

Prime Time Big Band to record live



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Dave Jones leads the Prime Time Big Band during a rehearsal at St. Francis High School. The group plans to record their first live album over three nights at the Ironwood Stage and Grill.

The Ironwood stage & Grill has been the home base of the Prime time big band for over a decade.

Now the 20-member ensemble are set to capture their big band sound on a live album featuring compositions of new and classic swing tunes from cana-

dian arrangers, recorded over three nights at the iconic calgary venue.

Bandleader dave Jones said he is excited for the “historic” recording, but knows that there are technical and performance challenges when it come to recording live.

“A live recording is a live recording, and that’s what you get,” Jones said.

“I’ve listened to other live recordings that have been made at the Ironwood and the reproduction is absolutely wonderful.”

Arrangements by canadianbased musicians allan Gilliland and Fred stride have been performed at the Montreaux Festival and carnegie Hall, and now the two have crafted songs specifically for the Prime time band.

Gilliland composed and arranged a four-part piece called “the alberta suite” for the performances, and stride penned the tunes “Prime time” and “Lado a Lado” (side by side).

Jones said the recording was not a cheap venture and he needed to apply for grants to fund the project. but the band also received donations from friends and fans to get the project rolling.

The band used the funds to hire studio engineer Paul Johnston from edmonton to handle the technical side of recording 20 musicians and their instruments on the Ironwood’s small and intimate stage.

“You’re probably going to get some things that you really don’t want, but that’s part of the live recording business.” Jones said the things they “don’t really want” range from telephones ringing and glasses breaking, but that is the

risk the band will run to record live at the Ironwood.

The Prime time big band will record live at the Ironwood stage & Grill on nov. 3-5. tickets are available by calling 403-269-5581.

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