Music

New big band debuts Sept. 13

A group of talented musicians who love the big band sound have formed a new group and they will make their public debut in Cape Coral in September.

The Stardust Memories Big Band will perform Saturday, Sept. 13 from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Italian American Club, 4725 Vincennes Blvd.

The Stardust Memories Big Band is the vision of founder and bandleader Craig Christman, and was created to bring this great music back for audiences in Southwest Florida. And, to play it with the quality and energy with which it was originally performed.

The band's mission is to carry forward the legacy of this true and original American art form to dance venues and to the concert stage through public and private performances The Stardust Memories Big Band is the culmination of a life-long dream for Craig. His earliest musical influences came from his father, who frequently played big band records.

Craig Christman

Even before Craig played an instrument, he imagined himself playing the solo saxophone and clarinet parts he heard on records by Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, and many other big band greats.

Craig graduated from the University of Miami, with a double major in jazz performance and music business, and is one of South Florida's most in-demand woodwind performers and studio musicians.

Christman performs with many touring Broadway shows which have included Wicked, Spamalot, Anything Goes, Billy Elliot, Chicago, Hairspray and many others, and with international celebrities including Johnny Mathis, Bernadette Peters, Frankie Valli, the Four Tops, and the Temptations. Locally, he has performed with the Naples Philharmonic, the Southwest Florida Symphony, the Charlotte Symphony, the Naples Jazz Orchestra, in the pit at Sugden Theatre for The Naples Players, and many others.

The Sept. 13 performance is $32 for members and $35 for non-members. It Includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, carving table, dessert, coffee and tea. A cash bar will be available. For reservations, call the club at 239-542-6515. That evening's program will feature the classics from Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Count Basie, Duke Ellington and many others for listening and dancing.

To see more about the new group, visit www.stardustmemoriesbigband.com

Kevin Mauldin

Mark Pettey

Lex Tsaggaris

Stardust Memories Big Band

SAXOPHONES
Craig Christman
Don Rhynard
Gabe Wallace
Dennis Hill
Evan Dowling

TROMBONES
George Mancini
Herb Bruce
Lex Tsaggaris
Adren Hance

VOCALS
Susie Hulcher

TRUMPETS
Mike Santiago
Mark Pettey
Tom Smith

RHYTHM
Jerry Stawski - piano
Kevin Mauldin - bass
Tom Weaver - guitar
Paul Gavin - drums

BAND LEADER
Craig Christman

SOUND ENGINEER
Rhett Jarrett

Gabe Wallace