".

"Shattering talent -- played with a power and precision that would not have shamed Stan Kenton himself. Catch them if you can." - Godfrey Smith, Sunday Times

"Honestly, I haven't heard a better big band since the days of Herman, Ellington and Basie" - Digby Fairweather