



P R E S S P A C K A G E

“The Best Band in America”

Forbes Magazine

C O N T A C T | B O O K I N G

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Doc Scantlin & His Imperial Palms Orchestra

Let's play a game called Free Association. When we say the words "The Jazz Age," what are the first things that pop into your head? Bathtub Gin? Parties? You bet. If you're thinking, The Great Gatsby? Sweet! Published in 1925, The Great Gatsby is set in New York City and Long Island during the Prohibition era.

When Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra step to the stage, the audience is transported to the decadent high life immortalized by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Shake over ice, add a twist of jazz and you get Scantlin's loving homage to the music of the era with the group bringing down the house when everything old becomes new again. The 18-piece ensemble, swings with manic abandon through the early Great American Songbook, infusing standards with new energy.

Scantlin hovers over his Imperial Palms like a mad puppeteer in white tie and tails,

metronomically wielding his oversized baton and occasionally "amplifying" band members by picking up his heavy microphone stand and holding it precariously over their heads. Audience members become his puppets when Scantlin jives like Cab Calloway and brings the crowd on a merry musical roller coaster ride.

It's pure entertainment out of the days of radio: Doc, clad in a tuxedo with tails, banter between numbers while his 18-piece band performs hits by Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and George Gershwin. Wife Chou Chou's (pronounced Shoo Shoo) breathy croon recalls Betty Boop, or maybe Marilyn Monroe. And between sets, there are dancing cigarette girls.

A night spent with Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms recreates the glamour, sophistication and excitement of the American nightclub from the '20s, '30s, and '40s.

Scantlin is a walking good-time warp in spats and zoot-suit key chain and white carnation and boiled shirt and swallow-tailed coat. But don't let the facade fool you, this is a group of serious musicians who's repertoire tears up such standards such as "Pennsylvania 6-5000," "In The Mood," "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Girl from Kalamazoo" and the dozens more that make up the blistering, three-hour set. You probably know them from CDs of the original recordings – which aren't how these songs should be heard. You have to be there to feel the power of this music.

Included in Scantlin's sizable retinue are the singing, dancing Girlfriends to provide a dash of Ziegfeld folly. The quartet of leggy beauties comes replete with retro stage names including; (Magpie), (Gigi), (Moxie) and (Sugar). All four are singers at heart but can rustle up the dance on a dime. They can appear dressed as sophisticated ladies of the era, as flappers in "Happy Feet," and as riotous dancers

About the Band

"Scantlin is the consummate showman. Chou Chou's breathy croon recalls Marilyn Monroe and Betty Boop. One of the most fascinating nights out in Washington."

during "Can Can."

With the rise in popularity of movies like Baz Luhrman's The Great Gatsby and TV shows like Boardwalk Empire and Mad Men, Jazz music and musicians are back in the limelight and are enjoying attention from a new and entirely different demographic – Millennials.

Why look for an old Victrola and your parents or grandparent's scratched discs when you can get the best of the era live from an evening spent with The Doc Scantlin Imperial Palms Orchestra.



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Our mission?

Thank you for your interest in Doc Scantlin And His Imperial Palms Orchestra. Over the years we have received wonderful responses to our performances. We are flattered and humbled to be cited in national periodicals as being; "The World's Best Band" and "The Best Band in America".

We are more than grateful as we continue to entertain at some of the world's most prestigious events. We love what we do and feel we have something unique to impart to our clients with integrity and love. We are proud of the talented musicians we have trained and inspired over the years. Some have even gone on to form their own bands. We wish them much success and happiness.

Our inspiration comes from the film and music of the Jazz Age right up til the Big Band sound of World War II. We strive to create an evening of unsurpassed sophistication, excitement, elegance and fun. From royalty to retro dancers, corporations to cotillions, young rockers to world leaders, we continue to charm and excite them all; even those who claim never to have liked "Big Band" music.

How do we do it? By following our unique passion as entertainers while constantly pursuing musical perfection. Over the years we continue to do everything in our power to make sure you and your guests have fun at your event with us. It's not a vain pursuit and it's not a chosen occupation. It's our life's mission and work. And therein lies the magic. We wish you success with your plans and offer our services proudly.

As we are,
Doc and Chou Chou

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Raves & Accolades

What People are saying about Doc Scantlin & His Imperial Palms Orchestra

For over a decade, dapper Doc Scantlin has kept the 1920's, 30's and 40's alive for Washington, D.C. and others internationally.

This world renowned swing group, and eccentric couple are behind the Washington Area Music Association's three-time winner of "Best Big Band."

Always authentic, always light hearted, always entertaining, always unforgettable – Doc Scantlin and His Imperial Palms Orchestra will make your event truly a night to remember which people will be talking about for months.

Whether its a stage show for hundreds, a private dining after dinner floor show or wowing your guests with authentic period entertainment, Doc Scantlin is the choice for you special event entertainment needs. But don't take our word for it -- Read what people are saying about us.

"Dear Doc: Thank you for everything you did to make the RNC's Annual Gala and Tribute to Ronald Reagan a tremendous success...You...helped to make the occasion historic...Thank you once again for going above and beyond the call of duty.."

Haley Barbour Chairman
Republican National Committee

"Dear Doc, Last night's performance at the Library was a huge success. I can't thank you enough for adding your talents to the Centennial celebration. ...hope to see you in New York soon. And many thanks."

Carey Maloney
New York Public Library

"You and the Imperial Palms were terrific!!!! Everyone is still talking about the show...Thank you very much for an exciting evening."

Leslie Gerhardt
American Cancer Society

"Dear Doc, ...I can't thank you enough for the fabulous job you did at 'THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER' premier. I've received numerous phone calls from guests telling me how much they enjoyed the evening. Kudos to Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra! I look forward to working with you again."

Allison Jackson,
Director of Special Projects
PARAMOUNT PICTURES



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Testimonials (continued)

"...cannot even begin to convey how fabulous your music was at our wedding at the Rainbow Room ... Your style, personality, and musicality meshed perfectly with the room...and with our sensibilities. It is said that a great wedding is a great PARTY! And you certainly made ours that. Thank you Thank you. Thank you!"

Nancy & Alan Friedman

"Everything was just wonderful. You are the greatest. Thank you for making it a grand evening. I never saw our friends have so much fun. The bubble blowers are hopelessly in love with Chou Chou and we are all in love with your music."

Marcia McCrae

"Dear Doc, My wife says it. Our children say it. At least two dozen thank-you notes all agree: ...Now you have a new legion of folk to spread the word, not the least of them including Al and Tipper. My sincere thanks. You made what began as a surprise into a monumental success. ..."

Cordially,
Hodding Carter III

"Dear Doc: You and your band were sensational at 'On the Air!' I had numerous compliments from the guests, who greatly enjoyed the ambiance you created. I was delighted that people began dancing and that we were able to extend the evening...It was a pleasure working with you. Thank you again!"

*With best regards,
Sue Ann Kendall / National Portrait Gallery*

"Dear Doc: ...The performance by you and your orchestra surpassed all the publicity we had read about you. It certainly was the highlight of one of the most memorable events we've ever held in Washington..."

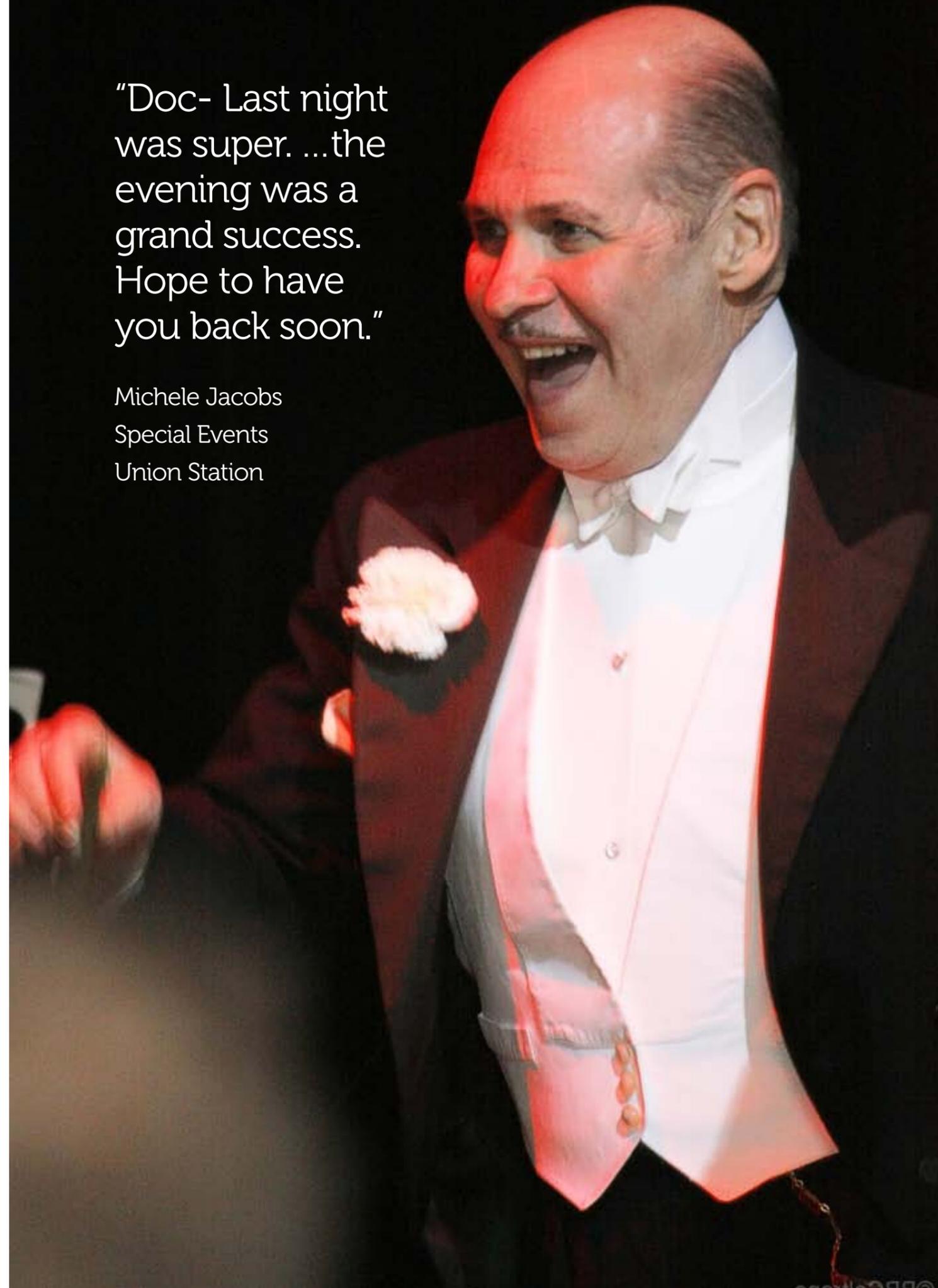
*Very truly yours,
Michael R. Pinter Senior Executive V.P.
Kemper Insurance*

"Dear Doc: ...I want to tell you what a pleasure it was to have you play at our wedding. None of our guests could stop talking about the fantastic show you put on..."

Very truly yours, Richard Ben-Venista

"Doc- Last night was super. ...the evening was a grand success. Hope to have you back soon."

Michele Jacobs
Special Events
Union Station



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Event Images

If you need high resolution public relations photos of Doc Scantlin and His Imperial Palms Orchestra please contact us for formats: RAW, TIF, JPG. Here are some example cropped thumbnails of images we have in stock.



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Contact Us

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The Washington Post

The band includes Doc, Chou Chou, 15 musicians, and the four singing/dancing "Girlfriends". Information on smaller configurations is available on request.

The orchestra is based in Washington D.C., but travels throughout Europe and Asia. Booking fees may require/reflect travel time and distance.

Please contact Doc Scantlin by email, phone, or write to us our address for more information.

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