



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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Harry James Orchestra Performs at Hillsdale College

The orchestra's visit included a concert, the annual Battle of the Bands, and more.

HILLSDALE, Mich. — The Harry James Orchestra returned to Hillsdale College for its sixth big band swing and jazz concert on Nov. 16. The performance was directed by award-winning trumpeter Fred Radke, who has toured with the Harry James Orchestra since 1969 and directed it since 1989.

“Hosting the Harry James Orchestra has become one of our most anticipated music traditions at Hillsdale—for both the College and the community,” said Daniel Tacke, chairman of the Hillsdale College Music Department. “People love the style and energy of the orchestra and the nostalgia of experiencing a bygone musical era.”

Harry James was one of the best known musicians during the height of the Big Band Era. He formed the orchestra in 1939, hiring vocalist Frank Sinatra soon after. Today, the Harry James Orchestra continues James’ original sound and songs.

The orchestra performed some of James’ most beloved pieces, including “2:00 Jump,” “Shiny Stockings,” and “The Mole.” The concert also featured swing dancing and performances by two student bands.

The orchestra also against the Hillsdale College Big Band in the fourth annual Battle of the Bands.

“Our students look forward to Battle of the Bands every year,” said Chris McCourry, director of jazz ensembles. “It is an exciting opportunity for them to play against some of the best jazz musicians in the country.”

The orchestra's visit began on Nov. 8, with a welcome concert featuring Fred Radke and members of the Hillsdale College faculty. On Veterans Day, Radke gave the keynote address at the annual Hillsdale County Veterans Hall of Valor ceremony, discussing the intersection of big band music and the military.

For photos from the Battle of the Bands, click [here](#). For photos from the Hall of Valor Ceremony, click [here](#). For photos from a previous Harry James Orchestra concert at Hillsdale, click [here](#).

For a high-resolution copy of the Hillsdale College clocktower logo, click [here](#).

About Hillsdale College

Hillsdale College is an independent, nonsectarian, Christian liberal arts college located in southern Michigan. Founded in 1844, the College has built a national reputation through its classical liberal arts core curriculum and its principled refusal to accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies, even indirectly in the form of student grants or loans. It also conducts an outreach effort promoting civil and religious liberty, including a free monthly speech digest, *Imprimis*, with a circulation of more than 6.6 million. For more information, visit hillsdale.edu.

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