



Authentic Swing in Living Color

Swingin' on the Silver Screen

Greetings from Long Island's own **SWINGTIME BIG BAND** and bandleader Steve Shaiman! We are delighted to make our Tilles Center debut this evening with a special program for this Summer Drive-In Concert series! Harkening back to the classic era of Hollywood and the huge boom of drive-in movies, tonight we spotlight the music of the Great American Songbook and the films which introduced or featured these timeless melodies & lyrics!

Today's date—August 14—holds particular significance, since this is the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, which marked the official end of WWII. We commemorate this significant historical event with Big band classics from 1945 and the War years, including hits from Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Jimmy Dorsey, and Les Brown.

Also, our engaging vocalists Bobbie Ruth and Zack Alexander join us to salute some of the most important singers of our time, with Bobbie paying centennial tribute to 2020's 100th 'Birthday Girls' Helen O'Connell and Peggy Lee, and Zack saluting the immortal Frank Sinatra.

This has been a most unusual year for all of us, to say the least, so we are especially pleased to play for you this evening! We are also pleased to honor the WWII Vets on this important anniversary, since they sacrificed so much for our freedom, so I hope you will join us in thanking them, along with all the men and women who have served our country, past and present.

So, please sit back and enjoy this uniquely American music that defined an entire era, and which is still instantly recognized worldwide as "Made in the USA!"

SELECTIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

LEADER

Steve Shaiman

REEDS

Gary Meyer—*Alto Sax, Clarinet*

Eric Kay—*Tenor Sax, Clarinet*

Noel Monat—*Alto Sax, Clarinet*

Luke Batson—*Tenor Sax, Clarinet*

Andrew Carrig—*Baritone Sax,
Clarinet*

TRUMPETS

Ron Fox

Charles Clausen

Barry Schwalb

Vincent Cinquemani

TROMBONES

Chris Rinaman

Kevin DeLargy

Tom Pergola

Bill Cordone

RHYTHM

Dr. Bruce Shulman—*Piano*

Kevin Allen—*Guitar*

John 'X' Ray—*Bass*

Rob 'Sticks' Levy—*Drums*

VOCALS

Bobbie Ruth

Zack Alexander



Dedicated to the performance of America's greatest popular standards, **SWINGTIME BIG BAND** is a 20-piece authentic swing band comprised of master interpreters of music from the Swing Era (mid-1930's through early 1950's). Hailed by *The New York Times* as "Musicians who make the sounds of the pre-rock era rock," and by *Newsday* as "Long Island's leading professional big band...dedicated to the Great American Songbook," the ensemble specializes in performing Big Band classics as originally recorded, bringing to life the style and the spirit of this uniquely American music for today's audiences to experience in living color. In recognition of the band's efforts in "perpetuating, promoting & performing with integrity the sounds of the Big Band Era," **SWINGTIME** was officially recognized by the Big Band Hall of Fame in 2007 as "Ambassadors of Big Band Music."

SWINGTIME thrills concert audiences and Ballroom dancers alike with authentic recreations of the timeless swing music of such great Big Band leaders as Count Basie, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Les Brown, Harry James, Gene Krupa, Woody Herman, Ted Heath, Charlie Barnet and Stan Kenton, among many others. Such swing classics can be heard on the band's latest CD—*IN LIVING COLOR*, which is a compilation of recent live concert performances, as a follow-up to the band's best-selling debut disc, *LIVE...FROM NEW YORK*.

SWINGTIME is a regularly featured band at Lincoln Center for its renowned Midsummer Night Swing festival, having played five times on that grand stage since 1999. For its 2007 Lincoln Center show, **SWINGTIME** had the distinction of being singled out as the only swing band featured in *Time Out New York's* select highlights of that season's Midsummer Night Swing. Just some of the many other prestigious venues at which band members have performed include: Carnegie Hall, David Geffen (Avery Fisher) Hall, Radio City Music Hall, New York State Theatre, the Plaza Hotel, the Waldorf Astoria, Town Hall, The Friars Club, Tavern on the Green and the Rainbow Room.

With the recent renaissance in popularity of both swing music and ballroom dancing, this versatile ensemble has been enjoying remarkable success playing both the classic swing that is **SWINGTIME's** calling card and a wide variety of music to accommodate the many varied styles requested by ballroom dancers, including the Lindy, Fox Trot, Peabody, Cha-Cha, Tango, Merengue, Rhumba and Mambo.

Among the 20 consummate Big Band jazz musicians who complete **SWINGTIME's** traditional instrumentation of reeds, brass and rhythm are numerous accomplished soloists, including performers with Lionel Hampton, Billy Eckstine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Jerry Vale, Ed Shaughnessy, the Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller and Buddy Rich Big Bands, as well as veterans of such popular regional big bands as Ira Alexander's Swingtimers, Hal Hoffman Orchestra, Ben Grisafi Big Band, Al Miller Big Band, Danny Vincent Orchestra and Bob Rotunda's Stardusters Big Band.

SWINGTIME features a female vocalist--Bobbie Ruth--who recreates the "gal vocal" stylings of such legendary singers as Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald, Eydie Gormé, Helen O'Connell, Billie Holiday, Rosemary Clooney, Bette Midler and Judy Garland, and the band's male singer--Zack Alexander (winner of Hoboken's 2016 *Sinatra Idol* contest!)--emulates such Big Band crooners and swingers as Nat "King" Cole, Bobby Darin, Joe Williams, Dean Martin and, of course, the immortal Frank Sinatra.

Leading the band is saxophonist and artistic director **Steve Shaiman**, a passionate advocate of Big Band swing for his entire musical life. Audiences are enthralled by Steve's animated leadership and the informative historical background he imparts about both the music and the bandleaders during the performance. Together with his **SWINGTIME** colleagues, Steve is committed to keep this essential American music alive by performing as often as possible for audiences of all ages.

In addition to bringing the joy of swing to summer concert-goers in the beautiful public parks and beaches across its native Long Island and at Music Festivals throughout the greater New York Tri-State area and Pennsylvania, the **SWINGTIME BIG BAND** stays busy spreading the gospel of swing music year-round, with public and private concerts and ballroom dance engagements.