

Julian Bliss Septet

“Bliss is capable of swinging mightily and adapting his formidable technique to the task at hand.”

Jazz Times



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Julian Bliss Septet

Biography

The Julian Bliss Septet was formed in 2010 and quickly became widely known for their trademark inspiring jazz-fuelled shows which have captivated audiences across the globe. Their dazzling virtuosity, extraordinary musicianship and charming humour shines through their programmes of swing, Latin, American and jazz music.



The band has played at some of the most prestigious venues and festivals around the world, including the famous Ronnie Scott's and Wigmore Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Bermuda Jazz Festival and on multiple US tours to sold-out clubs and concert halls including Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln Center (New York).

The Septet's early shows were inspired by the great Benny Goodman whose iconic music captivated Julian Bliss as a young musician. Taking a fresh, modern approach to Goodman's work, the Septet's first album (The King of Swing) and live performances gained widespread critical and popular acclaim and these programmes remain in great demand today. Expanding their repertoire and working with new genres of music, the group used their mastery of Western classical, swing and jazz to complement the rich heritage of Latin and wider American traditions. Co-founder Neal Thornton (piano) created a programme of new arrangements of the instantly recognizable style of Gershwin and his contemporaries (Celebrating Gershwin). Including music from Porgy and Bess, Rhapsody in Blue and popular favourites - I Got Rhythm, Embraceable You and Lady Be Good – the programme reminds us why these great tunes are referred to as timeless classics.

The Septet's new programme – Hooray for Hollywood – showcases some of the greatest music that has come from the movies. Starting with silent film and the early 'talkies', the band echoes music from wartime & Fred Astaire films, musicals and even the classic Disney blockbusters. Enjoy toe-tapping, glorious nostalgia and great music such as Cheek to Cheek, As Time Goes By, Sing Sing Sing, Days of Wine and Roses and My Favourite Things.

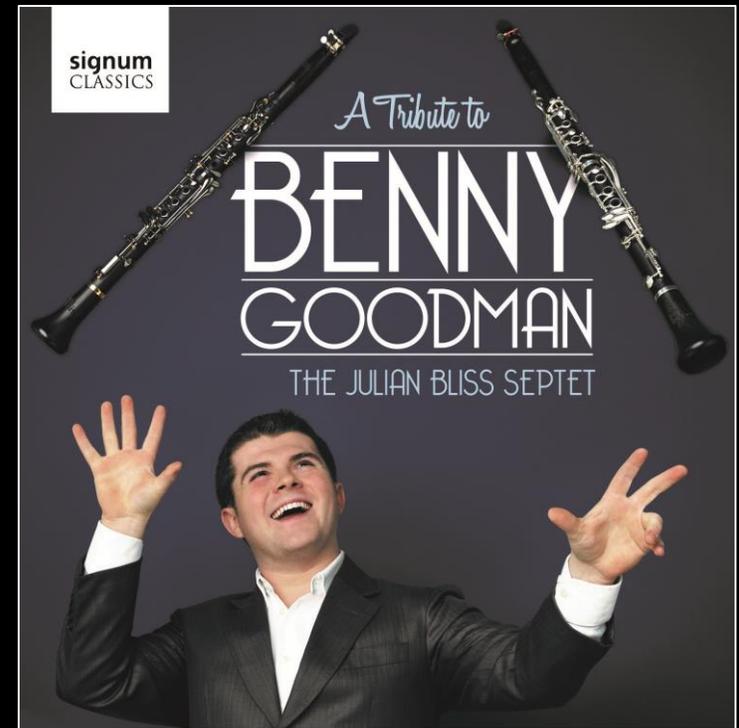
Discography

A TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN

(2012)

Recreating the exciting sound of swing from the 30's and 40's, Julian Bliss's dynamic virtuosity leads his sextet through some of the great tunes of the swing era, staying true to the authentic feel but naturally with a modern twist.

Julian Bliss says: "I decided in the summer of 2010 that I wanted to start my own Jazz group. I enlisted the help of Neal Thornton (Piano) to help make this dream a reality. We spent months listening to every version of each tune we could find, and putting together our own versions while still being mindful of the light and fun feel Goodman captured all those years ago. We then had the task of putting the rest of the band together. We were specifically looking for musicians that had a great interest in the Swing era, and I must say we couldn't have picked a better set of players."



Performance Programmes

TRIBUTE TO BENNY GOODMAN

This programme takes you through some of the great tunes of the swing era, focusing on the work of the great Benny Goodman. Julian will talk you through the music, sharing anecdotes and stories about Goodman's life.

The set includes favourites such as:

- *Sing Sing Sing*
- *Don't be that Way*
- *Stompin' at the Savoy*

And more!

CELEBRATING GERSHWIN

The Julian Bliss Septet delve into the treasured Tin Pan Alley sounds of Gershwin and his contemporaries.

- Suite from *Porgy and Bess*
- Excerpt from *Rhapsody in Blue*
- *I Got Rhythm*
- *Embraceable You*
- *Lady Be Good*

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD

With their irrepressible, jazz-infused energy, the Julian Bliss Septet presents some of the great music that has come out of Hollywood. Starting with the silent film and the early 'talkies' in the depression years, the Septet also plays music from wartime movies, musicals and even the classic Disney blockbusters. Including *Cheek to Cheek*, *As Time Goes By*, *Sing Sing Sing*, *Days of Wine and Roses* and *My Favourite Things*, be tempted to dance and sing-along to this much-loved music, played by one of the most sparkling and talented jazz ensembles of our day.

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Reviews

“The Julian Bliss Septet and A Tribute to Benny Goodman celebrates not only the virtuoso pioneer of American swing music but captures the vibrant joy of a simple unadorned melody played with feeling and conviction... From classical to jazz to making music affordable for the next generation, Julian Bliss and his Septet certainly have earned their five stars!”

[Critical Jazz](#)

“Unlike many classical musicians, Bliss is capable of swinging mightily and adapting his formidable technique to the task at hand... Good music is timeless, especially when played with such enthusiasm and flair.”

[Jazz Times](#)

“It isn’t just his technique, though that is astonishing enough. It’s the wit, poise and vivacity in his playing. In short, it is the pure intuition leading him straight to the heart of what he plays.”

[The Times](#)

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Julian Bliss Clarinet
Martin Shaw Trumpet
Lewis Wright Vibraphone
Neal Thornton Piano
Colin Oxley Guitar
Tim Thornton Bass
Ed Richardson Kit

JulianBliss.com/Septet