



Wisconsin Union
Experiences for a lifetime

Press release

For immediate release

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Note to editors: high-resolution photos available at <http://www.uniontheater.wisc.edu/press.html>

Grammy-Winning Big Band Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra to Perform in Wisconsin Union Theater

The award-winning [Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra](#) will be performing as part of the Wisconsin Union Theater's Isthmus Jazz Series on Saturday, February 4, 2012, at 8 pm. The UW-Madison Jazz Orchestra will open. General Public tickets are \$38, \$34, \$25, Union members and UW-Madison faculty and staff \$34, \$30 and \$25, and \$10 for UW-Madison students with a valid I.D. Call the Box Office at 608-265-ARTS (2787), fax your order at 608-265-5084, buy online [here](#), or purchase in person at the Campus Arts Ticketing box office in Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. or Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave.

[Village Vanguard Jazz Orchestra](#) started as the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra in 1966 when legendary club owner Max Gordon booked it for three Mondays in February. It has performed continuously, every Monday, ever since. Critical acclaim, awards and international success followed. In 1979, tired of frequent traveling and the economic uncertainty that even great jazz musicians endure in America, Jones left the band to accept leadership of the Danish Radio Orchestra in Copenhagen.

Lewis, together with Bob Brookmeyer who played and wrote music for the band, continued the tradition of superb big band music, a tradition the band carried on after Lewis' death in 1990.

Five decades after it was established, the band still plays each Monday at the famed New York City club and the original precepts of sound and swinging are proudly held and displayed along with creativity and experimentation.

The orchestra's "The Way – Music of Slide Hampton" won a Grammy in 2004 for Best Arrangements for Jazz Orchestra. Their 2005 "Up from the Skies," the music of the ensemble's pianist, composer and arranger Jim McNeely, was nominated for two Grammys, including Best Jazz Ensemble. Their "Monday Night at The Village Vanguard" received a Grammy Nomination for the Best Instrumental Arrangement and a Grammy Award for the Best Large Jazz Ensemble. Having played all over Europe and elsewhere, the orchestra has a yearly commitment to Assisi Jazz, a concert series in Assisi, Italy.

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Administration: 608-262-2202 • Box Office: 608-262-2201 • Fax: 608-265-5084 • www.union.wisc.edu/theater

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