

## Boss Sounds

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### GORDON GOODWIN

Gordon Goodwin is the modern standard-bearer of big band arranging and composing, having won a GRAMMY Award for his work on Pixar's *The Incredibles* soundtrack, and three EMMY Awards for music he composed for Warner Brothers animated films. The eight-time GRAMMY nominee fell in love with big band jazz when he discovered Count Basie in the seventh grade. Today Gordon Goodwin carries the big band tradition into the new millennium. One of the most exciting large jazz ensembles on the planet, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band creates a contemporary, highly original sound that features Gordon's witty, intricate and swinging compositions in a veritable grab bag of styles: swing, latin, blues, classical, rock...even an homage to Looney Tunes. The venerable arranger-composer Johnny Mandel, who wrote for the likes of Basie, Herman and Artie Shaw, after hearing Goodwin play, said to him, "You are where big band writing is today."

Saxophonist, keyboardist, and bandleader Gordon Goodwin appeared on albums by Louie Bellson and Gil Scott-Heron in the late '70s prior to the release of his debut solo album, *Close to the Edge*, on Nova in 1983. He continued to work primarily as a sideman, as well as increasingly as an arranger and orchestrator during the rest of the '80s, the '90s, and the early 2000s, with appearances on albums by the Tom Kubis Big Band, Grant Geissman, Perri, Miles Osland, Michael Crawford, Mark Mancina/Trevor Rabin, Dennis Bono, Simone, and Dan Savant/Mike Watts, also serving as conductor on such soundtrack albums as *Armageddon*, *Enemy of the State*, and *Gone in 60 Seconds*. In 2000, he organized Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, an 18-piece big band, to record *Swingin' for the Fences*, released by Immergent Records. His primary income may have come from his arrangements, orchestrations, conducting, and occasional playing on soundtracks (including *The Majestic*, *The One*, and *Spy Kids 2*), but his heart was with his Big Phat Band, which followed up *Swingin' for the Fences* on September 23, 2003, with *XXL*, an eclectic effort bringing in rock and pop influences as well as humor and featuring as guest stars Take 6 and Johnny Mathis.

The same year Goodwin won a GRAMMY for his instrumental arrangement of the track "Incredits" on the soundtrack of the 2004 film *The Incredibles*, he served as an orchestrator on the film *National Treasure*. The third album by the Big Phat Band, *The Phat Pack*, was released on June 13, 2006. Guests included Dianne Reeves and David Sanborn, and the album reached the Billboard jazz chart, selling more than 15,000 copies in its first two years of release, a substantial amount for a big-band jazz record. Later in the year, Goodwin combined his two major musical activities when the Big Phat Band performed the musical score for the animated holiday film *Bah, Humduck! A Looney Tunes Christmas*, also released on a soundtrack album. In 2007, Goodwin wrote the music for *Casey at the Bat - The Musical* and conducted the score for the film *Snakes on a Plane*. He also served as orchestrator and conductor on the 2008 film *Get Smart*. The fourth Big Phat Band album, *Act Your Age*, was released on September 30, 2008, featuring guest stars including Chick Corea, Dave Grusin, Patti Austin, Nathan East, and Lee Ritenour (who produced the disc).

Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band has attracted significant coverage from the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine* and numerous other media outlets across the continent. They've played profile venues and festivals including the Playboy Jazz Festival and Hollywood Bowl, and received a GRAMMY nomination for Best Large Jazz Ensemble for their work on the 2003 album *XXL*.