

## Pasadena Jazz Orchestra

"One of the cultural institutions that mark a city as "major" is a symphony orchestra, usually bearing its' name, but classical music is essentially an import in America," notes Paul Lines, Artistic Director of the Pasadena Jazz Institute. "Jazz is America's classical music and I believe that every major American city should have a jazz orchestra bearing its' name, hence the Pasadena Jazz Orchestra, one of the Country's few professional, city-named ensembles of its kind." This 17-member assembly of the area's finest jazz artists has been keeping music of the Big Band era alive since it's debut performance of the Ellington/Strayhorn Nutcracker Suite on December 8th, 2002 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. After its debut, the Los Angeles Times noted "The PJO made a convincing case for itself as one of the Southland's elite big Jazz ensembles." Known for its "convincing authenticity" of classic jazz repertoire by composers including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Henry Mancini and more, the PJO has become one of the cultural landmarks of the burgeoning Pasadena arts scene.