

**The World's Biggest Big Band, at The National Concert Hall,
Dublin 2/3 December 2006**

The most atrocious weather Dublin has had in years could not prevent over 2000 people attending what was one of the finest concerts I have ever witnessed.

With the stage filled with fifty musicians and vocalists made up from the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, and many other famous and highly respected men and women from today's music scene, and the whole show hosted by Malcolm Laycock from BBC Radio 2, I knew we were in for a wonderful evening.

The two bands were separated on stage by the two drummers, Mike Smith and Elliott Henshaw and from the moment Chris Dean struck up with *In the Mood* and the various sections of each band interjected, the sound was awesome. Space does not allow me to dwell in depth on each number, suffice to say there were some outstanding performances particularly in *The James Bond Medley*, *The Irish Medley* which really had the audience participating and Barrie Forgie conducting his arrangement of *Jumpin' at the Woodside*, Angie accompanied by Levene Andrade on violin sang *Danny Boy* beautifully and Ellie back in her native Ireland sang to her usual high standard, but the outstanding number was *Ol' Man River* which lasted fifteen minutes with a five minute drum solo each from Mike and Elliott.

Naturally, after that the applause was deafening and went on and on, nobody wanted the concert to end, but end it must.

To put on a concert of this magnitude is very costly and I must extend great praise to Robert Nolan the promoter,

and I do hope that maybe we can do it again in 2007.

May I also thank the kindness of all the Irish people especially the SLOS members who made us all so very welcome.

Band personnel were as follows:

TRUMPETS. Tony Dixon, Andy Gray, Mike Lovatt, Kevin Wedrokoski (The Red Baron) Ronnie Hughes, Andy Greenwood, Russell Bennett, Henry Lowther, Mike Davis and Trevor Barber.

TROMBONES: Ian Moffat, Darren Smith, Richard Wigley, Andy Waddicor, Dave Stewart, John Stokes, Cliff Hardie, Tracy Holloway, Barry Forgie and Ashley Horton

SAXES: Paul Jones, Claire McInearney, Jay Craig, Mike Hope, Paul Fawcus, Colin Skinner, Mick Foster, Sam Bullard, Horace Cardew and Gemma Moore

GUITAR: Alan Wilkes

PIANO: Clive Dunstall

BASS: Andre Messéder

DRUMS: Mike Smith and Elliott Henshaw

FRENCH HORNS: Jim Rattigan, Brendan Thomas, Brian Daly, Ian Dakin, David Acheler

TUBA: Steve Wicks

GLOCKENSPEIL: Catrina Frost

CONGOS: Lloyd Byrne

TYMPS & XYLOPHONE: Noel Eccles