

The Base & Jazz Orchester Steiermark - The Big Base Band (CD, Konkord 109)

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Greatest Hits of the unforgotten melodies of the very best of (insert band-name here) live at ... well, live recordings of past musical achievements are too numerous to count and most are hardly worth to remember. But this here ... is different. The Base, an Austrian trio known for breaking musical borders as a habit, have been around for quite a while. In almost thirty years they've piled up a bunch of gems, some of which can now be heard in a brandnew outfit.

All hands on deck, please! The Base Big Band added a lot of extra hands via the Jazz Orchester Steiermark, demonstrating the excitement and wonders of their songs arranged in a different style. They're sweet when they must and rude whenever they please. With trombones roaring, saxofones freaking out and drumsticks swirling, The Base turn their tunes into swinging, scintillating dance hall stompers that would make Duke Ellington nod in approval and the Jets and the Sharks settle for peace. Because The Base Big Band are on a rampage here. And it's not too late to join.

