

REVIEWS

Songs from the heart

THE sensational Melanie Stace stepped out with the BBC Big Band at The Palace Theatre, Newark, on Friday and was a knock-out success.

Melanie wowed the crowd with an array of gorgeous gowns and marvellous numbers from the Big Band era and songs from the 1930s and 1940s.

The 16-piece BBC Big Band, including guitarist Martin Kershaw from Newark, looked dapper in their black suits, white shirts and black dicky bows, under the musical direction of Barry Forgie.

Melanie's musical director, Andy Rumble was on the piano.

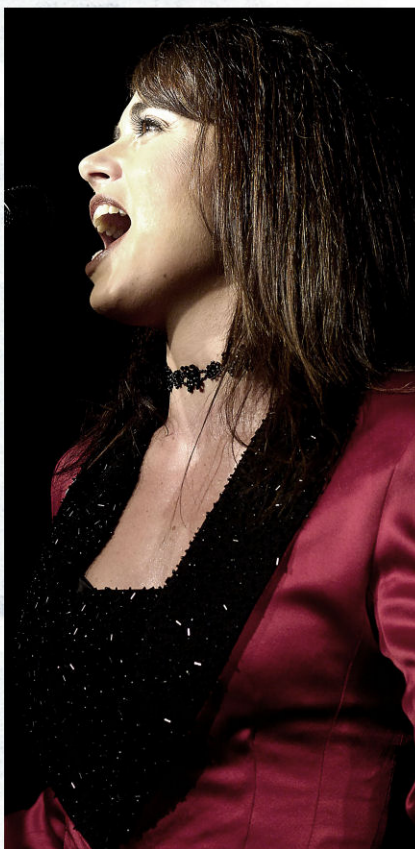
In the first half the band shone through *The Man I Love*, *Begin The Beguine* with Vic Ash on clarinet, *Love For Sale* and *Peanut Vendor* (they certainly had fun with this one).

Melanie first appeared in a white shimmering gown to perform the up-tempo *Singing With The Big Band*, and then the lovely syncopated rhythm of *Night And Day*. She also sang *Polka Dots And Moonbeams*.

Melanie changed into a lilac and silver gown for a medley of Gershwin songs — *How Long Has This Been Going On*, *Embraceable You*, *Someone To Watch Over Me* and *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. This sort of music really suited her voice.

She changed into a short, black fringed dress to pay tribute to the legendary Judy Garland with the songs *Poor Johnny One Note*, *You Made Me Love You*, *The Trolley Song* and *Somewhere Over The Rainbow*. Just lovely.

In the second half Melanie wore a trouser suit, a slinky white gown, a low



MELANIE STACE

cut red dress and finally a glittering gold gown with a neck frill.

She excelled with *Ain't Got That Swing*, *Ten Cents A Dance*, *How Lucky Can You Get*, *The Start Of The Blues* and *Every Time We Say Goodbye*.

She danced with Barry Forgie in *I Know Why And So Do I* and he helped her to sing *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree*.

The band paid tribute to Glenn Miller by performing *Moonlight Serenade*, *Opus One* and *Little Brown Jug*.

They also let rip with *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, *Swing, Swin, Swing* and *Hold That Tiger*. A hugely entertaining night out. — DAB