

Mingus Big Band Bio

Mingus Big Band performs exclusively the music of composer/bassist Charles Mingus who celebrated his Centennial year in 2022. Building off the strengths of Mingus Dynasty septet Sue Mingus formed after Mingus' death in 1979, and 1989's *Epitaph* orchestra, in 1991 she created this 14-piece band to feature new arrangements of Mingus compositions in a larger band format that Mingus wanted, but was not always able to organize in his lifetime. The dynamic structure encourages deep explorations and ever-evolving ideations of Mingus Music and provides a platform for individual artistic expression.

Drawing from a rotation of the best established and rising musicians, Mingus Big Band is highly sought-after by festivals and prestigious venues around the world. The band has twelve recordings to its credit, seven nominated for Grammys, and one win in 2011 with *Live at Jazz Standard*. A new album, *The Charles Mingus Centennial Sessions*, was released in October 2022 and nominated for a Grammy. The second volume was released in 2024 on Candid Records followed by a wide physical release of selections from both albums.

The band has become a New York institution for locals and tourists alike, with a weekly residency now in its fourth decade. From Thursday nights at Fez under Time Cafe, to Joe's Pub, Iridium, and landing finally at Mingus Mondays at Jazz Standard until its pandemic closure. Mingus Mondays returned to The Pocket Jazz Club in 2026.