

Big Band RTS (Short biography)

Big Band RTS was founded in 1948 with the name of Orchestra of Radio Belgrade and worked in the formation of a Review orchestra until 1954, when by separating the string ensemble started working as a large jazz orchestra of a Big band format.

For many years the orchestra was led by eminent conductors, composers and arrangers: Mladen "Bobby" Guteša, Vojislav "Bubisa" Simic, Zvonimir Skerl, Milivoje "Mica" Markovic, Dusko Gojkovic and Steve Gut.

Through the years the orchestra has received many outstanding awards.

At the Jazz Festival in Juan Le Pains, France, in 1960 our ensemble won the First prize. After it's first tour in 1957, the Orchestra has performed at renowned international festivals (Telaviv, Montreaux, Marseille, Thessaloniki, Munich), at several UNICEF concerts (in Belgrade, Paris and Geneva) and always with great success and exceptional reviews.

Over the years, the Big Band RTS has performed with some of world's greatest jazz musicians such as Clark Terry, Benny Golson, Johnny Griffin, Maynard Ferguson, Tony Scott, Jerome Richardson, Ernie Wilkins, Alvin Queen, Reggie Johnson, Eddie Henderson, Hank Mobley, John Hendricks, Roy Hargove, Brad Leally, Diane Schuur, Don Menza, Steve Turre, Ronnie Cuber, Randy Brecker, John Faddis, Chuck Findley, Gregory Hutchinson... and it also accompanied famous show-business stars such as Ray Charles, Danny Kay, Josephine Baker, Mireille Mathieu, Enrico Masias, Frida Lungstad (ABBA) among others.

The orchestra has cradled a number of prominent jazz musicians including Mile Pavlović, Bora Roković, Dusko Gojkovic, Lala Kovačev, Steve Gut, to name a few, and is today nurturing a whole new generation of jazz musicians.

Present conductor of Big Band RTS is Ivan Ilic.

A selection of studio albums from our discography:

"Jazz Orchestra of Radio Belgrade 1948-1978", "Music of my youth", Steve Gut & Big Band RTS "Afro Balkan sketches", "Vili Johans and Big Band Radio Belgrade", "Big Band of Radio Belgrade - 75 Years of Radio Belgrade", "Caravan", "It's time for Jazz", "Sweet Love", Dusko Gojkovic & Big Band RTS "Latin Haze", "Balkan Soul"...

