

## **QUOTES ABOUT THE VANGUARD JAZZ ORCHESTRA:**

“The band changed jazz. They started a whole new thing with that gig and paved the way for many others. For my money, the band is still the best large jazz ensemble in the world. It’s an unbeatable combination of elements that nobody else can touch. It’s an unparalleled achievement.”

**-Bill Kirchner, author, educator and jazz historian**

“The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra holds a very important place in the history of music. It’s picked up where Thad and Mel left off, while maintaining a connection to that tradition. I feel like what the VJO is doing is really plugged into what came before and, as a result, has been able to go well beyond that.”

**-Bob Mintzer, saxophonist, composer and bandleader**

“The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra is the most important big band in modern jazz and the influence of its repertoire on jazz composition is unmatched.”

**-Dave Lisik, jazz composer and co-author of “50 Years at the Village Vanguard: Thad Jones, Mel Lewis and the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra”**

“The Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Orchestra, which became the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra and now the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, is one of the most important jazz groups of the last fifty years. They have forever changed the way big band jazz is written and performed.”

**-Chris Smith, author of “The View From The Back Of The Band: The Life And Music Of Mel Lewis”**