

Big Bands to know

(more significant ones in **bold**)

More recent/contemporary ensembles:

Airmen of Note
Toshiko Akiyoshi/Lew Tabackin
Blue Wisp Big Band
Don Ellis
(especially with odd meters)
Gordon Goodwin
GPR All-Star Big Band
Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra

Jazz at Lincoln Center

Thad Jones/Mel Lewis (Vanguard Jazz Orchestra)

John La Barbera
Christian McBride
Rob McConnell
Mingus Big Band
North Texas One-O'clock Jazz Band
Maria Schneider
Doc Severinsen Tonight Show Orchestra
Smithsonian Jazz Orchestra
WDR Big Band

Classic ensembles:

Count Basie

Cab Calloway

Kenny Clarke/Francy Boland

Billy Eckstine

Duke Ellington

Gil Evans

(especially with Miles Davis)

Dizzy Gillespie

Dizzy Gillespie United Nations Orchestra
(Latin and other related styles)

Woody Herman

Stan Kenton

Buddy Rich

Nelson Riddle

(especially when accompanying vocalists like Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, etc.)

Claude Thornhill

More dance band oriented:

Les Brown

Jimmy Dorsey

Tommy Dorsey

Benny Goodman

(especially his impact integrating his ensemble)

Harry James

Gene Krupa

Glenn Miller

Artie Shaw

Charlie Spivak

Early ensembles:

Fletcher Henderson

Andy Kirk

Ray McKinley

Chick Webb

Mary Lou Williams