



Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter



Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

September 2014

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TJEA Members,

My name is Mark Nichols and I am very excited to be serving as President of TJEA this year. I am a high school band director who grew up in Texas to love and appreciate all kinds of jazz music.

Through my musical journey, I was able to learn from many jazz educators who expanded my musical horizons on the types of music that exist out there. As members of TJEA, it is now our great responsibility to do that for the many great young people currently involved in music.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a recording to be our Invited Jazz Ensemble this year. As one of the judges, it was my pleasure to hear many different styles of music performed. Not only was I excited to see so much great jazz education going on across the state, but I was reminded of what a wide genre we really teach. As you consider submitting a recording this year, I want to remind you that ALL TYPES of ensembles are allowed to submit recordings. We would love to hear middle school jazz bands, jazz choirs, jazz string groups and even combos that exhibit jazz in your program. This is a great chance to showcase what makes jazz unique in your community. Please talk to the colleagues on your campus and in your district and encourage them to submit recordings as well.

We had a really great discussion this year at the TJEA membership meeting at TBA about the history and future of our organization. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and thank you to everyone who contributed to the discussion. It is great to think how

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**TMEA Invited Jazz Ensemble:
Houston High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts jazz
ensemble!**

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far TJEA has come and to imagine how far it could go. As you begin your semester, please encourage others in your area to join TJEA and see the benefits of being a TJEA member. Many of them might not know about our organization and you can be an advocate for us in your district and region.

Please consider entering a grant request this year. Do you need music for your program? Would you

like to go to a festival this year? Would you like to bring in a guest artist, but just don't have the funds? This is your chance to get on the website and fill out an application. We would love to see what TJEA can do to help your program. Never hesitate to contact us to see how we can help.

Thank you,

Mark Nichols

Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts 2015 TMEA Invited Jazz Ensemble



Congratulations to director **Warren Sneed** and the students of the **Houston HSPVA** jazz program for being selected as the Invited Jazz Ensemble at this year's TMEA convention.

The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) evolved in 1971 from a realization that gifted young artists need highly specialized and rigorous training in the arts to be prepared for the intense competition they will meet in colleges, conservatories

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and the professional arts world. The creation of HSPVA represented the first attempt by any public high school in the nation to correlate an academic program with concentrated training in the arts. Also, it was one of only three public schools in the nation to offer programs in both the visual and performing arts, and the first such institution in the Southwest. For the Houston Independent School District (HISD), the formation of HSPVA represented a dramatic departure from traditional comprehensive programs.

The HSPVA Jazz Studies program consists of two large jazz ensembles, two official combos, plus classes in jazz improvisation, jazz history, and rhythm section. In addition, they participated in the Thelonious Monk Institute Performing Arts High School Program, in which clinicians sponsored by the Monk organization helped instruct the jazz combos and other classes.

The HSPVA Jazz Ensemble has performed at the North Texas Jazz Festival, the Crescent City Jazz Festival in New Orleans, the Kemah Jazz Festival in Kemah, Texas, the University of Houston - Moores School of Music Jazz Festival, and the Monterrey High School Jazz Festival. Various HSPVA

ensembles have performed at Houston's Discovery Green, including providing the opening performance for Jason Moran's Fats Waller Dance Party in May, 2014. The HSPVA Jazz Combo I has performed at the past three Jazz Education Network (JEN) annual conferences, in Dallas, Atlanta, and Louisville. In addition, in summer, 2014, Jazz Combo I spent a week playing and performing in Stavanger, Norway, as part of the Houston-Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Program.

Warren Sneed has been HSPVA's Director of Jazz Studies for fourteen years. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas, and earned his Master's degree from University of Houston. He is a saxophonist and is very active in the Houston music scene. He is also a graduate of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

You can check out HSPVA's FaceBook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/HSPVA-Jazz-Ensembles/148402128575366>

NOTE: Recordings from any ensemble wishing to enter next year are due on May 15th, 2015 for the 2016 Invited Jazz Ensemble.

SHOW ME THE MONEY!!

Attention all TJEAs directors! It's time to consider your budgets for the new year and apply for one of the Texas Jazz Educators Association **Jazz Grants** for Elementary, Middle School, and High School Programs.

These grants are for up to \$250 and will be awarded to 10 school programs. The funds can be used for clinicians, educational materials, or other program needs.

The deadline to apply is October 1st and the grants will be awarded on November 1st.

You must be a member of TJEAs to apply. The application can be found here:

http://www.tjea.org/web_files/Publications/TJEAGrantsApplication.pdf, or click on "Grants" on the TJEAs web site.

Send Applications to Alex_Parker@baylor.edu, or mail to Alex Parker, 1931 Ruidoso, Waco, TX 76712

Jose Diaz, *Downbeat* magazine's Jazz Education Hall of Fame winner



Congratulations to Jose Diaz for being selected to the Jazz Education Hall of Fame by *Downbeat* magazine. Jose has been teaching band in Houston at MacArthur High in the Aldine School District since 1985. Just a few of Jose's many leadership roles in the field of jazz education include serving as Region Jazz Chairman for many years, serving as president of TJEA, now serving on the TJEA Advisory Board and serving as a Board Member of JEN (Jazz Education Network).

The Jazz Education Network web site states, "*Diaz has presented clinics for the International Association of Jazz Educators, Midwest Clinic, Oregon Music Educators Association, MENC, Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Educators Association, National Association of Black School Educators, the Western International*

Band Clinic, Virginia Music Educators Association, California Music Educators Association, Texas Music Symposium, Berklee College of Music, Jazz Institute of Chicago, and the National Association of Schools of Music.

"Diaz's success with the MacArthur High School Jazz Program was the subject of a featured cover story in SBO Magazine and Band Director's Guide Magazine. He received a Downbeat Magazine Award for Achievement in Jazz Education and was selected by FOX 26 and Univision Television stations as a Hispanic Hero. Recently, Diaz was inducted into the Texas Christian University Band of Fame. In addition, Mr. Diaz has received three artist grants from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston Harris County. In June 2008 Jose received the prestigious Jefferson Award for his work with Diaz Music Institute....under Diaz's leadership Diaz Music Institute was named as a semi-final for the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities as a semifinalist for the 2010 "Coming Up Taller Award"."

Jose would be the first to say that much of the attention surrounding this award should be directed toward his students. His jazz ensembles at MacArthur HS have been consistent first place winners year after year at the local, regional and national level. They have performed for the International Association of Jazz Educators convention and six times for the Mid-West Band and Orchestra clinic. Many of the band's members have gone on to play professionally both in the US and abroad and three of his former students have won Grammy awards. One of the many ways

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Jose has created a culture of jazz and particularly Latin jazz has been to put great talent in front of his students. Some of the musicians who have performed with or instructed the band include Wynton Marsalis, Eddie Palmieri, Johnny Pacheco, Bobby Valentin, Ismael Miranda, Roberto Roena, Poncho Sanchez, Jon Faddis, Nestor Torres, Danilo Perez, David Sanchez, Arturo Sandoval and Ndugu Chanlcer, among others.

The Diaz Music Institute (DMI) is a Houston based nonprofit fine arts institution, founded by Jose, which is committed to the education, preservation, performance and perpetuation of Latin music. The group *Caliente* is the performing organization and show piece of the DMI and received national acclaim for its interpretation and presentation of Latin jazz. <http://diazmusicinstitute.org/wordpress/>

There is a marvelous YouTube video of Jose speaking on the growth of the MacArthur HS jazz program and the development of the Diaz Music Institute. Check it out here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YZZDXoxed4>

Congratulations to Jose Diaz for this recognition and especially for his unwavering devotion to the education of young musicians.

Essentially Ellington - A Transformational Experience for Students and Educators by David Lown

When I assumed the role of Jazz Director at Carroll Senior High School in 2008, I was only somewhat aware of the Essentially Ellington program. I knew that my predecessor's top group at Carroll had made the finals for the first time the previous year, but I didn't really understand what the competition was about or how it worked. My ignorance did not last long. In my first weeks on the job, I found myself in the presence of a cadre of hungry, motivated students. They were eager to practice, rehearse, audition, and hopefully return to the place where their lives changed. Those kids were the intrinsically motivated, diligent students that we all dream of as educators, and Essentially Ellington helped make them that way.

Essentially Ellington was started in 1996 by Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center organization in New York. It was designed to expose high school students to the writing of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and other great composers of

the 20th century, and to provide a venue to promote competition among the top high school jazz programs in the country. In the fall of each year, Essentially Ellington member schools receive up to six free transcribed charts by Duke Ellington, and in some cases by other selected composers. Membership is free, and members are not required to submit auditions for the finals in New York. For schools that do want to audition, recordings of three charts from the prescribed list are usually due on the last Friday in January, and the 15 national finalists are announced approximately one month later. Schools not making the finals still receive a packet in the mail with detailed judges' comments from two accomplished jazz educators in New York. Since 1999, Texas high schools have made regular appearances at the Essentially Ellington finals. Those schools are Plano Senior High School (2005, 2010), Stephen F. Austin High School (2008), Temple High School (2004, 2011), Carroll Senior High School (2007, 2010,

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2014), and Houston HSPVA (1999), which won 3rd place in the competition that year.

The competition weekend is full of learning, playing and listening. On the first day of the event, the finalist bands all participate in an open Q&A session with Wynton Marsalis, followed by sectional clinics and master classes with members of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, a banquet for students and members of the JLCO, and a jam session for students from all schools. The second and third days are competition days, and each finalist band is required to listen to all of the other finalists perform. Ample evening time is left open for finalist high schools to go to jazz clubs or see the sights in New York. On the last night of the competition, the three top scoring bands perform alongside select members of the JLCO, then the JLCO itself performs the repertoire for the following year's competition, and finally group and individual awards are given by Wynton Marsalis himself.

I wish I could fully convey the magnitude of this experience for students and local communities. At Carroll, our school principal and superintendent have always traveled to New York with us, along with most of our students' parents. This has enabled us to keep jazz permanently on the radar of our school and community leaders in Southlake,

which has in turn made our program even stronger and more sustainable.

As great as Texas's representation in EE has been over the years, I believe that we still have a lot more to offer this national competition. There are pockets of highly competitive schools in the Seattle area and in Florida that are annual stalwarts of the Essentially Ellington finals. These schools grow and remain strong as a result of their yearly rivalries, and their students have become nationally known as exceptional improvisers and ensemble players. I would urge all high school jazz educators in this State to become members of Essentially Ellington, and strive toward the goal of making it to the national finals. At the least you will receive six amazing pieces of music for free each year, and if you submit an audition recording, you'll get some priceless feedback for use in improving your program.

For more information, visit the Essentially Ellington website here: <http://academy.jalc.org/ee/>, or feel free to call or email me with questions.

David Lown
Carroll Senior High School
Southlake, TX
david.lown@southlakecarroll.edu
817-949-5912 office

Editor's Note: According to the EE web site.... "In celebration of Essentially Ellington's 20th anniversary, the 2014-15 season will feature seven new transcriptions of the music of Duke Ellington. Membership will re-open in the fall, but until then, the program repertoire is as follows:"

Bourbon Street Jingling Jollies
Composed and arranged by Duke Ellington

Brasilliance
Composed and arranged by Duke Ellington

Chelsea Bridge
Composed and arranged by Billy Strayhorn

Cotton Club Stomp
Composed by Ellington/Hodges/Carney
Arranged by Duke Ellington

Memphis Blues
Composed by W.C. Handy
Arranged by Duke Ellington

The Tattooed Bride
Composed and arranged by Duke Ellington

Total Jazz (from Portrait of Ella Fitzgerald)
Composed and
Arranged by Duke Ellington/Strayhorn

**Stan Kenton Alumni Band directed by
Mike Vax scheduled to tour Texas, April
& May 2015. See story page 10.**

Ric Flauding Arranger-Composer-Teacher now calls Texas home



Seldom do musicians move between musical styles as effortlessly as award-winning arranger-composer-guitarist Ric Flauding. With a performance career that began at age 11, Ric's music has been featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, Billboard Magazine and with The London Symphony and Fort Worth Symphony Orchestras. As a high school senior in southern California, Ric's guitar prowess helped open the doors to LA's competitive recording industry and through study with jazz guitar greats Barney Kessel, Horace Hatchett, and classical with Ted McKown, Ric soon found himself in the studio as a session musician.

He studied traditional and commercial composition-arranging-orchestration-theory with Dr. Albert Harris, Bryant McKernon, John Shaffer Smith, Dr. Peter Odegard, James Drew, Tom Kubis, Dr. Lloyd Rogers, Dr. William (Mac) Davis, Dr. Stephen Johnson, and Dr. Gerry (Joe) Hardin II. He has also taken private lessons with Roy Harris, Halsey Stevens and Leonard Stein.

Ric completed the Film Scoring program at UCLA on a full ASCAP Scholarship and is completing his Masters in composition from Southwestern Seminary. He has also studied classical and jazz piano as well as conducting.

Ric is a sought after arranger-composer who has created music for national commercial campaigns and network primetime television. His elegant and engaging style has been showcased on many recordings with numerous contemporary jazz greats such as David Benoit, John Patitucci, Eric Marienthal, Jeff Kashiwa (The Rippingtons) and Russell Ferrante (Yellowjackets). He has also played for appreciative audiences as the opening act for Bob James, Richard Elliot, Rick Braun and Michel Camilo. Despite his obvious skill with classical and flamenco influences (Ric also studied with Ricardo de Cristobal), Ric is so versatile a musician that he has even worked with Dave Mustaine of Metallica/Megadeth.

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As an educator Ric has taught arranging, composition, theory and related subjects at Biola University, SW Seminary and is currently teaching online with students worldwide. He is also currently arranging, directing and performing with a number of jazz orchestras in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Ric was born in Elkhart, Indiana, raised in southern California and has lived and worked in Arizona and now Texas. Some highlights have included his arranging-orchestrating for the London Symphony Orchestra, The Fort Worth Symphony and his solo album successes. His concert works have been performed in the states and in Europe.

In the church music world he has worked for Saddleback, Coast Hills, E.V. Free-Fullerton, The Crystal Cathedral and many others. As an arranger-orchestrator for The Crystal Cathedral Television services Ric arranged-orchestrated and directed many well-known artists.

Ric has just been hired at **Weatherford College** as their "Instructor of Jazz Guitar". He is also playing in their big band with two upcoming concerts.

He has a new big band arrangement that may be published soon. Click the link here to hear it: <http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/RicFlauding> (*Amazing Grace*)

Flauding has been busy performing with big bands in the Dallas area including the Dallas Jazz Orchestra and the Joshua Experience. Both bands have played his arrangements.

Other commission work has included writing string arrangements for Jazz pianist Rique Pantoja (Brazil – Los Angeles) along with saxophonist Justo Almario.

Flauding wrote a number of short articles pertaining to Jazz education for the College Music Society where he is on the Board of Directors for the South-Central Chapter.

He also does a video teaching series called "Arranging Tips" for an online publishing company. Regarding his online work he states, "I continue to teach online and have gained some new foreign students. I am teaching all subjects related to composition & arranging as well as tutoring theory (traditional & non) for various organizations. I also teach guitar studies most of which are improvisational (jazz based)."

Ric adds, "I am new to TJEA and look forward to meeting everyone."

Editor: You can check out some of Ric's recordings by viewing CD Baby, <http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/RicFlauding>, or, <http://www.ricflauding.com/products.html>. Also go to his web site at www.ricflauding.com. You can contact Ric at ric.flauding@gmail.com

First Jazz Camp at Angelina College

Director Larry Greer reported, "The first summer jazz camp at Angelina College went great! It lasted three days with classes covering history, theory, improvisation, jazz styles, and combo/big band performance.

"We ended the camp on Wednesday June 11th, 2014 with a concert featuring three student-based combos, one student based big band, the Angelina College Big Band, and the clinician quartet featuring John Webb from UT Tyler on sax/piano, Jeff Shelton on drum set, Phil Rumbly on bass, and Larry Greer on guitar. It was a great way to end the school year and start summer break."

Larry Greer, Angelina College
lgreer@angelina.edu



2015 Texas tour of the Stan Kenton Alumni Band



THE STAN KENTON ALUMNI BAND ***DIRECTED BY MIKE VAX***

BAND PERSONNEL FOR 2015 SPRING TOUR

SAXOPHONES:

**Kim Richmond*, Phil Hilger, Pete Gallio,
Rick Condit*, Joel Kaye***

TROMBONES:

**Roy Wiegand*, Dale DeVoe*, Scott Whitfield,
Kenny Shroyer*, Rich Bullock**

TRUMPETS:

**Mike Vax*, Dennis Noday*, Carl Saunders*,
Don Rader*, Steve Huffsteter***

PIANO: Charlie Ferguson

BASS: Jennifer Leitham

DRUMS: Gary Hobbs*

VOCALS: Scott Whitfield and Ginger Berglund

***Alumni of the Stan Kenton Orchestra**

Mike Vax Music Productions * Friends of Big Band Jazz
PO Box 10701 * Prescott, AZ 86327
925-872-1942 * vaxtrpts@aol.com
www.bigbandjazz.net * www.mikevax.net

Mike Vax, the director of the **Stan Kenton Alumni Band**, is setting up the 2015 tour in April and going into early May. "We hope that this will give you enough time to plan for us to perform at your school. The schools that book with us early will get their choice of dates and a special "early" price.

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"Any school that books the band for an evening concert, gets a FREE afternoon clinic from the whole band.

"We hope to hear from you soon to plan an appearance at your school. Please do get in touch with us at your earliest convenience."

Mike Vax

928-771-1268

Friends of Big Band Jazz, Prescott Jazz Summit,

Stan Kenton Alumni Band

www.mikevax.net

www.bigbandjazz.net

www.prescottjazz.com

www.getzen.com



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STAY IN TOUCH WITH TJEA AT

<http://tjea.org>



If you missed the summer TJEA meeting, July 2014 in San Antonio, here are some of the items discussed for future implementation and development.

- Talked about the possibility of opening up the invited jazz band competition to middle schools and other groups, like vocal jazz groups or string groups. Matthew Seifert would like to see us broaden our reach to other areas. Also open the grants to vocal and string groups.
 - The executive board would like to attend the division meetings of the other divisions at TMEA and let them know about TJEA and what we can offer.
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- The submission deadline for all-state etudes will be moved up to Jan. 15th
 - There was discussion about the symposium, which was cancelled this year due to conflicts in scheduling and problems with clinicians. We would like to hold it the second weekend of June, perhaps a Friday/Saturday combination, and also have a student track for Saturday. The symposium will be held in San Antonio in 2015 and then moved into other areas of the state.
 - Jose Diaz presented TJEA president Mark Nichols with a plaque from JEN, siting the chapter for outstanding contribution to the field of jazz.

TJEA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

Email should be sent to the newsletter editor, John Goode, at newsletter@tjea.org.

DEADLINES:	January 15	(Feb. Edition)
	April 15	(May Edition)
	July 15	(August Edition)
	October 15	(Nov. Edition)

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