



## Dave Hankin Big Band in Plymouth (review)

*18th June 2008*

With the heyday of the Big Band era now a distant 70 or so years ago, today's big bands can do one of two things - stick with the well tried and tested formula of performing standard arrangements of that day re-creating the music of the bands led by the likes of Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman - or move on with the times and develop a sound consistent with today's

musical tastes.

The Dave Hankin Big Band have chosen to go down the contemporary road. And why not, since Dave Hankin himself is an accomplished composer/arranger who wrote most of the evening's programme.

Members of the audience who turned up to Sunday's concert at the Athenaeum Theatre expecting the former were instantly seduced as the band roared into their opening numbers with gusto and aplomb, being met with much more than polite applause. The place was buzzing!

Introduced as one of the world's leading trombonists, Gordon Campbell, the band's guest soloist, played like a dream. His easy going style and luscious tone demonstrated why he is the first call trombonist in the country.

He had even passed up a night's performance at the Royal Albert Hall to be with the Band on their premiere performance.

The highlight of the concert was arguably the band's rendition of the late Bob Florence's composition Magic Time. In a samba setting, this piece truly showed off the band's proficiency with outstanding soloing coming from Sam Smith on trombone and Gav Martin on keyboards.

What was most impressive was the size of the audience, which included the Lord Mayor. After all this was the band's inaugural concert.

Word of the band's prowess has already reached far and wide and members of the audience had travelled from as far as Portsmouth, Bedfordshire and Essex just to experience this truly fantastic sound.

Watch this space, we will be hearing a lot more about this band in the future.

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