

The Cab Calloway Orchestra

You won't forget it: those smooth shiny instruments all in a row, the soloist singing and playing their hearts out, the silky smooth ensemble passagework, those spicy brass harmonies, the whole room bouncing and swaying to the irresistible rhythm, everybody singing "HI DE HO!".... It must be The Cab Calloway Orchestra, now under the Baton of Cab's Grandson: Calloway Brooks.

The Calloway family has been dazzling audiences since the 1920's and this year is no exception. Calloway Brooks, along with the Cab Calloway Orchestra deliver both the authentic sound of a hot Jazz Orchestra and a snazzy stage style ... bringing out a Jump, Blues, and Boogie experience of "Swing that is king and Jive that's alive".

Using the Calloway bands original vintage orchestrations as a starting point, coupled with the awesome musicians who have played with this big band for decades, The Cab Calloway Orchestra creates the authentic unforgettable sensation of a Modern Jazz Orchestra in full flight. So if you want to Swing Swing Swing, and every other thing, strap on your Zoot suit with the reet pleet and bring that Cotton Club brand of hot sophistication and the REAL Minnie The Moocher to your stage!

About Calloway Brooks

Brooks started playing guitar at age 7, won his first musical awards at age 9 and went on to become a graduate of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music. He credits the many years of experience with his grandfather Cab Calloway as a cornerstone of his musical education.

Brooks has performed with such Jazz Orchestras as The Duke Ellington Orchestra, and The Lionel Hampton Orchestra, and of course The Cab Calloway Orchestra, and with Kenny Burrell, Ran Blake,, Don Byron, Anthony Braxton, Sheila Jordan, Roy Merriweather, Joel Martin, Ellis Larkins, Rufus Reid, Alan Dawson, Milton Hilton, Gary Bartz, Big Nick Nicholas, Cyrus Chestnut, and Marshall Alen.

Brooks performs at all sorts of venues and events, including The Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, Jordan Hall, Pall Hall, Paine Hall, The Meyerhauf Auditorium, and The Rome Opera House.

A Dozen Cab Calloway Facts Everyone Should Know!

- ◆ Born Dec. 25, 1907, Rochester, N.Y., Cab Calloway died Nov. 18, 1994, in Hockessin, DE. During his childhood in Baltimore MD, Cab Calloway grew up knowing and emulating Chick Webb Cab was with a band as a teen and was a budding drummer, singer and saxophonist.
- ◆ Cab moved to Chicago to study law in his college years, but learned his chops from Pops instead: Of all his options in Chicago, Louis Armstrong chose 20 year old Cab as his musical successor at the Sunset Café. Cab was the only major big band leader with Louis as mentor.
- ◆ While at Harlem's Cotton Club, Cab made history as the first African American bandleader - to pen and perform a number one hit recording, and the first selling over one million records.
- ◆ He was an Afro-American and Native American Neo-Primitivist and Urban Folklorist who understood the primal power of bringing out the music in the audience itself, which is the true essence of Minnie the Moocher: inspiring the whole world to sing some real jazz
- ◆ Cab was by far America's leading and most beloved male scat singer for almost 20 years
- ◆ Cab Calloway's Orchestra is widely viewed as the strongest link between Louis and Bebop, (Bird named his firstborn after Leon "Chu" Berry), and the man precursor to Jump and R&B
- ◆ Cab, is a hero in the Rap and Hip-Hop world and has young artists ranging from Janet Jackson and Alicia Keys to Tupac Shakur, Notorius K, OutKast who adopt Cab's ideas. Cab's Zoot suit is the first chronological item in the national touring "Rap" museum exhibit
- ◆ His profound impact as an Urban neo-primitivist were not limited to music-Cab also transformed notions of dress, dance, urban folklore, and the English language itself
- ◆ Most likely the 2 biggest popular myths about Cab were: 1- his use of responsorial was a "gimmick". - When in fact, it was integral to Cab's tribal "bring out the music in each other" method of performance. 2- that he flattened his hair - While in fact, Cab's locks were naturally flat - he was in large part Native American. Though he could easily have "passed" for Euro, Cab he refused to do it. He used his mane simply to enhance his artistic method.
- ◆ As the "bluesiest" of all the historic big bands, Cab's swing artistry was also like the blues - clear and simple elements creating energy through their relationship. His place as a Blue's Icon was reiterated by his Finale feature in the film, "The Blues Brothers", alongside his Blues Brother's Ray Charles, James Brown. Blues sister Aretha Franklin, and John Lee Hooker.
- ◆ Cab said inspiring millions to "echo" as among greatest, most satisfying accomplishments.
- ◆ When asked the secret to success as an artist he always replied, "Just keep doin' it."