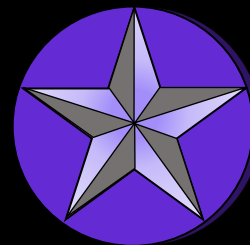


# Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

September 2018



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TJEA members,

I am sincerely honored to serve as President of the Texas Jazz Educators Association. This fall semester starts the beginning of my nineteenth year as the Director of Jazz Studies at Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston. I'm also a saxophonist who stays as active as possible in the Houston Music Scene.

As you know, the Region/All-State jazz auditions are just around the corner. If you are a high school band director (and I realize that I'm essentially preaching to the choir) I highly encourage you to have your students participate in the audition process. The etudes were released in mid-May, and the auditions take place across the state between the third Saturday of September and the third Saturday of October. For more detailed information go to <https://www.tmea.org/divisions-regions/band/jazz>.

One suggestion to benefit the student participating in the jazz audition process is to include *listening* as part of one's practice routine. It's not just about playing the notes, it's *how* you play the notes – playing with the proper tone, good time, proper articulation, good phrasing, familiarity with the jazz language, etc. Of course, one-on-one instruction is helpful. But long-term, critical listening is where it's at if you want to achieve those qualities.

In a sense, in the world of jazz you are who you listen to. For example, when working on the improvisation part of the etudes (Bb Blues and *A Train* for this year), students should make a practice of listening to recordings of the of Bb blues – Sonny Rollins' *Tenor Madness* and *Sonnymoon for Two* are a couple that come to mind. If I were a tenor saxophonist I'd definitely want to check out those recordings and, of course, others as well.

Another example in which listening can be helpful: typically, many if not most of the written etudes in our TMEA All-State Jazz audition packs are based on standard tunes' chord progressions such as *It Could Happen to You*, *Indiana* (a la *Donna Lee*), etc. Why not

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| TMEA concert venue changes.....      | p. 2      |
| TJEA grants increase.....            | p. 3      |
| JEN conference .....                 | p. 4      |
| Lamar University Jazz news.....      | pp. 4-5   |
| New TJEA leadership.....             | p. 5      |
| College of the Mainland news.....    | p. 6      |
| DocFest Benefit Concert.....         | pp. 7-8   |
| Jazz Resources for directors.....    | pp. 9-10  |
| TJEA Summer Symposium in Review..... | pp. 11-12 |

Continued.....

include checking out Miles Davis' version of *It Could Happen to You* if the etude is based on that chord progression? Listening to the classic versions of these tunes can only give the student a deeper understanding of the music. Just a reminder, you can also find play-along tracks for the etudes at <https://www.tjea.org/tjeaallstatenews.php>.

I've served on a number of All-State jazz panels over the years and the students who place toward the top are typically the ones who play with the characteristics of those musicians that we admire. In other words, you can hear in their playing that they do their homework - they listen to jazz deeply.

Congratulations to the Waxahachie Jazz Orchestra, **Rich Armstrong**, Director, Waxahachie ISD, for being

selected as the TMEA/TJEA Invited High School Band for the 2019 TMEA Convention!

Also, congratulations to the Tiger Jazz Band, **Travis Harris**, Director, Denton ISD, McMath Middle School for being selected as the 2019 TMEA/TJEA Invited Middle School for the 2019 TMEA Convention!

Just a reminder that TJEA provides jazz grants for elementary, middle school, and high school programs. Be sure to read about the grant process later in this newsletter.

Hope everyone has a great year!

Sincerely,  
Warren Sneed



## ***Have you renewed your TJEA membership?***

*Contact the web master for a link to pay fees and update membership information.*

[webmaster@tjea.org](mailto:webmaster@tjea.org)

## **TMEA Venue Change for Jazz Ensembles!**

During the TJEA meeting in July at the TBA convention, TMEA Deputy Director **Frank Coachman** informed the members for the 2019 TMEA convention the high school, middle school and college jazz ensembles will perform in the Stars at Night Ballroom. This especially effects the middle school and some college groups since nearly all the high school groups have been in the ballroom in the past.

The change is not necessarily permanent and Coachman stated he could not guarantee the groups, particularly the middle school groups, would have that venue in the future. The determining factor will likely be audience size attending those concerts. Small audiences would not provide a strong argument for using such a large venue in the future. So be sure to attend and support all the jazz concerts during the convention to help keep the ballroom as the jazz venue during following conventions.

We're sending a big TJEA "THANK YOU" to Frank Coachman for working in our best interests for the 2019 convention.



## **NEW TJEA WEB SITE COMING SOON**

Keep your eyes on the TJEA web site for a new look at the same web address! [TJEA.org](http://TJEA.org)

## GRANTS TO TEXAS JAZZ PROGRAMS



The Texas Jazz Educators Association provides jazz grants for Elementary, Middle School, and High School Programs. Over the summer the board and officers of TJEA approved an increase in the grant amounts. The new amount is \$300 and grants will go to at least 10 school programs for clinicians, for educational materials, or for any other program needs. The deadline is October 1st and the grants will be awarded on November 1st.

See the 'Grants' link on the [TJEA.org](http://TJEA.org) home page. You must be a member of TJEA to apply.

**[\\*\\*CLICK HERE FOR GRANT APPLICATION\\*\\*](#)**

Send Applications to [Alex\\_Parker@baylor.edu](mailto:Alex_Parker@baylor.edu), or mail to Alex Parker, 1931 Ruidoso, Waco, TX 76712



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Education Network Conference will be held in Reno, NV at the Grand Sierra Resort from January 9-12, 2019. The evening concert schedule, housing information, and other details are posted at the website: [JazzEdnNet.org](http://JazzEdnNet.org)

### ***Early Bird Registration - Available now!***

**Through September 30**

**Full Conference Registration  
\$175**

**Spouse/Domestic  
Partner Registration  
\$75**

**Student Registration  
\$50**

### ***After Sept. 30 - Advance Online***

**October 1 – December 15**

**Full Conference Registration  
\$200**

**Spouse/Domestic  
Partner Registration  
\$100**

**Student Registration  
\$75**



# LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

## From Rick Condit, Director of Jazz Ensembles and Associate Professor of Saxophone

The Lamar Cardinal Jazz Orchestra has a great year planned, highlighted by the inaugural Lamar University “Jimmy” Simmons Jazz Festival, to be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2019. This will be a non-competitive educational exchange and limited to the first 12 middle school, high school, or community college bands to register.

Special guest artists for the festival will be the **Houston Jazz Orchestra**, featuring many of Houston’s most legendary players. Members of the HJO will also serve as clinicians and adjudicators for the event.



The Houston Jazz Orchestra

All performing groups will have 30 minutes on stage followed by a 30-minute clinic for **EACH SECTION** of the band given by members of the Houston Jazz Orchestra. The participation fee for each performing group is \$250. More information is available by contacting Rick at [rcondit@lamar.edu](mailto:rcondit@lamar.edu)

Other upcoming events include Lamar Saxophone Day on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018. Featured guest will be Beatbox saxophonist, **Derek Brown**.

Continued next page...





**Derek Brown**

Derek will present a beatbox master class in the afternoon of December 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by a **free** concert in the evening. The concert will also feature saxophone ensembles from Lamar and McNeese State Universities. Further information will follow at a later date.

## The 2018-2019 TJE Board

|                  |                |            |                 |
|------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| President:       | Warren Sneed   | Directors: | Sarah Roberts   |
| President-Elect: | Preston Pierce |            | Matthew Seifert |
| Treasurer:       | Heather Mensch |            | David Lown      |
| Secretary:       | James Cook     |            |                 |

Please feel free to contact any board member with questions about the organization or with suggestions on how we can help to improve jazz education in our state.

Contact information is found in the Membership Roster at [the TJE home page](#).

---

Also, our webmaster is Cathy Benford and the newsletter editor is John Goode.

## College of the Mainland Jazz Ensemble, Texas City

This ensemble is a true community college group of musicians. “A few changes have been made in the band this fall but majority of the players are back”, said director, **Sparky Koerner**. “The COM Jazz Ensemble musicians are part of the community. Many of the members have performed with the ensemble for 15 years or more.” **Ted Williams**, trumpet and salesperson with Music and Arts has been with the ensemble since 1981. That is the same year that Sparky started directing the ensemble. “I love that many of the musicians in the ensemble have careers other than music. We do have a couple band directors in the group. **David Richard** and **Theron Sharp** are band directors in Alvin ISD.”

“Lead trumpet is **Dean Artall**. Dean and I go back to a time when we were both at North Texas. I was working on my masters and directing the 9 O’Clock Lab Band and Dean was working on his Bachelors and playing lead in that band”, said Sparky.

“We have a few players that work for NASA: **Al Cofrin** on bass and **Juan Manuel** on guitar. I believe that these musicians, having played together for so long, make it easy for the newcomers to the group to fit in,” said Sparky. “I am



looking forward to an exciting time performing music with this ensemble this year. Our first concert is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Fine Arts Building Recital Hall. Our concerts are always free and open to the public. If you want updates on the band’s performances, send an email to [skoerner@com.edu](mailto:skoerner@com.edu) requesting to be put on our mailing list, and you will get notices of our concerts.”

**Sparky’s Jazz Express** will be recognized at: “An Evening of Art & Music” held by the Galveston Art League at their Gala on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 10 pm at the San Luis Hotel Grand Ballroom. Other organizations being recognized are the Galveston Symphony Orchestra, Galveston College Community Chorale and the Heritage Chorale. For more information about the gala: [www.galvestonartleague.com](http://www.galvestonartleague.com)

Sparky wants to remind all the jazz lovers that if you are ever in Galveston during the weekends stop by the Tremont House Hotel for some live jazz. **Trio Du Jour**, comprised of **Leah Stonum** – piano and **Mel Drybread** – bass, perform along with a variety of guest musicians. Sparky will be there September 21 and 29. Other guests include **Aubrey Tucker** – trombone, **Ed Lowe** – trombone, **Clayton Duncan** – saxophone and **Bobby Adams** – drums. The group performs in the lobby and it is a great atmosphere to hear live music.





**DOC FEST BENEFIT CONCERT**  
**SEPTEMBER 22, 2018**

FEATURING  
**THE LEGENDARY GERALD ALBRIGHT**

HOSTED BY **SCOTT GERTNER**

ALSO APPEARING  
**HSPVA COMBO**  
& CHRIS WALKER (BASS) - PATRICK WILLIAMS (DRUMS)  
JOHN CALDERON (GUITAR) - GLENN PIPER (KEYS)

**\$25 & \$50**  
GENERAL ADMISSION  
**\$100 VIP**  
(INCLUDES MEET & GREET  
WITH GERALD ALBRIGHT AFTER  
THE CONCERT)

CONCERT BEGINS **@ 7:30PM**

**DENNEY THEATER**  
4001 STANFORD ST.  
HOUSTON, TX 77006

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [WWW.DOCFESTJAZZ.ORG](http://WWW.DOCFESTJAZZ.ORG)



*Continued from previous page....*



**DOCFEST TO PRESENT GERALD ALBRIGHT IN CONCERT  
EMCEE SCOTT GERTNER TO BE INDUCTED INTO  
HSPVA JAZZ HALL OF FAME**



Renowned contemporary saxophonist **Gerald Albright** will be presented in concert on September 22, 2018, 7:30 pm, Denney Theatre (4001 Stanford St.), accompanied by the Chris Walker Quartet. The occasion is a benefit for DocFest, Inc., in support of the Helen and Bob Morgan Jazz Scholarship Fund at New York's New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music.

Emcee will be **Scott Gertner**, the popular Houston vocalist, guitarist, band leader and club owner. Mr. Gertner is a 1977 graduate of the High School for Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), and, during the concert, will be inducted into HSPVA's Jazz Hall of Fame.

**Albright** recently released *30*, his 19<sup>th</sup> recording, celebrating 30 years of success since his debut album, *Just Between Us*. His recordings have garnered eight Grammy nominations, underscoring his status as a core artist of contemporary urban jazz.

**Gertner** is also a multiple-Grammy nominee, and is revered in Houston, not only as a musician, but for the excellence of his various Gertner jazz clubs through the years. He considers a career high point to have been the Scott Gertner Band opening for his long-time artistic favorite, Luther Vandross.

Gertner will be the 11<sup>th</sup> inductee into the Hall of Fame. Previous honorees are noted on the DocFest website: [docfestjazz.org](http://docfestjazz.org).

**DocFest Benefit Concert**  
Saturday, September 22, 2018  
7:30 pm  
Denney Theatre (HSPVA), 4001 Stanford St.  
Gerald Albright, with Chris Walker Quartet  
HSPVA Jazz Combo opening  
Tickets \$ 25 – 100  
Available via [docfestjazz.org](http://docfestjazz.org)

## **ABOUT DOCFEST**

**DocFest was conceived by Chris Walker and Tamar Davis to honor the career of Robert "Doc" Morgan, Houston's HSPVA Director of Jazz Studies, 1976-99. The occasion primarily benefits the Helen and Bob Morgan Jazz Scholarship at New York's New School of Jazz and Contemporary Music, for graduates of HSPVA.**



# Favorite Jazz Resources

Richard Birk, Brazosport College

[richard.birk@brazosport.edu](mailto:richard.birk@brazosport.edu)

One of the sessions at this summer's TJEA Jazz Symposium, presented by Richard Birk, was a discussion of a variety of resources available to the jazz musician and educator. What follows is a listing of many of the resources Richard discussed during that session.

Technology and on-line resources can be a valuable asset or they can get in the way by adding too many steps in the process of 'learning'. By being familiar with what tools are available you

will be able to better determine those that can improve your teaching and playing. Hopefully this listing of resources will help you make some of those decisions.

Take an evening, or several, and click through these links and explore the web sites. It's likely you'll find something new that will be useful to you. Many thanks to Richard Birk for compiling and sharing his list of 'favorites'.

**Favorite Jazz Website:** <http://www.shedthemusic.com>

*Improvisation Language, Transcription Tips, Theory, Technology, and more!*

**Favorite Play-Along:** Real Book Multi-Tracks - [halleonard.com](http://halleonard.com)

*Lead sheets, Tempo Control, Looping, and Muting*

[For Real Book samples click here.](#)

**Favorite App:** iRealPro - <https://irealpro.com>

*Lead sheets, Tempo Control, Looping, Muting, and Practice Tools*

**Jazz Charts:**

**J.W. Pepper** - <https://www.jwpepper.com>

*Excellent website, quick delivery, ePrint*

**eJazzLines** - <http://www.ejazzlines.com>

*Vast selection, Charts from real big bands, downloadable PDFs*

**Jazz Ambassadors** - <https://www.armyfieldband.com>

*Perspectives, free charts & educational materials*

**Mind for Music** - <http://www.mindformusic.com>

*Free charts & transcriptions*

**Authentic Latin Jazz Charts:**

**3-2 Music** - <https://3-2music.com>

*Charts from real Latin bands*

**Tatiana Music** - <http://www.tatianamusic.com>

*Charts & midi files from real Latin bands*

**Music Theory:**

<https://www.musictheory.net>

*Lessons, Ear Training*

<https://www.teoria.com>

*Lessons, Ear Training*

**Jazz Books, Aids, etc.:** <https://www.jazzbooks.com>

**Recording Software: Audacity** <https://www.audacityteam.org>

*Change tempo, transpose, and boost/reduce frequencies*

**Other Apps**

Drum Beats +

Tempo SlowMo

Chord Tracker

**Other Play-Alongs**

[LearnJazzStandards.com](http://LearnJazzStandards.com)

Alfred Jazz Easy Play-along Series

The Real Book Backing Tracks Vol. 1 & 2

**Recommendations from others:**

Warren Sneed recommends: <https://www.jazzadvice.com>

Eric Ruyle recommends: <http://www.jazzstandards.com>

**Listening Resource Tip:**

Search Playlists on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Music, etc. for "Jazz Saxophone", "Jazz Trumpet", "Jazz Trombone", etc.

**BONUS: Richard added a list of several "Personal Eureka Moments"**

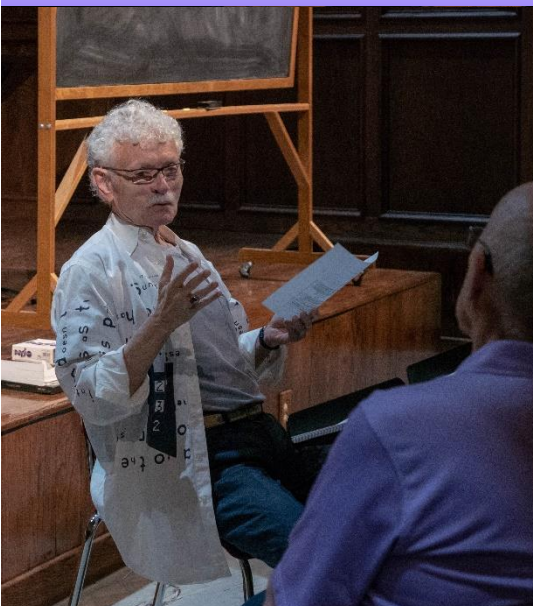
- YouTube videos can play at different speeds
  - Finale has a Latin percussion plug-in that generates percussion parts in different Latin styles.
  - Walking bass formula (courtesy of Mike Steinel) = 1235 alternating with 8765
  - Drummers set up a band hit by playing kick or snare on the downbeat immediately before (no matter if the hit is on a downbeat or upbeat)
  - 3rds & 7ths unlock the Secrets of the Universe (Piano & guitar voicings 3rds & 7ths!)
- (Improvising changes = 7th to 3rd resolutions)
- Transcribing is the quickest way to improve (and there's nothing quick about transcribing...)
  - Related corollary: Whoever is doing the work, is doing the learning.
  - Learn to speak the language first. Learn the grammar (theory) second.



## 2018 TJEA Member's Summer Jazz Symposium



Houston Jazz Octet - (from l to r) Pamela York- piano; Greg Petito - guitar; Thomas Hultén , trombone; David Craig - bass; Dennis Dotson - trumpet; Brian Perez - alto saxophone; Andrew Sneed - drums; Warren Sneed - tenor saxophone



(Left) Robert "Doc" Morgan, former Director of Jazz Studies at HSPVA and SHSU, giving his presentation on "Things I've Never Read in Books".



(Right) Brian Perez, Director of Jazz Studies at Texas Southern University, discussing "How to Start a High School Jazz Combo".

(Below Left) Pianist Pamela York, drummer Joel Fulgham (Center seated at right), and trombonist Thomas Hultén (below right), during break-out session *Making the Most of the Region/ All-State Jazz Audition*.





# TJEA Summer Jazz Symposium 2018

The 8th Annual TJEA Symposium was held at Houston's Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts on Saturday, June 9, 2018. The first presentation was given by Dr. **Robert Morgan**, long-time director of the jazz program at HSPVA, whose topic was *Things I've Never Read in Books*.

The **Houston Jazz Octet** then followed, performing the music of Duke Pearson and Bill Cunliffe, as well as the great standard *Just Friends* arranged by Thomas Hultén. After the performance, members of the octet, as well as drummer **Joel Fulgham**, worked with student attendees. They included **Dennis Dotson** - trumpet; **Brian Perez** - alto saxophone; **Warren Sneed** - tenor saxophone; **Pamela York** - piano; **Greg Petito** - guitar; **David Craig** - bass; and **Andrew Sneed** - drums. The

afternoon session included a presentation by **Brian Perez**, Professor of Woodwinds and Jazz Studies at Texas Southern University, on *How to Form a High School Jazz Combo* and **Richard Birk**, professor and Coordinator of Music at Brazosport College, on *Jazz Resources*.

The host of the event, **Warren Sneed**, extends his thanks to **John Goode**, **Cathy Benford**, **Heather Mensch**, and **Sarah Roberts** for helping to organize and promote the event.

Looking to the future, TJEA is considering moving the Symposium to San Antonio and holding the event at a time that will coincide with either the TMEA or TBA conventions. Hopefully, this would make it more convenient and increase attendance.



Symposium host, Warren Sneed (far left) and presenters (l to r), Brian Perez, Robert Morgan, and Richard Birk.

Greg Petito – guitar (below left) and Dennis Dotson – trumpet (below right) work with attendees during break-session discussing the All-Region/All-State auditions.







HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR !!

---

## TJEA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The **TJEA Newsletter** is compiled four times a year, in February, May, September and November. Articles should be sent by email to the editor in a Word formatted attachment. Avoid sending PDF files, transfer to Word before sending. Photos should be placed in the Word formatted article or sent as separate JPEG images.

Email should be sent to the newsletter editor, John Goode, at [newsletter@tjea.org](mailto:newsletter@tjea.org).

|            |            |                     |
|------------|------------|---------------------|
| DEADLINES: | January 15 | (Feb. Edition)      |
|            | April 15   | (May Edition)       |
|            | August 15  | (September Edition) |
|            | October 15 | (Nov. Edition)      |

Texas Jazz Newsletter reserves the right to approve and edit all materials proposed for distribution.