



# Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter



Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

September 2016

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TJEA Members,

We've almost arrived at the 100th anniversary of the very first jazz recording: "[Livery Stable Blues](#)," by the Original Dixieland Jass Band.

Recorded on February 26th, 1917, it unexpectedly became a huge hit, and was the first popular music recording to sell more than one million copies. It marked an early milestone in the development of a music that would both document and influence the political and social change that defined in the 20th century.

From that epochal "Livery Stable Blues" recording to now, jazz music has undergone astonishing changes - so much so that it could be argued that a different term is needed to define our genre. That is a discussion for another time, but for now I think it is important that we as jazz educators recognize the universal elements of this music, which can be found in music from the Original Dixieland Jass Band, to Duke Ellington, to Charlie Parker, to Miles Davis, to Brad Mehldau.

Of those universal elements, two in particular are critically important: improvisation and historical lineage. Most jazz is heavily based in improvisation. It is in the DNA of the music, and it is what makes it difficult, relevant, complex, and fresh. The historical lineage of the music is the line that can be drawn from any jazz recording or performance to its predecessors decades in the past. Are you a fan of Gordon Goodwin? His music can be traced back to Gil Evans and Count Basie, and then further to Paul



2016 TJEA summer jazz symposium!! See p. 2

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Whiteman and Fletcher Henderson. Do you have students who love Snarky Puppy? There is a direct line backward to Herbie Hancock's Headhunters, Freddie Hubbard, Tony Williams' Lifetime and Weather Report, to Miles Davis, and then further to Roy Eldridge and Louis Armstrong.

As we begin this new school year, I am renewing my own determination and commitment to keep improvisation and historical lineage at the forefront of my pedagogy, and I'd like to invite you all to join me. Students need nurturing and encouragement as they continue the hard climb toward becoming creative improvisers, and they need to be exposed as much as possible to this music's history, primarily through its vibrant garden of recordings, stretching back for a century. I wish you all the best as you face these challenges, and I hope you will let us know what we can do to help enable you to be successful.

Thank you for your hard work and your commitment to education, and I hope to see you all at TMEA 2017!

Best regards,

David Lown  
President, TJEA

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## The 2016 TJEA

### Summer Jazz Symposium

was held in June at Carroll Senior High School in Southlake, TX in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. The symposium sponsor and organizer was current TJEA president, **David Lown**. Special guests were professors **Ronald Carter** from Northern Illinois University and **John Murphy** from the University of North Texas.



*Professor Carter and members of the DFW All-Star Big Band with Symposium attendees. June 18th, 2016.*

Host David Lown, reflecting on the summer symposium stated, "This year's Symposium was a great success, and it was rewarding to see talented students and educators together in one place, playing some great music and learning about jazz education. Professor Carter gave us a lot of information about conceptualizing swing feel, the importance of learning multiple styles, vocalizing the music, and understanding the importance of jazz history. The all-student big band that we had

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was very well prepared and represented Texas and DFW very well. Dr. John Murphy from UNT also led an excellent roundtable discussion, and he spent a lot of time listening to the educators in the room. We all learned a lot and experienced some different perspectives.”



*UNT's Dr. John Murphy leads a roundtable discussion about jazz education in Texas.*

Lown added, “Thank you so much to the band directors who attended, the students who played in the big band and their directors, TJEA Treasurer Heather Mensch, Secretary James Cook, Executive Director Alex Parker and the rest of the TJEA board, and the students and parents of the Carroll Jazz Program in Southlake for making the event so great.

I look forward to next year's Symposium, and I know it's in great hands with our new president-elect, Sarah Roberts!”



## College of the Mainland Jazz Ensemble

The COM Jazz Ensemble's first performance will be Saturday October 1, 2016 at 1 pm as part of College of the Mainland's 50th year Celebration. All the performing groups from COM will be performing that day from 11 am to 3 pm. There are a few new

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members in the jazz ensemble this fall. Playing guitar will be **Juan Manuel**, and on piano **Charlie Prause**, both are excellent musicians and will fit right in with all the experienced players that I have. New in the trumpet section is **Ronnie Howard** a sophomore music major on trumpet. Ronnie made the TX Community College Directors All State Symphonic Band last year and is hoping to make the TCCDB All State Jazz Ensemble this year. College of the Mainland jazz ensemble director, **Sparky Koerner** commented, "I am always glad to see so many of the players returning year after year because it adds to the consistency of the group and hate to see players that have been in for a while have to move on. Kim Chavez – jazz trumpet is taking a break from the ensemble to finish up a master's degree in Human Health Science. We will miss her creative solos."

Koerner will serve as the Brass Adjudicator Coordinator for the TCCBDA All State Jazz Ensemble Auditions that will take place in October. "I am encouraging all the community college jazz directors and concert/symphonic directors to encourage their students to audition. It is a great opportunity for their students to rehearse and perform with other community college music students from around the state and to work with a knowledgeable director," said Koerner.

*Sparky's Jazz Express* will perform for the COM 50th Celebration Gala on September 15, 2016 to be held at the Doyle Center in Texas City. Sparky is in his 32nd year as a full time music educator at COM.

On September 17, 2016 the Jazz Express will perform for the Galveston Art League Annual Gala to be held at the Galveston Convention Center in



*Charlie Prause, piano and Juan Manuel, guitar.*

Galveston. This is the 3rd year that his group has been asked to perform for this event.

Sparky Koerner continues to be one of the guest artists performing at the Tremont House Hotel in Galveston with the *Trio Du Jour*. He will perform on September 9 & 23 from 6 to 9 pm with **Mel Drybread** on bass and **Leah Stonum** on piano. A variety of horn and guitars player rotate at this venue according to their schedule, giving the Tremont a new jazz group every weekend on Fridays and Saturdays. If you're ever in Galveston for the weekend stop by the Tremont House located at 2300 Ships Mechanic Row to hear live jazz.

Sparky also continues his long standing performances as principle trumpet with the Galveston Symphony Orchestra with a Pops Concert scheduled for September 4th and two concerts in October on the 2nd and 30th. Major works will include the Bizet Symphony in C and Shostakovich Symphony No. 9 Op. 70.

## Weatherford College on the March

It looks to be a great fall semester at Weatherford College. The WC Jazz Band will again be directed by **Cal Lewiston**, with **Ric Flauding** as assistant director. Jazz Improvisation and Small Instrumental Ensemble (Combo) classes are now under way along with individual instrumental instruction. Beginning with the spring 2017

semester, Weatherford College will offer Music Composition classes and hands-on instruction in Music Technology as well, thanks in part to the addition of new computers and digital audio workstations on campus. The new classes will be taught by Ric Flauding.

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In other news, several of Mr. Flauding's compositions and arrangements for jazz soloist, big band, and symphony orchestra have been performed recently, including performances by saxophonist **Mack Goldsbury** with orchestras in

Mexico. Over the summer, sheet-music distributor J.W. Pepper began offering more than a hundred of Mr. Flauding's compositions and arrangements online, including several "hot list" offerings for jazz band and "little big band."



## UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON Moores School of Music

### Jazz Orchestra Fall 2016 Concert Series

The Moores School of Music Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of **Noe Marmolejo**, will kick off their 2016-2017 Concert Series on Wednesday October 5. The opening concert will feature music from big bands of the 1960s forward, including charts from the libraries of Buddy Rich, Thad Jones, Frank Mantooth, the Mingus Big Band, and the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. The performance will begin at 7:30 PM in the Moores Opera House on the campus of the University of Houston. Tickets are \$12.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students/seniors. They can be obtained ahead of time by visiting [www.music.uh.edu](http://www.music.uh.edu) and purchasing under "Events and Performances". The ticket office will also be open inside of the Moores Opera House an hour before the performance.



Band Directors, lesson teachers, and anyone else interested in bringing student groups can contact **Cameron Kubos** at [cameronkadekubos@gmail.com](mailto:cameronkadekubos@gmail.com) to receive information on special group rates and opportunities.

More information on the MSM Jazz Program including details on the November 16 Jazz Orchestra performance and **2017 MSM Jazz Festival**, can be found at [www.uhjazz.com](http://www.uhjazz.com).

## GRANTS TO TEXAS JAZZ PROGRAMS

The Texas Jazz Educators Association provides jazz grants for Elementary, Middle School, and High School Programs. The grants are for up to \$250 and they will go to at least 10 school programs for clinicians, educational materials, or other program needs. The deadline is October 1st and the grants will be awarded on November 1st. You must be a member of TJEA to apply.

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

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



*Trumpeter Eddie Lewis in South Africa with the trumpet section for the Afrika Mkhize Big Band.  
(L. to R. Sakhile Simani, Sydney Mavundla, Eddie Lewis and Lwanda Gogwana.)*

## Texas – South Africa Connection

This summer, Houston trumpeter **Eddie Lewis** had the pleasure of performing and teaching at the *National Youth Jazz Festival* in Grahamstown, South Africa. For sixteen years, the festival has been gathering accomplished jazz musicians from around the world and from within South Africa to perform and encourage the youth in their study of our art.

The 2016 National Youth Jazz Festival brought jazz artists from over a dozen different countries to perform for the public and teach 250 of South Africa's top jazz students. Mr. Lewis was one of three performing clinicians from the USA. He taught two clinics on general trumpet topics, a clinic on the history of jazz, and a clinic on how to incorporate the jazz language into your practice time. These were all very well received.

During the festival, Lewis had the pleasure of performing with the Afrika Mkhize Big Band. For this performance, Afrika wrote arrangements of about a dozen Bheki Mseleku compositions. Bheki Mseleku was a South African pianist who made a name for himself in the UK and parts of Europe,

performing and recording with other jazz artists like Joe Henderson, Abbey Lincoln, Elvin Jones and Courtney Pine. Lewis played third trumpet and the jazz solo chair for the band.

Lewis was also honored with a private performance of a piece he composed for the Stirling High School Brass Ensemble. The composition, titled *Pura Alegria*, had been performed earlier in the month when Lewis was unavailable to attend. The students, when learning that he would be in the country during the festival, requested an opportunity to perform the work for him while he was in Grahamstown.

Lewis gave one last clinic at Stirling High School in East London, South Africa before returning to the USA. In this clinic, he shared with the school's brass musicians about the difference between a warm-up and a routine. The students then participated in an abbreviated version of Lewis' Physical Trumpet Pyramid routine.

If the name, Eddie Lewis, sounds familiar to you, it may be because he composed four of this year's All-State audition etudes: two trumpet etudes, a trombone etude, and a bass trombone etude. Lewis performs, teaches and composes in the greater Houston area.

# BAYLOR UNIVERSITY - JONES HALL STAGE ON CAMPUS

OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> TWO GREAT QUARTETS !!

THE BENNY GOLSON QUARTET

7:30 PM

OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

THE DAN HEUBLE QUARTET

7:30 PM

## NEW TJE A OFFICERS

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 TJE A officers, directors, and advisory board.

### Officers:

President-David Lown  
 President-Elect - Sarah Roberts  
 Secretary - James Cook  
 Treasurer – Heather Mensch

### Executive Officer:

Alex Parker

### Directors:

Mark Nichols  
 Aric Schneller  
 Matthew Seifert

### Advisory Board:

Paul Baker  
 Cathy Benford  
 Kris Berg  
 Richard Birk  
 Frank Coachman  
 Don Dennis  
 Ben Irom  
 Sparky Koerner  
 Warren Sneed

We want to thank our outgoing officers for their hard work while in office! Thanks to past-president Matthew Seifert and director Greg Ball.

The TJE A membership year began on July 1st. If you have not renewed please contact the TJE A webmaster for a link to the membership page. [webmaster@tjea.org](mailto:webmaster@tjea.org)

## 2016-2017 Invited High School Jazz Band

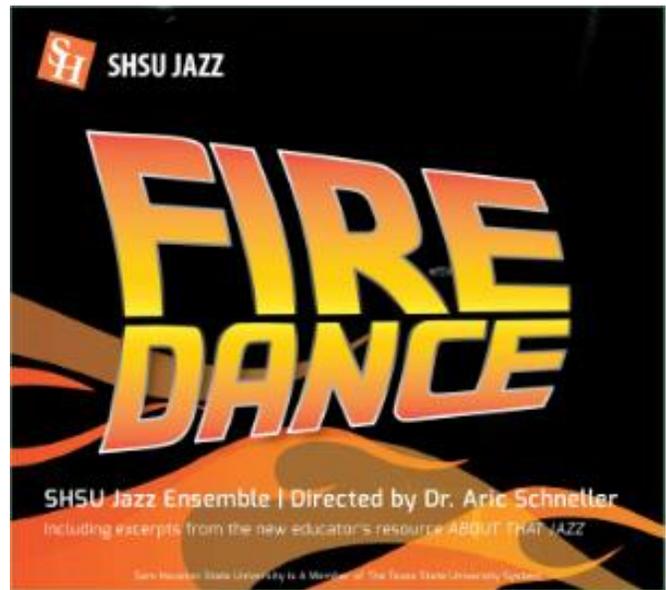
The TMEA-TJE A Invited High School Jazz Band is the *Harlingen HS Jazz Band* from Harlingen, TX, **Ronnie Rios, Director**. Congratulations to these students and directors for their wonderful audition! Be on the lookout in the 2017 TMEA Convention Guide for their performance time.

# Sam Houston State University Jazz News

**Aric Schneller**, Director of Jazz Studies at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX shared these accolades for the SHSU jazz program. Their new CD is coming off the press this month. It's entitled *Fire Dance* and it's partly an educational jazz CD with excerpts for the new jazz resource, *About That Jazz* by J. Richard Dunscomb and Jose Antonio Diaz.

[For CD purchase information click here.](#)

Also, SHSU Jazz Ensemble's 2016 TMEA performance (CD/DVD) will be distributed on NAXOS of America in November. Lastly, the 7th Annual **SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival** will be on March 31st and April 1st of 2017 and it will feature the great **Michael Dease** on trombone.



J. Richard Dunscomb, Vice President of the Board of Directors-Midwest Clinic, contributed the following liner notes for the Fire Dance CD.

*Dr. Aric Schneller, Director of Jazz Studies, is to be congratulated for his vision on this project. As a jazz musician and educator, he is keenly aware that the future of jazz needs to be addressed at the school level where this is a proliferation of jazz bands. Kudos to him for including high quality music in this CD that speaks directly to the jazz education field alongside those professional charts that the band so proudly presents.*

*The Sam Houston State University School of Music has long been recognized for its outstanding program in Music Education. Dr. Schneller continues this practice today. In addition, under the leadership of SHSU's Director of Bands Dr. Matthew McInturf, the SHSU Center for Music Education has been formed and is a Leader in continuing support for practicing teachers.*

*The mix of music you will experience here ranges from the exciting and hot "Fire Dance" featuring Luis Ayala on trumpet and Taylor Sharp on guitar to the subtle sounds of vocalist Austen Smith and the lush trombone of Ramsey Hampton.*

*The band roars out of the gate with a blistering arrangement of the standard "Almost like Being in Love" arranged by Lennie Niehaus. We hear the*

*exceptional range of vocalist Austen Smith and the trombone styling of Ramsey Hampton.*

*Jazz is a verbatim language and the language of jazz must be learned to cultivate and create the feeling of swing. Four of the selections on the CD do just that. They are from a newly published curriculum entitled, *About That Jazz*, which approaches jazz education from the oral tradition utilized by the masters of this art form. Each of these hip-sounding charts are written by award winning author, composer and arranger Jose Antonio Diaz. He is the Director of Bands at MacArthur High School in Houston, Texas.*

*Diaz's first tune is a medium tempo swinger entitled, "Just Groovin'" ...and groove it does! The chart features one of Diaz's Texas High School All-State students Robert Chapa on drums and SHSU student Raphael Laran on trombone.*

*"Caught In The Moment" written by Tom Kubis spotlights Geovani Ayala on flugelhorn soaring above the pulsating ensemble. This selection evokes musical emotions.*

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*We hear Gregory Goods on tenor saxophone who is another one of Diaz's Texas High School All-State students from MacArthur High School soloing on the whimsical "Joseph's Bounce."*

*The romantic ballad "Never Let Me Go" finds trombonist Ramsey Hampton at his finest. His silky sound is reminiscent of that of his teacher Aric Schneller and mentor Bill Watrous.*

*The next two tunes are Diaz's swinging specials. In "JR's Hideaway" we hear a trumpet solo by SHSU student Chris Cermak and "Dot Blues" spotlights another solo by guest student Gregory Goods on*

*tenor saxophone.*

*"Fire Dance" is definitely the pièce de résistance of the CD. This terrific showpiece is composed and arranged by Allen Vizzutti and Jeff Tyzik. Luis Ayala's trumpet begins the fireworks with the beautiful theme over a bed of driving rhythms by the ensemble. His improvisation is followed by Taylor Sharp's fiery guitar solo which launches Luis and the band into a blazing climax.*

*In conclusion, Fire Dance is a welcome tribute to jazz and jazz education. Congrats to one and all that made this excellent recording possible.*



## Texas State bassist instructs in Chile

**Utah Hamrick**, director of jazz ensembles and instructor of jazz bass at **Texas State University**, spent a week in Chile this August working with students at the Projazz Institute in Santiago. The Projazz Institute had its beginnings in 1982 as the Academy of Music Projazz. The project grew in 1985 with the addition of renowned voice teacher **Ana Maria Meza** and saxophonist **Patrick Ramirez**. The program was renamed in 1999 as the Projazz International Music School creating the first jazz studies program in Chile and renamed again in 2007 becoming the Professional Projazz Institute offering the first professional level jazz studies approved by the Chile Ministry of Education. Projazz remains at the forefront in the training of professional artists.

Hamrick directed their big band in two concerts, one in Santiago and one in Rancagua. Hamrick also gave a jazz bass master class and performed two concerts with Texas State colleagues **Russell Haight** and **Hank Hemsoth**.



***Have you renewed your TJE.A membership?***

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

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



## Are you a JEN member?

The Jazz Education Network is a global non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in the United States of America that seeks to advance jazz education, promote performance and develop new audiences. JEN was founded in 2008 in Chicago and now has over 1,500 members in 23 countries, every USA state and 7 Canadian provinces.

JEN operates with a volunteer board, two part-time employees and two independent contractors, and hundreds of volunteers from around the world. The Founding Steering Committee, led by co-founders Mary Jo Papich and Dr. Lou Fischer, created the mission that JEN lives by today: *The Jazz Education Network is dedicated to building the jazz arts community by advancing education, promoting performance, and developing new audiences.*

Annual conferences are held in January each year and past conference cities have included, St. Louis (2010), New Orleans (2011), Louisville (2012), Atlanta (2013), Dallas (2014), San Diego (2015), Louisville, KY (2016).

The 8th Annual JEN Conference will be held in New Orleans, LA at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, January 4-7, 2017. The annual conference serves teachers, researchers, students, artists, performing arts presenters, music industry partners, enthusiasts and more. The organization is expecting over 3,500 attendees at the conference and is working with local community arts leaders and jazz affiliates to make it a very successful event. Information may be found online from the [JEN Home Page](#) under the Conference Central Tab. Click here to see all [future conference locations](#).

Texas clinicians and performing ensembles appearing at the 2017 JEN conference include: *University of North Texas Jazz Singers-Jennifer Barnes*-director; **Paris Rutherford** (clinic); *High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Jazz Combo* (Houston)-**Warren Sneed**, director; **Marvin Sparks** (clinic); *Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy Jazz Factory-James Hairston*, director; *Temple High School Highlighters-Brent Mathesen*, director; **Ed Soph** (clinician); *Lamar University Cardinal Jazz-Rick Condit*, director; *Denton High School Soul Ensemble, Denton High School Lab Band 1-Jesse Woolery*, director; **Dan Haerle** (clinician); and others.

View the complete 2017 conference schedule [here](#). Membership information can be found [here](#).

**8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
JAN 4-7, 2017  
NEW ORLEANS**

**Early Registration Discount  
Now - Sept. 30, 2016**



## 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.