

# TROY CLARKE

Troy Clarke began his singing career in the sunwashed city of Santa Barbara and performs throughout Southern California with some of the finest jazz and big band musicians in the business, with members having recorded and toured with Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis, Ella Fitzgerald, Barbra Streisand, Brian Setzer Orchestra, Harry Connick Jr., and Michael Bublé – a veritable who's-who of musicians working in the entertainment capital of the world, Hollywood.

Troy's first album, *So Nice to Come Home to*, shot to No.1 on ReverbNation's charts within days of entering the Santa Barbara jazz market and has remained in the top 10 ever since.

Troy's take on the Great American Songbook is true to form and steeped in tradition, earning him critical acclaim for his performances. "Good musicianship, a no-nonsense approach, and the ability to sell a song are Troy's strong points. Add a thorough knowledge of the swing style" to his "smooth, silky ... sultry voice" ... "and the results are an impressive musical performance." "Classic, clean, and superbly performed," he's the "main source of cool." "Troy won the hearts of our audience ... one of our favorites."



In addition to music, Troy has appeared on television's *Inside Edition* with Deborah Norville and *The Dating Game*, where he was selected *The Bachelor* with the Best Personality. He has also appeared on Dick Clark's national show *Your Big Break*. Troy was awarded a scholarship at the Howard Fine Acting Studio in Hollywood where he studied with the legendary Howard Fine, well-known for his coaching of actors such as Brad Pitt, Val Kilmer, and Daryl Hannah. He has also studied with the late, world-renown Uta Hagen, one of the most influential theatrical actresses in the 20th century.

Since earning his degree in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara, Troy has become an award-winning print, television, and radio journalist, having interviewed Congressional, Navy, and Pentagon leaders. He's received numerous journalism awards, including a Society for Professional Journalists award for the best college television news segment in Southern California and several Navy Chief of Information journalist and public affairs awards. Troy is avid athlete and a gold medal recipient of the President's Council on Physical Fitness advanced fitness challenge.

Troy is busy working on his follow-up album, writing new material to record his next adventure in music.

*[www.troyclarke.com](http://www.troyclarke.com)*  
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# What the Critics Say

## Troy Clarke opens Redlands Bowl Season

*The Press-Enterprise*

"The main source of cool was Troy Clarke and his Swing Orchestra . . . its members have performed with an almost crazy range of artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Elvis Presley, Brian Setzer, and Jennifer Lopez."

"Also well-done was the Latin jazz . . . which perfectly balanced the Caribbean and jazz elements, a feat frequently not managed nearly as well by more well-known artists."

*"The main source of cool"*

*"Sultry"*

*"Smooth and silky voice"*

*"An impressive musical performance"*

*"One of our favorites ... Troy won the hearts of our audience so we just had to bring him back"*

## Troy Clarke comes home to warm welcome at Bowl

*Redlands Daily Facts*

"[T]he group managed to take songs we've all heard a zillion times before and make them fun. You can't ask for much more than that."

"Several jazzy tunes set the tone for the evening and audience members began almost instantly to dance in their seats. The buzz of energy created by the brassy horns and bluesy woodwinds could be felt in the air."

"The crowd was excited by the talent and selection of the music. Though the air was cool, the Bowl was warmed by the dancing multiple couples who filled the orchestra pit with swing dances, Lindy hops and even some Latin salsa."

## Big Band sounds rule at Bowl

*San Bernardino Sun*

"The enthusiastic audience enjoyed the sound of swing . . ."

"[G]ood musicianship, a no-nonsense approach, and the ability to sell a song are [Troy's] strong points. Add a thorough knowledge of the swing style and the results are an impressive musical performance."



PHOTOS BY JOHN VALENZUELA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Troy Clarke, backed up by a 17-piece orchestra, performed a concert that celebrated Frank Sinatra's music on Friday at the Redlands Bowl as part of the 90th annual Summer Music Festival.

REVIEW

# Troy Clarke does Sinatra, Redlanders proud

By Obrey Brown  
For the Daily Facts

REDLANDS » For openers, Troy Clarke, like Frank Sinatra in the 1940s during the bobby-soxer craze, had 'em dancing in the aisles at the Redlands Bowl on Tuesday night.

It didn't seem to matter which song, from the hundreds of Sinatra classics, Clarke sang before his 17-piece band that was headed by piano player and music director Keith Droste.

It could've been his opening number, "Come Fly With Me," that inspired the dancing of a couple dozen audience members under the trees and skies at the Redlands Bowl, now in its 90th year of free summer concerts.

Even Clarke, a resident who grew up in Redlands, had to comment.

"Ninety years," he said. It was a "wow" moment for everyone in the packed park setting.

Backed by Droste, a brilliant pianist whose skills have also graced Bob Hope and Frankie Avalon, Clarke went through the list of Sinatra classics — "Fly Me To The Moon," "One For My Baby," "Summer Wind," "Witchcraft," "Where or When," "Luck Be A Lady," "The Lady Is A Tramp," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "A Foggy Day in London," "Moonlight in Vermont," "You Make Me Feel So Young," "Night and Day," among plenty of others.

He did make an error as he introduced another Sinatra classic, "All The Way."

"It comes from the movie 'Pal Joey,'" said Clarke.

While audience members waited for "Be-witched, Bothered and Be-



A couple swings to the music on Friday at the Redlands Bowl.



The 17-piece orchestra was led by piano player and director Keith Droste.

wildered," or "My Funny Valentine" — "Pal Joey" classics — Clarke launched into the song, which came from another 1950s Sinatra film, "The Joker Is Wild."

It was all good. Clarke, whose personality seemed to resonate with the audience (especially those dancing), might've

been testing all of us with that bit of movie-music trivia.

Perhaps his most shining moments came when the orchestra played a Count Basie instrumental of "All of Me," which came off the album "Sinatra At The Sands" (1966) in which Ol' Blue Eyes (Sinatra) was silent during that piece. Clarke sang lyrics but didn't get in the way of the Droste-led orchestra — a definite highlight for the young molecular biology-biochemistry graduate from UC Santa Barbara.

Another Sinatra ballad, "One For My Baby,"

**+** Online: Check out videos of Troy Clarke singing "All of Me" and "Come Fly With Me." REDLANDSDAILYFACTS.COM

has usually been a piano-only number — either Bill Miller or Vinnie Falcone during Sinatra's era — but Droste brought the band into the piece. If Sinatra had never performed it that way, Clarke's rendition might have inspired him to switch.

There were trumpet and saxophone solos during some of Clarke's numbers.

The opening number after intermission — "New York, New York" — seemed a little weak.

It probably made audience members, who remember Sinatra's rendition of the song, long for Ol' Blue Eyes himself.

Clarke's voice, though good, didn't quite reach the big moment levels that Sinatra himself could hit when he was rocking.

"The Trio," consisting of Droste, drummer Dick Weller and bassist David Enos hit the mark on a few numbers.

It was reminiscent of Sinatra's quartet that usually included drummer Irv Cottler, bassist Gene Cherico and, usually, guitarists Al Viola or Tony Motolo and either Miller, Falcone or Frank Sinatra, Jr. on piano.

Clarke might have touched 30 songs on this peaceful Bowl night.

No one could walk away disappointed, even if he didn't sing Sinatra's most golden songs — "My Way," "Strangers In The Night," "You Will Be My Music" or "My Kind of Town."

The up-tempo "Mack The Knife," brought the evening to a close.

The audience danced on.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

## Gospel concert planned in Calimesa on Aug. 3

By Staff Report

On Aug. 3 at 4 p.m. at the Calimesa Seventh-day Adventist Church, on Fourth and Myrtlewood in Calimesa, the public may come for an afternoon of gospel music as presented by the Johnson Family Singers and JD Miller.

Miller traveled with Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band for 13 years as their pianist.

He is the recipient of six Dove awards and two Grammys and dozens of songwriting awards.

He wrote with Kenny Rogers, Bette Midler and many other artists.

Miller co-wrote "Old Friends" with Bill and Gloria Gaither and "I'll Worship Only" made popular by the Hoppers. He has earned the titles of winning songwriter,

orchestrator, recording artist and inspirational speaker. He will join with the Johnson Family Quartet consisting of mother, father, son and daughter who have been singing together for almost 12 years.

They have been featured on classic radio and Internet radio programming and have been featured on "Best of the West" artists for the Great Western Fan Festival for many years. They were featured artists with the American Music Group representing the U.S. with Miller in India in 2010 and are invited to join this group in China this coming October.

There is no charge for this concert. An offering will be received.

For information call 909-795-4960.

AUBREY SANCHEZ

## Local artist to hold exhibit

Artwork by local artist Aubrey Sanchez will be on display for viewing and purchase at The Spiritual Treatment Center, 602 Church St., Redlands, during the month of August on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

As a new member of Visionquest in Yucaipa and



Sanchez

and Arts Festival and Redlands Art in the Park. Her latest series

the Redlands Art Association, she has recently participated in the Yucaipa Music and Arts Festival and Redlands Art in the Park.

"Deeply Rooted" has become her passion, allowing her to explore different relationships and memorable experiences that we encounter in our lives and incorporating them into drawings that anyone can relate to.

For more information, go to artbyaubreysanchez.com or call the center at 909-793-3004.

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# Vocalists perform at Redlands Bowl

**BY HOLLY LA PAT**  
CORRESPONDENT  
features@pe.com

From the playful wit of Gilbert and Sullivan to elegant opera masterpieces, the Redlands Bowl presents its annual night of opera Friday, July 19.

“We’ve expanded our opera evening to include many instrumental and vocal pieces from Gilbert and Sullivan,” said Frank Paul Fetta, who will conduct the concert.

The evening continues the 90th Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival, the oldest continuous music festival in the United States to charge no admission fee.

Soprano Brooke deRosa and baritone Eric Castro will make their Redlands Bowl debut at the show, while baritone Ralph Cato returns to the Bowl once again. All three singers have a long history performing the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, whose operettas introduced a new brand of musical theater in the late 1800s.

“Brooke deRosa and Eric Castro

**SONGS FROM GILBERT & SULLIVAN AND OPERA FAVORITES**

**WHEN:** 8:15 p.m. Friday, July 19  
**WHERE:** Redlands Bowl, in Smiley Park off Brookside Avenue between Eureka and Grant streets, Redlands  
**ADMISSION:** Free to the public; donations accepted  
**INFORMATION:** 909-793-7316  
**ON THE WEB:** www.redlandsbowl.com

have done a lot of Gilbert and Sullivan,” Fetta said, “and Ralph Cato did his first Gilbert and Sullivan show when he was 13 years old.”

The concert will include selections from “The Mikado,” “Pirates of Penzance,” “Trial by Jury” and “Patience.”

“I think the selections we picked will be delightful,” Fetta said. “The aficionados of Gilbert and Sullivan really love this very much, as do I.”



Camelia Voin



Haqumai Sharpe



Erin Wood

Sopranos Erin Wood and Camelia Voin and tenor Haqumai Sharpe will also perform opera favorites at the concert. The finale of the eve-

ning will be a selection from “Die Fledermaus,” the comic opera composed by Johann Strauss.

The Redlands Bowl Summer Mu-

sic Festival was founded in 1923 to make live music available to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay.

# Classic Sinatra tunes take flight at Redlands Bowl this week

**Troy Clarke performs favorites from the crooner’s repertoire with a swingin’ big band in a free concert Tuesday, July 23**

**BY HOLLY LA PAT**  
CORRESPONDENT  
features@pe.com

The songs at Tuesday night’s Redlands Bowl concert all have one thing in common: Frank Sinatra.

Singer Troy Clarke chose them from Sinatra’s repertoire, and with six decades of music to choose from, it was hard to go wrong.

“To be performing the songs of the greatest 20th century entertainer, to be powered by 17 pieces of swingin’ big band — I’m just really looking forward to it,” Clarke said in a recent phone interview. “The benefit of creating my own show is I get to perform all my favorites. I try to take each one on its own merit and make it mine.”

The show will include favorites

**TROY CLARKE: ‘COME SWING WITH ME’**

**WHEN:** 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 23; community sing, 7:15 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Redlands Bowl, in Smiley Park off Brookside Avenue between Eureka and Grant streets, Redlands  
**ADMISSION:** Free to the public; donations accepted  
**INFORMATION:** 909-793-7316  
**ON THE WEB:** www.redlandsbowl.com

like “Come Fly With Me,” “The Lady is a Tramp,” “Witchcraft” and “Old Devil Moon.”

“They all get really strong reactions from the audience,” Clarke said.

Clarke’s concert is part of the 90th Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival, the oldest continuous music festival in the United States to charge no admission fee. A commu-



Troy Clarke

nity sing will be held before the show.

Although Clarke developed his craft as a singer by studying many performers — Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole among them — Frank Sinatra tops the list.

“Sinatra just set himself apart with his drive to be the best,” Clarke said. “From the beginning, he set out to be the biggest singer in the world — here’s that little skinny kid from Hoboken who made it.”

But even for Sinatra, Clarke noted, that mastery didn’t happen overnight.

“It probably didn’t manifest itself fully until the ’50s, when he was about 38 years old,” Clarke said. “It came with his life experience.”

Sinatra went from being America’s first teen idol during World War II to a career slump in the late

1940s and early 1950s. The war was over, musical tastes were changing — and leaving the mother of his children for Ava Gardner didn’t help his popularity either.

“When his career started to descend, it kind of forced him to re-invent himself,” Clarke said. “You can see hints of it in the ’40s — I think the seeds were all there as his artistry was developing.”

Eventually, the youthful ballad singer made the transition into a mature, confident artist who led the way in a new era of swing music.

“He became the greatest singer in history,” Clarke said. “He did this by surrounding himself by the best singers and the best arrangers and the best musicians.”

Following that example, Clarke has sought out top-notch musicians for his band. Some of his players actually worked with Sinatra, including lead alto saxophone player John Riley and trumpet player

Jack Poster, who often backed Sinatra in Las Vegas.

While Clarke doesn’t shy away from similarities to the late singer, he doesn’t try to imitate Sinatra, either.

“I think in a lot of ways we’re the same in that we’re both baritones,” Clarke said. “We have similar philosophies in our approach to music. My tone is different; people say it’s softer and rounder. I’m taller; he was skinnier.”

Clarke discovered Sinatra’s music as a teen, and his audience spans all ages — from those who grew up with the songs in the 1940s to children who come to the show with their parents.

“That’s the great thing about this music,” Clarke said. “It’s family-oriented and withstands generations. You can take great songwriting, and it can be interpreted in so many ways. It just continues to evolve and adapt through time.”

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**SUN, OCT 2, 2011  
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Guest Vocalists: Bill Killpatrick and Paul Willette  
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Bluesman Bill Killpatrick will accompany his unique singing style with his searing guitar riffs destined to shake the rafters and bring the house down. The multi-talented Paul Willette will also front the band with his vibrant vocals and passionate percussion playing.



## FOR YOUR EARS ONLY: JAMES BOND AND OTHER SPIES

**SUN, FEB 12, 2012 @ 2pm  
Tickets: \$37 / \$35 / \$31 / \$25**

Guest Vocalists: Patricia Welch and Bill Killpatrick  
All Star Big Band, *Wayne Abravanel, Conductor*

We enter the mysterious spy world full of intrigue and danger with the All Star Big Band slyly performing a spectacular sampling of theme songs from the classic James Bond movie series and scores from our favorite spy and police shows including: *For Your Eyes Only*, *Nobody Does It Better*, *Goldfinger*, *Live and Let Die*, *The Naked Gun Theme*, *Dragnet*, and *The Pink Panther*.

The All Star Big Band's accomplices in this act are vocalists Bill Killpatrick and Patricia Welch. Broadway actress/singer Patricia Welch's career includes starring with Yul Brynner in *The King & I*. Local favorite and stylish singer Bill Killpatrick will be packin' his guitar under his trench coat.

Don't miss this distinguished, secret-agent inspired musical performance as the All Star Big Band will be dressed in James Bond tuxes... for your eyes only. You will be shaken, *and* stirred!

## GET YOUR KICKS WITH SHERRY WILLIAMS

**SUN, NOV 6, 2011  
@ 2pm  
Tickets: \$37 / \$35 / \$31 / \$25**

Guest Vocalist: Sherry Williams  
All Star Big Band, *Jeff Stover, Conductor*

Temecula's own international jazz vocalist, Sherry Williams, will once again front the All Star Big Band singing the swing and jazz standards reminiscent of Ella Fitzgerald, Lena Horn, Sarah Vaughan and Natalie Cole.

Sherry's long professional career includes gigs with many of the world's great jazz and pop musicians, plus appearances on *The Tonight Show*, *The Glen Campbell Show*, and *The Della Reese Show*. Sherry's vocal styling is unmistakably her own. Her fondness for a well-turned lyric always ensures superb song selection to compliment her astonishingly buttery voice.



## BROADWAY AND BEYOND with Kirsten and Stan Chandler, Roger Befeler and Kim Huber

**SUN, MAR 11, 2012 @ 2pm  
Tickets: \$37 / \$35 / \$31 / \$25**

Guest Vocalist: Kirsten and Stan Chandler,  
Roger Befeler and Kim Huber  
Cabaret Pops Orchestra, *Wayne Abravanel, Conductor*

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The hits from the modern Broadway Musicals (1960's to present) will include: *Phantom of the Opera*, *Wicked*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Secret Garden*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Into The Woods*, and other great popular song hits from movies and television during the same era.

Relive the greatest moments in Broadway history with the romantic Cabaret Pops Orchestra.



## ONSTAGE JAZZ FESTIVAL

**SUN, APR 1, 2012 @ 2pm  
Tickets: \$37 / \$35 / \$31 / \$25**

Featured Artists: Yve Evans, Steve Madio,  
Brian Nova, Pat Rizzo, and Andy Fraga, Jr.  
All Star Big Band, *Jeff Stover, Conductor*

Yes, it's a festival. There are sensational jazz artists plus a Big Band on the stage and there's a craft marketplace, wine tasting and more jazz musicians in the Courtyard.

Our second annual Jazz Fest returns with some of the top jazz performers in Southern California playing straight ahead jazz, swing and Latin jazz: Yve Evans (vocalist and pianist), Steve Madio (trumpeter for Stevie Wonder and Earth Wind and Fire), Brian Nova (guitarist with The Steve Miller Band), Pat Rizzo (from Sly and The Family Stone, War, and the Sinatra Band), and The Andy Fraga Quintet with Rod Kolkolj on saxes. The All Star Big Band hits the stage after intermission with a great set of special arrangements of swing and modern jazz.

Food, wine tasting, and jewelry and crafts vendors will be joined by The James Nation Trio in the Courtyard starting at 12:30pm (before the concert and during the intermission). Enjoy the hang with your good friends and fine wine with jazz all around. It doesn't get better than that!



## THE GREAT AMERICAN SONG BOOK WITH TROY CLARKE

**SUN, MAY 6, 2012 @ 2pm  
Tickets: \$37 / \$35 / \$31 / \$25**

Guest Vocalist: Troy Clarke  
All Star Big Band, *Jeff Stover, Conductor*

One of our favorites, Troy Clarke returns to Temecula's stage with the All Star Big Band to croon some of those great songs by American composers like Jimmy Van Heusen, George Gershwin, Frank Loesser, Cole Porter, Rogers and Hart, and Harold Arlen, among others.

Last season, Troy won the hearts of our audience so we just had to bring him back to cover selections from the best American songs of the 20th century Broadway Theater and Hollywood Musicals (1920 to 1960), including dozens of songs of enduring popularity as sung by Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Matt Monroe, and Tony Bennett.

The Great American Songbook became (and remains) a vital part of the repertoire of jazz musicians, who describe such songs simply as "Standards." Don't miss this powerful, exciting and moving season-ending performance by the All Star Big Band.



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John Valenzuela Staff Photographer

A LOCAL CELEBRITY

## Singer is passionate about jazz

Redlands resident Troy Clarke will be performing May 6 at Old Town Temecula Theater.

### Troy Clarke has lived in Redlands for 20 years

By Suze Knobler Staff Writer

If you hear someone crooning jazz or big-band tunes around town, it just might be Troy Clarke.

Clarke has lived in Redlands more than 20 years, is a Redlands High School graduate and a critically acclaimed vocalist.

He began his singing career in Santa Barbara and performs throughout Southern California with some of the finest jazz and big-band musicians in the business.

Clarke's first album, "So Nice to Come Home To" was No. 1 on the ReverbNation's charts within days of entering the Santa Barbara jazz market.

"It is a tremendous honor to sing.

These American genres of music are timeless. Music speaks to human emotion and speaks volumes," Clarke said.

Clarke's passion for singing began in high school when he started listening to big band on the radio.

Clarke performs standards from the Tin Pan Alley days.

"These are classics in their own right," Clarke said.

He always loved music and at one point wanted to be a music engineer or a classical pianist.

He was exposed to audio equipment that his dad had in the house.

Once in college, Clarke listened to jazz and classical and fell in love with it.

"I took a music-appreciation class in college, and my professor, who was a violinist, asked the class what our favorite instrument was. The professor answered that question himself by saying that the human voice was his favorite," Clarke said.

This got Clarke thinking about singing, and although he had no formal training, he taught himself.

"This was a painful process, especially hearing myself on tape," he said.

"I needed to practice and had no idea about range, so I ended up studying legends like Bing Crosby."

Clarke also had to learn the art of acting to go along with this genre of singing.

### The Great American Songbook with Troy Clarke

**Where:** Old Town Temecula Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula

**When:** May 6, 2 p.m.

**Cost:** \$25 to \$37

**Information:** 866-OLD-TOWN (866-653-8696) or [www.temeculatheater.org](http://www.temeculatheater.org)

"I had to study acting and had a lot of performance time and exposure. I was lucky because a lot of my mentors came out of this original era of music, like Herb Jeffries and Beryl Davis," Clarke said.

CLARKE A4

### CLARKE

From A1

Clarke said that he really wants an authentic connection to the music.

"As a performer, there are feelings of emotions for lyrics, just as an actor would have for their role. There is a lot of exhilaration when I play with the big band because it is so powerful. It has swagger and a punchiness to it."

Clarke's take on the "great American songbook" is true to

form and steeped in tradition.

"I get satisfaction when I see people smiling in the audience and singing along with the song. I need to be connected with my audience, I need to be able to see them, that's my satisfaction," Clarke said.

In addition to music, he has appeared on many television shows and appeared on Dick Clark's national show "Your Big Break."

Clarke was also awarded a

scholarship at Howard Fine Acting School in Hollywood.

Clarke and the All Star Big Band will be coming to Old Town Temecula Theater on May 6 during its Big Band/Cabaret Series. Tickets range from \$25 to \$37 and starts at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.troyclarke.com](http://www.troyclarke.com) or [www.facebook.com/TroyClarkeLive](http://www.facebook.com/TroyClarkeLive). To hear his music, visit [www.reverbnation.com/troyclarke](http://www.reverbnation.com/troyclarke).

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July 1, 2004

# THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

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WWW.PE.COM

## Troy Clarke opens Redlands Bowl season

BY ROBERT KREUTZER  
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

### MUSIC REVIEW

**REDLANDS**—The Redlands Bowl was a cool place to be Tuesday night – in more ways than one.

The main source of cool was Troy Clarke and his Swing Orchestra, who kicked off the 81st season of bowl's annual Summer Music Festival. The orchestra presented a fine evening of jazz, big band and swing music.

Swing/Big Band music is always an excellent choice for a family-oriented program such as this. The sheer number of instruments gives the music the power of a rock band, while its versatility and complexity make it civilized enough that anyone of any age should be able to enjoy it. No wonder the genre not only has survived for decades but keeps snagging fans every generation.

The weather was also a major source of cool, forcing people to cover up on the unusually chilly June evening.

This orchestra demonstrated the richness and versatility of a good big band by avoiding being mired in a jump-blues mode.

Looking at the makeup of the orchestra, it is no surprise that it would put on such a good show. Its members have performed with an almost crazy range of artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Elvis Presley, Brian Setzer and Jennifer Lopez.

If there was a flaw with the show, it was that the orchestra wasn't quite allowed to do what

Clarke, with his own movie-star looks, effectively projected that quality.

Also a veteran of television, Clarke has worked as a congressional aide, including to Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Riverside.

For much of the show, Clarke and the orchestra captured the feel of a variety of tunes. Not all instruments were playing all the time, so the tempos and styles were presented with fine variety.

Some compositions were presented with different than usual arrangements to good effect. The orchestra downplayed the bossa nova elements of "The Girl from Ipanema," showcasing Clarke's voice a little more. Also well-done was the Latin jazz "Calypso Mama," which perfectly balanced the Caribbean and jazz elements, a feat frequently not managed nearly as well by more well-known artists. Cole Porter's "Under My Skin," also picked up a restrained, well-done Latin beat.

The group's best moment came with its take on "Old Devil Mood," which perfectly balanced Clarke's singing and spirit with wonderful playing from the band. "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" gave Clarke and his orchestra a chance to show some good bluesy chops.

All in all, the group managed to take songs we've all heard a zillion times before and make them fun. You can't ask for much more than that.