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**Another Big Band Bash:
Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra & Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra
Jazz at Lincoln Center
Season 16
Program 33, Airdate: 5/14/09**

1) Music: Count Basie "Stompin at the Savoy"

2) Pierce:

IN THE SWING ERA, WHEN THE BIG BANDS RULED, DUKE ELLINGTON, PAUL WHITEMAN, and FLETCHER HENDERSON FILLED THEIR ORCHESTRAS WITH THE BEST MUSICIANS OF THE DAY. -- AND THEY OFTEN HAD TO PROVE IT. IN SOME DANCE HALLS, AS MANY AS SIX BANDS could HOLD FORTH in an evening, EACH VYING FOR SUPREMACY WITH A DEMANDING AUDIENCE.

FOR A FAMOUS DUEL IN 1938 AT NEW YORK'S SAVOY, THE BALLROOM, WAS PACKED -- HUNDREDS WERE TURNED AWAY. THAT NIGHT, THE CHICK WEBB BAND BEAT OUT THE COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA --- AND IT'S SAID THAT AMONG THOSE WHO WERE THERE, THERE ARE STILL ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHO WON.

WELL, BIG BANDS DON'T OFTEN GET TOGETHER ON STAGE THESE DAYS. IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO SUPPORT ONE BIG BAND IN CONCERT, LET ALONE TWO OR MORE. BUT WE REMEMBER THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS TRADITION, AND AT THE HOUSE OF SWING WE'RE CELEBRATING IT IN SOUND AND SPIRIT.

FROM THE WEST COAST, THE MIGHTY CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA HAS COME TO TAKE ON OUR RESIDENT JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA -- AND YOU'VE GOT A FRONT ROW SEAT.

IT'S JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER. I'M WENDELL PIERCE.
GET READY TO SWING

3) Music fades

4) Pierce:

THE HOME TEAM HAS WON THE TOSS BACKSTAGE. SO WE BEGIN IN THE ROSE THEATER WITH THE HOSTS -- THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA -- LAYING DOWN A CHALLENGE WITH JOE HENDERSON'S, “INNER URGE.”

5) Music: Inner Urge

10:55

6) Pierce:

THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH JOE HENDERSON'S TUNE -- IN AN ELEGANT ARRANGMENT BY TED NASH -- “INNER URGE”

NOW IF THERE'S A WORTHY ADVERSARY FOR OUR HOME TEAM, IT'S THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA.

7) Vox: Phil Schaap:

“The thing I would say I most recall of the CHJO performance over that weekend is that they were competitive, they came to do battle.”

8) Pierce:

JAZZ WRITER AND PRODUCER PHIL SHAAP.

8a) Vox: Phil Schaap

“They didn’t just come to play, they came to win. And I think that’s the reason that the music was great”

9) Pierce:

FORMED IN THE 1980S, WHEN MOST BIG BANDS HAD FOLDED -- THE CLAYTON HAMILTON BAND WAS SURPRISINGLY SUCCESSFUL FROM THE START. BASSIST JOHN CLAYTON, HIS BROTHER THE ALTO SAXOPHONIST JEFF CLAYTON, AND DRUMMER JEFF HAMILTONE HAD EACH STUDIED MUSIC IN COLLEGE AND TOURED WIDELY; HAMILTON WITH THE LIONEL HAMPTON AND WOODY HERMAN’S BAND, THE BROTHERS CLAYTON -- WITH COUNT BASIE’S ORCHESTRA.

SO IT’S NO SURPRISE TO HEAR THAT BLUESY BASIE SOUND, WITH A THUNDERING BRASS SECTION IN THEIR MUSIC —

ONSTAGE NOW, AT THE ROSE THEATER, THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA ENTERS OUR BATTLE ROYALE WITH JOHN CLAYTON’S COMPOSITION --- “I BE SERIOUS (‘BOUT DEM BLUES.)”

9) Music: I Be Serious (‘Bout Dem Blues)

9:28

10) Pierce:

“I BE SERIOUS (‘BOUT DEM BLUES).” AND THEY MOST CERTAINLY ARE.... THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA. FROM LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. AGAIN, PHIL SCHAAP.

11) Vox: Phil Schaap ---

“The Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, every chair is filled by someone is who very, very great.”

12) Pierce:

THE BAND’S THREE LEADERS CERTAINLY SET A HIGH STANDARD. JOHN CLAYTON FIRST STUDIED WITH THE BASS GIANT RAY BROWN, BUT HE ALSO HAD CLASSICAL TRAINING AND EVEN HELD THE BASS CHAIR FOR FIVE YEARS AT THE AMSTERDAM PHILHARMONIC.

HIS BROTHER JEFF PLAYS A SOARING ALTO THAT CAN BE HEARD IN WORKS WITH MICHAEL JACKSON, MADONNA, RAY CHARLES, AND ELLA FITZGERALD. HE’S A MUSICIAN IN DEMAND.

JEFF HAMILTON HELPS DRIVE THE ORCHESTRA WITH HIS VERSATILE, YET UNDERSTATED DRUM STYLE. YOU MIGHT FIND IT RECALLS THE SOFT BUT DRIVING RHYTHM PERFECTED BY MEL LEWIS IN THE THAD JONES / MEL LEWIS ORCHESTRA.

13) Music Window

14) Pierce:

THE CLAYTON –HAMILTON BANDSTAND IS FILLED WITH VIRTUOSI DRAWN FROM THE RICH LOS ANGELES STUDIO SCENE THAT SERVES THE FILM AND TV INDUSTRIES. BUT AMONG THE MOST DISTINGUISHED IS SNOOKY YOUNG -- //VETERAN OF THE JIMMY LUNCEFORD AND COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRAS. HE PLAYED WITH DOC SEVERINSON ON THE “TONIGHT SHOW” AND THIS PAST YEAR WAS NAMED AN AMERICAN JAZZ MASTER BY THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

CHECK OUT SNOOKY’S TRUMPET IN THIS FAMOUS JOHNNY HODGES’ TUNE – “SQUATTY ROO.”

15) Music: Squatty Roo 8:06

16) Pierce:

THROWIN’ IT DOWN IN THIS BATTLE ROYALE -- THE CLAYTON HAMILTON ORCHESTRA WITH JOHNNY HODGES’ “SQUATTY ROO” --- ARRANGED BY JOHN CLAYTON.

17) Pierce:

AND IF YOU ARE ENJOYING THIS BATTLE OF THE BANDS, WE’VE GOT

LOTS MORE GREAT ONES IN OUR BROADCAST ARCHIVE. CHECK ‘EM ALL OUT ,
AT J-A-L-C (DOT) ORG SLASH JAZZCAST.

AND WHILE YOU ARE LISTENING TAKE A LOOK AT THE AHMET ERTEGAN
JAZZ HALL OF FAME ONLINE. IT’S ALL AT: J-A-L-C DOT ORG. SO CLICK IN –
AND BRING HOME THE SWING.

THIS IS JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER. I’M WENDELL PIERCE.

18) Music: (midbreak): Cool Struttin’

19) Pierce:

FORGING THE SOUND OF A SINGLE BIG BAND IS A CHALLENGE --
GROOMING SIXTEEN OR MORE PLAYERS WITH DIVERSE STYLES, STRENGTHS
AND EGOS INTO ONE SMOOTH SOUND. TRYING TO COMBINE TWO BANDS IN
PERFORMANCE SEEMS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

IRA NEPUS FROM THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA USED TO
PLAY TROMBONE IN THE WOODY HERMAN BAND. HE REMEMBERS THE THREE
WEEKS WHEN THAT BAND SHARED A STAGE WITH THE DUKE ELLINGTON
ORCHESTRA. WYNTON MARSALIS TELLS THE STORY.

20) Vox: Wynton Marsalis

“Woody would play a tune and Duke would play a tune. Then Duke’s men would
come over and play Woody’s book and Woody’s men would come over and it
was the worst thing you ever heard. (laughter) He said it was great as long as
they stayed on their sides of the stage. He said because when they started to
look at Duke and their music, they didn’t know what they were looking at. And
they said when Duke and them looked at their music, they hadn’t looked at music
at so long, they just looked down at it .. so he dispelled that idea...”

21) Pierce:

BUT WHAT’S A BAND BATTLE WITHOUT A REAL CHALLENGE? SO WE’RE
GOING TO GIVE IT A TRY – AS THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA

JOINS THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA ON AN ORIGINAL TUNE BY JOHN CLAYTON. THIS IS “RAGABLUES.”

22) Music: Ragablues

8:56

23) Pierce:

JOHN CLAYTON’S “RAGABLUES.” THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA AND THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA ON THE STAGE OF ROSE HALL.

NOW WE’LL MIX IT UP SOME MORE--- AS THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA INVITES SOME OF THE MUSICIANS OF THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA TO CROSS THE STAGE AND JOIN IN ON THIS ONE – IT’S “MOVEMENT TWELVE” OF WYNTON MARSALIS’ “VITORIA SUITE. ”

24) Music: Mvt XII

7:05

25) Pierce:

“MOVEMENT 12 FROM THE VITORIA SUITE” COMPOSED BY WYNTON MARSALIS AND PERFORMED BY THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA WITH GUEST SOLOISTS FROM THE CLAYTON-HAMILTON JAZZ ORCHESTRA--- CHARLES OWENS ON TENOR SAX, KEITH FIDDMONT ON ALTO AND TRUMPETER CLAY JENKINS ---- ON STAGE IN THE HOUSE OF SWING.

IF THE SPIRIT OF DUKE ELLINGTON IS ALMOST INVARIABLY SUMMONED WHEN THE JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA PLAYS, THE CLAYTON HAMILTON BAND TENDS TO CALL UP THEIR OWN JAZZ GIANT. BASSIST AND CO-LEADER JOHN CLAYTON

26) Vox: John Clayton

“We’re going to use this moment to pay homage to the great Count Basie. This is actually a number that Ray Brown co-wrote with Monty Alexander and Herb Ellis...They

