

Taupo band impresses

We all have the wonderful music of the big swing band era on CDs, 33s (and even 78s and 45s) tucked away in our collections.

So it was a huge pleasure to hear it played live by a very good band at the Rotorua Jazz Club night recently. We were very privileged, because you don't get this opportunity often these days.

We didn't know quite what to expect from the Great Lake Big Band.

They are little known north of Taupo but they treated us to an excellent mixed programme of the great swing band standards, plus some more modern arrangements.

This 14 piece band played with panache and style. Obviously well rehearsed, their section work was accurate, and beautifully backed by a

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fine rhythm section.

The band did not need any stand-out soloists, but special mention should be made of the fine vocalist, Jo Paul. She was my sort of band singer with a sexy, husky, melodious voice which, when backed by the driving band behind her, really came up trumps.

Her version of The Lady is a Tramp was, for me, the best single item we have heard at the club this year.

It really is "one up" to Taupo to be able present a genuine swing band which obviously enjoys its work - a major asset to any town.

■ Lindsay Brighthouse