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## Enjoy the Arts (/)

### Big Band Divas give a lift, roaring through Cincinnati

(<http://enjoythearts.tumblr.com/post/153047807158/big-band-divas-give-a-lift-roaring-through>)

**Despite the tension that has inhabited itself in our Queen City, what with the recent election and other decisions at the cusp of being made, the arts have brought Cincinnatians together. Patrons have found a common ground within the arts community and came out despite maybe emotional strength to support the CCJO and one another in celebrating some of the great female legends in music!**



I sincerely felt this way - what with growing up with my grandmother humming show tunes and big band numbers, this performance turned out to be quite the treat for me. When “That’s why the Lady is a Tramp” carried through the pipes of the saxophone, I almost fell out of my seat with happiness and excitement! Rob Parton and his Big Band Orchestra definitely knew how to put on a show and keep the audience entertained!

The sounds of the big brass instruments and the rat-tat of the drums sent me back to a time before my time. I went back to the 20s and the 30s and the 40s, back when there was controversy in the heart of every city. Although the 20s may have been rough for women suffragettes or racial tension or even a stock market drop, the people of those decades still came together to celebrate the beauty of music.

Music binds people together and we see it in the tone of the instruments and lyrics pouring out of artist’s mouths. We can learn a lot from artists and jazz bands that have presented their gifts to us throughout the years and as human beings we always come together through music, whether it’s pop, hip-hop, jazz, folk or the theatre, music provides a common denominator that we can relate to and feel accepted by.

The CCJO kicked off their second performance of the Big Band series November 10 at The Redmoor in Mt. Lookout and it was quite the hit! The theme for the night was titled, Big Band Vocal Divas and the audience was presented by some musical arrangements inspired by artists such as Rosemary Clooney, Ella Fitzgerald, Natalie Cole, Lena Horne and many other greats! The musical mastermind behind the show was Rob Parton and his Big Band Orchestra, followed by the vocal contributions of Kristy Parton and Leslie Beukelman.

According to CCJO's Artistic Director, Rob Parton, the main goal of the CCJO 2022 season is to play a set of concerts that "showcases and highlights music from the American Songbook. Parton also went on to mention that he hoped to provide a concert that both entertained and engaged listeners, while featuring music written specifically for CCJO by a range of Cincinnati composers and arrangers.

"I like making people aware that the Big Band-Jazz Orchestra is still a viable although expensive, and exciting ensemble to see live," exclaimed Parton.

The night of the performance, Parton made it very apparent how he felt about the Big Band world and his passion behind it, for he shouted, "The Big Bands are NOT dead," which was followed by an uproar of applause and agreeing whistles.

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The next performance to feature in the Big Bands 2016-17 series is titled Night in Brasil and will kick off on January 19 at 7:30 pm at The Redmoor. For a complete list of upcoming CCJO performances and ticket information, you can visit (<http://t.umbl.com/redirect?z=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cincinnatijazz.org&t=ZjczZDFhMjjYzNmMTI5OGI1NjQ5ZDVhZWVhZWNjYTNjM2JkNzBhOWYwNixlUmZHdzc5dQ%3D%3D&b=t%3AmFXD1oQcnj1xoLiUNE6YYA&m=1>) [www.cincinnatijazz.org](http://www.cincinnatijazz.org)

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Spoiler Alert: The CCJO will be taking a trip back in time to commemorate the late Prince with brand new arrangements from the legendary artist. According to Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra General Manager, LeAnne Anklan, last year the Radiohead show was sold out and turned out to be standing room only, so I encourage you to purchase your tickets now for CCJO Meets Prince, to avoid the awkwardness of standing shoulder to shoulder at a performance!

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Author, photographer: Sam Kalany ([http://tumblr.com/redirect?](http://tumblr.com/redirect?z=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fin%2Fsamantha-kalany-199628b1&t=ZTgyZjllMzYxZWVjY2JhOWQ3N2E4MWJmZGI1MTI2NWQ3YmE0MWlyOCxlUmZHdzc5dQ%3D%3D&b=t%3AmFXD1oQcnj1xoLiUNE6YyA&m=1)

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Editor: Sarah Ditlinger ([http://tumblr.com/redirect?](http://tumblr.com/redirect?z=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fin%2Fsarahditlinger&t=NGRhYzY1ODk0MjhmNDU3ODAxYWQwMjM4NDRIzGQyNThhODM2NjdkMixlUmZHdzc5dQ%3D%3D&b=t%3AmFXD1oQcnj1xoLiUNE6YyA&m=1)

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