

Jazzical!



Boston Philharmonic Orchestra

Benjamin Zander, Conductor

Eleventh Annual Benefit Concert

with the

Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble

March 21, 1998

Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble

The Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble of New Orleans was formed in 1980 to recapture a glorious but largely mis-remembered or forgotten music from the grip of myths, clichés, and caricatures. Its genesis traces to the initiative of John Chaffe, Fred Lonzo, John Joyce, Fred Starr, the late Sherwood Mangiapane, and Curt Jerde, then curator of the unique William Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive at Tulane University. The Ensemble's effort to free classic jazz from later accretions can be compared to an architect restoring a fine old building to its original condition. A parallel from the world of music would be the British conductor Roger Norrington and other champions of the "authentic performance" movement, who seek to recapture the lost textures of classical music by stripping away changes introduced over time and by using period instruments.

Unlike the architects or latter-day Mozartians, members of the Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble are themselves part of the tradition they seek to revive. Founding member Sherwood Mangiapane began his career in the 1920s and collaborated with many pioneer players thereafter. John Chaffe is the musical heir of Edmond Souchon, founder of the Six and Seven Eighths String Band in 1915. Bassist Walter Payton's great grandfather played with the legendary Buddy Bolden. Joe Muranyi was a prominent member of Louis Armstrong's All Stars, and Lew Green grew up playing with pioneers Lil Hardin Armstrong, George Brunis and Natty Dominique. Fred Starr played the Mississippi riverboats, Willie Singleton is a veteran of the Basie and Ellington bands, and Terry Waldo was a student of the late great Eubie Blake. John Joyce played for years on Bourbon Street and with Pete Fountain, and Fred Lonzo grew up playing the music as it was intended to be performed, for dancers in the dance-crazy city of New Orleans. He played both in the aromatic Maple Leaf Bar on Oak Street and at some of the same events for which the classic bands played, in the "golden age" (1915-1930).

It is no wonder that jazz historian Al Rose called the Ensemble "the most authentic group on the scene today, and that jazzman and New Orleans jazz chronicler Danny Barker exclaimed that he "hadn't heard that sound in years."

The Ensemble performs works associated with such New Orleans orchestras as The Owls, The Creole Jazz Band, The Original Dixieland Jazz Band, The New Orleans Rhythm Kings, and the Red Hot Peppers. It features compositions by "Jelly Roll" Morton, Armand Piron, "King" Oliver, and Nick Larciera, among others. Whether recovered from archival manuscripts or rare printed scores, reconstructed from early recordings, or simply passed down from the creators themselves, the arrangements of the LRJE exude the lost textures of an earlier age.

The LRJE has performed throughout the United States, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. The band was the first jazz group of any kind to give the prestigious Doubleday Lecture at the Smithsonian, and in 1991 it was invited to perform at the Grammy Awards in Hollywood. It has also appeared with many symphony orchestras and, with the Princeton Chamber Symphony, gave the American premiere of Künneke's Suite for Jazz Band and Symphony Orchestra. The Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble has issued six recordings, the two most recent (1996) for Naxos.

Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble
The Artists

Dave Huxtable: Banjo, guitar. Guest artist Dave Huxtable fill the chair left vacant by the recent death of LRJE co-founder John Chaffe. Widely recorded over 40 years as a banjo professional, Huxtable, a Massachusetts resident, continues the virtuoso banjo tradition of the 1920s.

Lew Green: Cornet. A fourth generation American bandsman, nephew of George Hamilton Green of Green's Novelty Orchestra (1916-27). With original Salty Dogs and Green's New Novelty Orchestra, performed with Lil Armstrong, George Brunis.

John Joyce: Drums. Juilliard-trained as a musicologist. A founding member of the LRJE, Joyce is the LRJE's link with the Hogan Jazz Archive at Tulane University and edits *The Jazz Archivist*.

Joel Helleny: Trombone. Texas-born, Helleny is a swaggering taidgate trombonist with a distinguished recording career as a soloist.

Joe Muranyi: Clarinet, saxophone. Formerly with World's Greatest Jazz Band, Louis Armstrong's All Stars, and Village Stompers of "Washington Square" fame; long a fixture at Jimmy Ryan's in New York City.

Walter Payton: Bass, helicon tuba. A veteran of the Olympia Brass Band and the New Orleans Ragtime Orchestra, long taught music in New Orleans schools. His great-grandfather played bass with legendary Buddy Bolden. Payton's son is a rising star and LRJE alumnus, trumpet player Nicholas Payton.

Willie Singleton: Cornet. Classically trained as a pianist, Baton Rouge native "Sweet Willie" performed with the Duke Ellington and Count Basie bands and appears frequently on Mississippi riverboats and on Bourbon Street.

Fred Starr: Clarinet, saxophones. Formerly with Queen City Jazz Band and the Federal Jazz Commission, Starr is the author of *Bamboula!* a biography of proto-jazz New Orleans composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk; heads (with Gunther Schuller) the Smithsonian Institution's Jazz Masterworks Editions. A founding member of the LRJE.

Terry Waldo: Piano. Described by *New Yorker* as "a witty charmer who looks like a slightly down-at-the-heels version of T.S. Eliot." Waldo, a student of Lubic Blake, is a