

# artie shaw orchestra

under the direction of  
**DICK JOHNSON**

Artie Shaw put the "swing" in Swing. His Big Band still remains one of the most swingiest outfits around. And it all clicked when Artie reworked one little show tune with his own signature sound.

"Begin the Beguine," which Shaw jokingly referred to as "a nice little tune from one of Cole Porter's very few flop shows" was that song. Shaw's breakthrough recording became the hit that catapulted him into the ranks of top bandleaders. Artie was immediately dubbed the new "King of Swing". Every year, the Artie Shaw Orchestra recording of "Begin the Beguine" sells in the thousands, making it one of the best-selling records in history.

In 1954 Artie Shaw made his last public appearance as an instrumentalist and he gave his blessing in the 1980s to this rendition of the "Artie Shaw Orchestra" as led by Dick Johnson.

When Dick Johnson got the call from Artie to front his orchestra in 1983, Dick had finally realized a his life-long dream .

Since he first heard that thing called Swing, Dick idolized Artie Shaw, the clarinet titan, and the first big band recording Dick purchased in 1941 was Artie's "Concerto for Clarinet". He learned every lick of that "licorice stick" and swung with the best of them. So much so, that when Artie Shaw heard a recording of Dick's in 1980, he wrote a note to Dick's personal manager: "Dick's clarinet playing is the best I've heard, bar nobody, and you can quote me on that anywhere, anytime!"

With Dick Johnson on the clarinet, the Artie Shaw Orchestra is the swingiest outfit around. Led by Artie's hand-picked successor, this is the only band who can truly recreate the inimitable Shaw style.

**"Dick's clarinet playing is the best I've heard, bar nobody!" ARTIE SHAW**