

**The award winning
MIDLAND YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA**
One of Britain's finest big bands
Directed by John Ruddick MBE



MYJO has been described as one of the world's top young jazz orchestras. It was unbeaten in the BBC National Big Band Competition for twenty years. It has also twice won the Dutch National Big Band Competition, and in addition has been awarded a citation for Outstanding Services to Jazz Education, at the International Association Jazz Educators Conference, in Miami, and in Toronto.

MYJO is widely travelled, including Russia (where it performed on State TV to a potential audience of 200 million people), Miami, Toronto and many parts of Europe, including the famous Montreux jazz festival in Switzerland. In the UK, venues include Ronnie Scott's Club, and the Royal Albert Hall, London.

*Guests have included the great Benny Carter, Bob Florence, Rob McConnell, Arturo Sandoval, Barney Kessel, Gordon Goodwin, John Dankworth, Stan Tracey, Georgie Fame, Clare Teal, Elaine Delmar, and Lee Gibson. The band has recorded CD's with Bobby Shew and Lanny Morgan. (For complete list, see www.myjo.co.uk) Its repertoire is extensive and covers the whole range of big band music, producing an exciting and entertaining concert.

A couple of years ago it featured in a big-band double header with the BBC Big Band for Radio 2., and also performed with Grammy award –winner, Gordon Goodwin and his two colleagues Eric Marienthal, and lead trumpet superstar Wayne Bergeron. In 2016 it appeared on BBC2 TV in a show called *Shakespeare Live!* as part of the 400 year celebrations of Shakespeare's birth. In this show the band performed two compositions of Duke Ellington one of which accompanied two members of the Royal Ballet

MYJO is lead by top trumpeter John Ruddick, who also works as a free-lance player. 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. He also appears with his own jazz quintet, and performs at many venues as featured soloist. He has worked with such musicians as Peggy Lee, film composer Lalo Schifrin, Jon Faddis, George Shearing, and Sir Bruce Forsyth. In 2006 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from the University of Birmingham, for his "distinguished musical achievements", and was awarded an MBE in the 2014 New Year's Honours List

MYJO also runs a junior orchestra, and this rehearses weekly at the *mac* in Canon Hill Park, Birmingham. It is a former winner of the Daily Telegraph Young Jazz Awards, and contains many promising young players who will hopefully make their way into the senior band. The orchestra is directed by former MYJO lead trumpet player, Kevin Harcourt.