

S1 Welcome to this panel by five members of Shorts Camera Club.

We have entitled this "Practice to Performance" and features the Belfast Jazz Orchestra. As Louis Armstrong said "If you have to ask what jazz is, you'll never know."

The Orchestra meets most Monday nights at Shorts Recreation Club for rehearsals in preparation for a series of exciting performances throughout the year. NEXT SLIDE

S2 A dynamic mix of musicians make up the orchestra, with a wide range of instruments being played, the brass plays a large part. NEXT SLIDE

S3 Most of the orchestra play brass instruments of different sizes, each being owned and carefully looked after by the musicians themselves. NEXT SLIDE

S4 However, the orchestra also comprises of a wide variety of other instruments including keyboard players, drummers, guitarists, and, NEXT SLIDE

S5 of course, the signature double bass at the rear of the orchestra. As Duke Ellington said "If it sounds good and feels good, then it IS good!"

NEXT SLIDE

S6 The orchestra is organized into sections, such as the saxophone section, which is often accompanied by the distinctive sound ... NEXT SLIDE

S7 of the trombone section ..... which of course..... NEXT SLIDE

S8 need a little more space around them than others. .... NEXT SLIDE

S9 Each musician is highly skilled, able to read music and play in various configurations, from quartets to solo performances. As Thelonious Monk said "There are no wrong notes; some are just more right than others" ..... NEXT SLIDE

S10 Some of the instruments also include additional pieces to add to their sound..... NEXT SLIDE

S11 The orchestra is led by a dedicated conductor, who also plays saxophone and clarinet. .... NEXT SLIDE

S12 Group performances and individual solos allow the musicians to show their passion and expertise. Throughout the year, the Belfast Jazz Orchestra performs regularly at Shorts Recreation Club NEXT SLIDE

S13 often coinciding with dance events. as George Gershwin said "Life is a lot like jazz. It's best when you improvise." ..... NEXT SLIDE

S14 Shorts Recreation club is perfect for such performances, with its elevated seating area providing a clear view of both the stage and the dance floor..... NEXT SLIDE

S15 The orchestra includes a lady lead singer who also serves as the chair of the group.

The Orchestra continues to thrive as one of Northern Ireland's most unique musical ensembles. As Ella Fitzgerald said "It isn't where you came from, its where you're going that counts". NEXT SLIDE

S16 The orchestra includes both “guys and gals” as musicians, with up to 20 players in the orchestra at times. It is more than just a musical group—it's a collective of talented people who bring jazz to life in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Perhaps we'll leave the last word to that jazz icon Duke Ellington “It don't mean a thing if it aint got that swing”. Thankyou all for your attention.

END