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Lanny Morgan in the hot seat

Being "in the hot seat" means more than just a night out with Edwina Currie. Musically, it signifies exposure of a different kind you are open to public view as you chart an exciting but hazardous orchestral adventure.

Take the brilliant American alto sax player, Lanny Morgan. He's an exponent of the cool West Coast style of playing, an artistic raison d'être of which I never tire. Morgan has been in more hot seats than most in the saxophone section of some sensational big bands led by vibrant characters such as Terry Gibbs, Maynard Ferguson, Bill Holman, Shorty Rogers and, in more recent years, Bob Florence.



Lanny Morgan

In the 1990s he toured repeatedly with Natalie Cole and, as a 30-year member of the Grammy-winning band, Supersax, Morgan has been part of that exciting team playing orchestrated versions of Charlie Parker bebop solos.

Make no mistake, these players don't just have a great "feel" for the music, they are precision performers able to read orchestral scores with complete accuracy at first sight. When I listen to any studio "out-takes" by musicians of Morgan's standard, I get an unequalled thrill just from the rehearsals.

With a write-up like this, how could you resist Maidstone's Music Room this Friday? Lanny Morgan's Quartet check in there on their current European tour (book on 01622 683548).

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