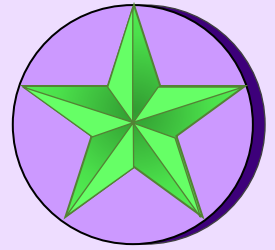


Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

May 2021



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TJEA Membership,

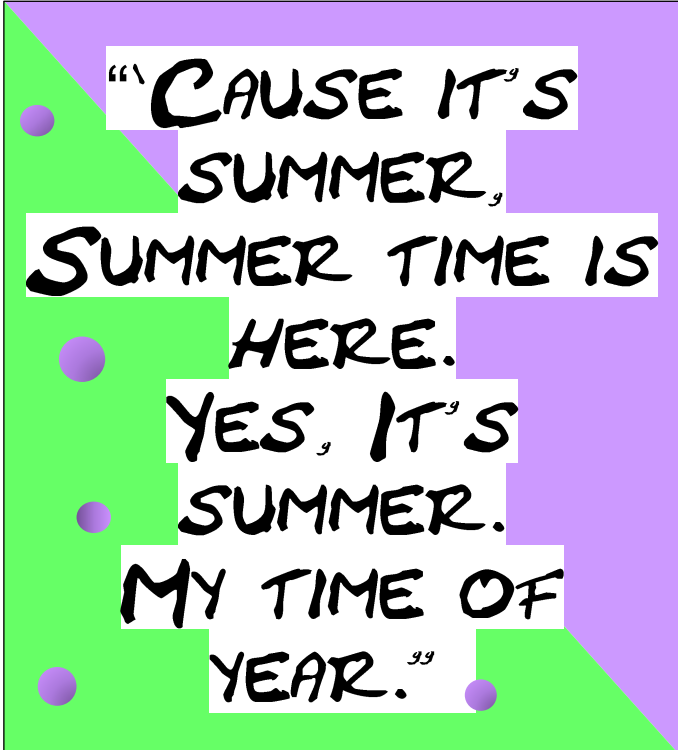
As we fast approach the end of the school year and the end of my two-year term as President-Elect and President, I'd like to take a second to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for allowing me the honor of leading this organization. Though these past two years have been challenging for all of us as teachers and TJEA members, we have all managed to accomplish so many goals and grow the scope and impact of this organization across the state of Texas.

Looking forward, I am excited for what president-elect **Matt Sawyer** and the upcoming board members will be able to accomplish. With the Hall Of Fame, Symposium, updated All-State audition materials, and TJEA sponsored ZOOM masterclasses all on firm ground, the opportunity exists for us to continue to expand our reach and grow TJEA to new levels.

As always, TJEA and its board are here to serve jazz education in the state of Texas. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with any questions or if we can help your program in any way. I hope that all of you have a wonderful summer spending lots of quality time with family and friends.

Sincerely,
Mark De Hertogh
TJEA President

**Follow us on FaceBook and at our
web site, TJEA.org**



Come on. Escape the past year's chaos with a little musical retreat. Click and [Enjoy SUMMER by War from 1976!](#)

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Essentially Ellington Competition - Two Texas Ensembles Compete

Congratulations to **Carroll Senior High School** (Southlake, TX) – **David Lown**, director, and **Plano West Senior High School** (Plano, TX) – **Preston Pierce**, director, for being selected for the *26th Annual Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival*. This is the second year in a row that both schools will be in the competition. Jazz at Lincoln Center announced the *Essentially Ellington Festival* will once again take place virtually. This year's event is scheduled on June 4th and 5th, 2021.

"We are so excited to have been named Essentially Ellington Finalists for the sixth time in our program's history. The students in the Jazz Orchestra worked incredibly hard on their audition material, and it is humbling and exciting to be included in the list of 15 bands from across the nation. We will transition now to hard work on our contest set for the Finals competition, to be held virtually on June 4-5. We also are on Instagram at @carrolljazzgram and Twitter at @CarrollJazz"

- **David Lown**, director, Carroll Senior HS

"During these difficult times of virtual learning with an activity that is a performing art, these students persevered, remained positive, and treasured the few times we met outside of the school day to rehearse all together. It's hard to find words to express the amount of love and respect I have for these young musicians. To be selected for Essentially Ellington for the third time in the last five years is exciting, but extra special that we get to do it with my good friend David Lown and his incredible band from Carroll Senior High School. We are honored to represent our community and the great state of Texas!"

- **Preston Pierce**, director, Plano West Senior HS

This years' Virtual Essentially Ellington Festival participants include:

- Agoura High School, Agoura Hills, CA, directed by Chad Bloom
- Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts, West Palm Beach, FL, directed by Christopher de León
- Byron Center High School, Byron Center, MI, directed by Marc Townley
- **Carroll Senior High School, Southlake, TX, directed by David Lown**
- Champaign Central High School, Champaign, IL, directed by John Currey
- Dillard Center for the Arts, Fort Lauderdale, FL, directed by Christopher Dorsey
- Foxboro High School, Foxboro, MA, directed by Aaron Bush
- Memphis Central High School, Memphis, TN, directed by Ollie Liddell
- Noblesville High School, Noblesville, IN, directed by Bethany Robinson
- Newton South High School, Newton, MA, directed by Lisa Linde
- Olathe Northwest High School, Olathe, KS, directed by Robert Davis
- **Plano West Senior High School, Plano, TX, directed by Preston Pierce**
- Roosevelt High School, Seattle, WA, directed by Scott Brown
- Tucson Jazz Institute, Tucson, AZ, directed by Johnathan Black
- William H. Hall High School, West Hartford, CT, directed by James Antonucci

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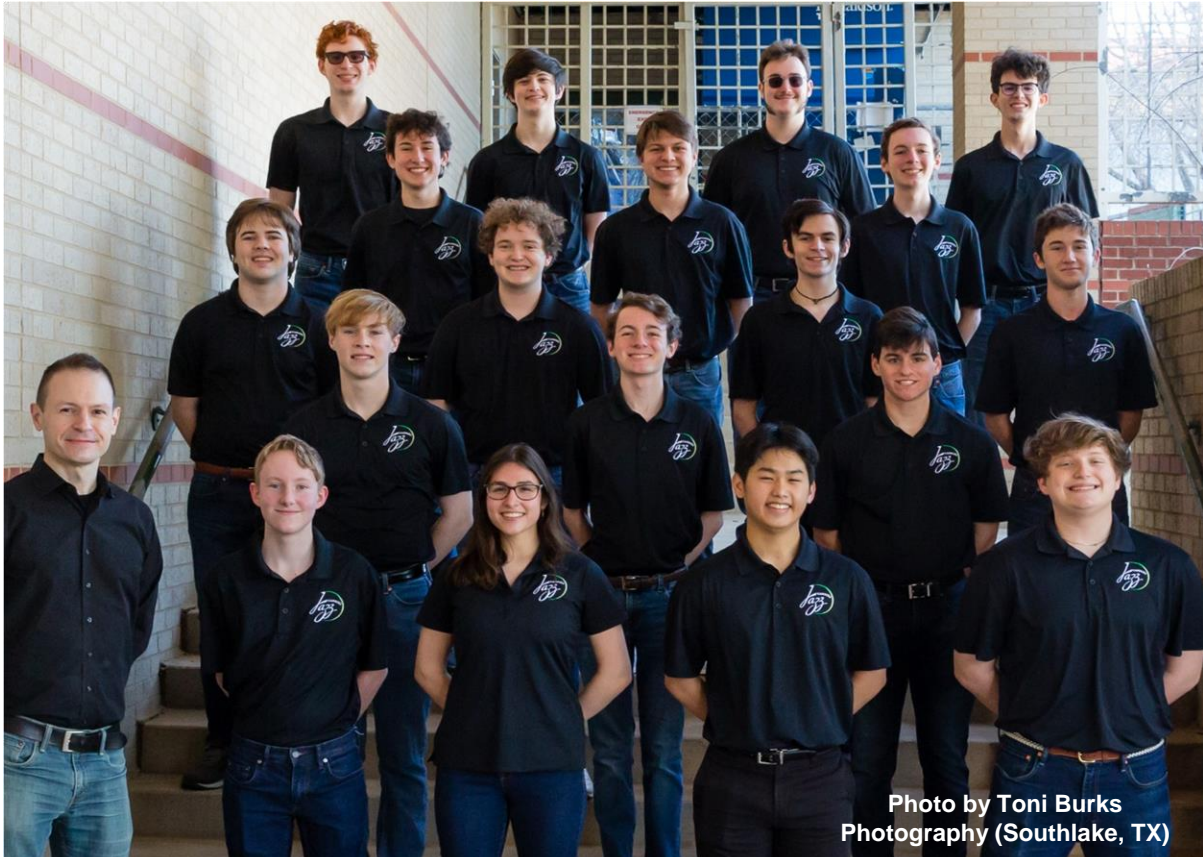


Photo by Toni Burks
Photography (Southlake, TX)

Carroll High School Jazz Ensemble



Plano West Jazz Ensemble

National Jazz Orchestra

Congratulations to the three Texas high school students who were selected to this year's National Jazz Orchestra. The NJO is a just one of the young musicians' education programs sponsored by Carnegie Hall. The Texas students in the NJO this year are:

Connor MacLeod, Alto Saxophone

Matthew Garcia, Tenor Saxophone

Colman Burks, Drums

Matthew is a student at **Denton High School** under the direction of band director, **Jesse Woolery**. Connor and Colman are both students at **Plano West Senior High** under the direction of band director, **Preston Pierce**. All three students were members of the 2020-2021 Texas All-State Jazz Ensembles.

More information about the National Jazz Orchestra and other young musician programs can be found at <https://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/For-Young-Musicians>.

Bart Marantz: Stories and People behind the Inductee

Hi Texas Jazz Educators Association,

I think it's very important to for me first to say "**Thank You**" for the honor of being inducted in the "TJEA Jazz Education Hall of Fame" and to let you know there really is no "I" in this or any award or recognition given to me over my career. We, as educators all ride the wings of our students and they are the reason for making the effort, putting in the extra hours and thinking of ways to meet their needs allowing their energy and vision to continue while under our tutelage.

In 1983 my wife, Sara and I made the trip over to Dallas from central Florida where I was head of instrumental music for a college while running a jazz studies program. I interviewed in Dallas for Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts and we spent the day with the school administration. To be honest, as we toured the facility we were a bit surprised at its condition. Our community college had a lovely music building in pristine condition, complete with a new state of the art performance hall. We had traveled a thousand miles to see a school that was obviously quite old and in much need of structural maintenance and updating.

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As we were leaving to go back to our hotel, Dr. Cornell, who had been the Coordinator of Music from the school's inception, dropped the needle on the school's latest jazz album (long-play vinyl back then), and after about twenty seconds I asked if I could sign a contract that day! The music was simply amazing and I immediately realized that brick and mortar mean nothing. It's the commitment and desire of students and faculty working together for the good of art that made Booker T. Washington "Arts Magnet" what it was and would later become. We waited almost two weeks before I was invited to become the Jazz Studies Director beginning in the fall of the '83-'84 school year.

I was part of a teaching team over my career at Arts Magnet/BTWHSPVA who were all outstanding jazz musicians and amazing instructors. **Kent Ellingson**, jazz piano/theory Midi Ensemble, **Roger Boykin**, jazz piano/jazz guitar/R&B Ensemble and **Chuck**

Pangburn, jazz guitar and jazz guitar ensemble were all long time instructors who dedicated many extra hours to their students and in turn inspired them, and this instructor, allowing all of us to achieve some very weighty goals together. No one does anything well without help and support and this was no exception. I might also mention that it takes a supportive, caring and loving spouse to make it happen on all levels. Sara (Marantz) has been that person for the past forty-three years. It's also quite obvious that with the talent level of the kids in the jazz program at BTW during that time-period they were simply teaching the teacher! These were 'students of the music' with dedication and commitment who were making the daily sacrifices it took to move the music forward and make our art world, and life in general, so much better. Truly a very special and inspiring time for all of us who were involved in that program during those wonderful early days at Arts Magnet/BTW and I was so fortunate to be a part for thirty-two years.

Continued on page 8. See **Bart Marantz**.

College of the Mainland news

College of the Mainland's music program has enjoyed going back into live concert mode. The jazz ensemble presented a live evening performance on May 4, 2021 in the Fine Arts building theatre. COM's Covid protocols were in place for the patrons with face coverings required; hand sanitizer was available, and social distanced-seating was in place. The theatre had seats marked off so that couples or a family of four could sit together. There were vacant chairs for social distancing and only every other row was used.

COM jazz ensemble director, Sparky Koerner, reported that the concert had lots of great tunes including: *Sho' Nuff!* by Pete Vollmers; Kris Berg's arrangements of *Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise*; and *Blue Rondo a la Turk* and *Big Swing Face* from the Buddy Rich Library. Featured on trumpet on *A Mis Abuelos* was **Andrew Wilson**. Andrew was a recent Sam Houston grad who started with the band in January when lead player **Dean Artall** took a break because of the pandemic. There were some other personnel changes as some other players in the group decided not to come back until they were able to get the Covid vaccine. "I totally understood their reason and glad that all of us are getting vaccinated and feeling safer about rehearsing and performing in the ensembles", said Sparky.

Sparky noted, "I tried to get this concert scheduled in the month of April so that it would be part of

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Jazz Appreciation Month, but the space was not available. So, I guess you can say we carried the appreciation over into May.”

Sparky always sets up a Jazz Appreciation Photo Collection in the Fine Arts building. This year it was on display through the concert date with over fifty photos of the greats of jazz.

On a personal note, Sparky continues to perform on trumpet and flugelhorn, along with Tom Borling on piano, at Marais Restaurant in Dickinson, TX for their Jazz Brunch on Sundays from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Sparky says, “They have wonderful food and it’s worth stopping by any Sunday.”



DownBeat Magazine Music Awards

Congratulations to **Preston Pierce**, director of jazz bands, and the jazz students at Plano West Senior High School for receiving a multitude of honors in the 44th annual Downbeat Student Music Awards. Along with the usual list of categories there were some new ones this year. Due to the pandemic’s effect on the teaching/learning atmosphere across the nation and the necessity for music ensemble members to rehearse and perform on line from different locations, the Downbeat competition added ‘asynchronous’ ensemble entries. For a link to the entire list of awards and winners across the nation [click here](#).

The following is a list of the Plano West Senior High School winners and categories:

Large Jazz Ensemble:
Plano West Jazz Orchestra

Blues/Pop/Rock Group:
Plano West Jazz Sextet

Small Jazz Combo:
Plano West Jazz Sextet

Jazz Soloist:
Connor MacLeod - Alto Saxophone

Asynchronous Large Jazz Ensemble:
Plano West Jazz Orchestra

Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist:
Connor MacLeod - Alto Saxophone

Congratulations, also, to the following Texas university students and ensembles who were 2021 DownBeat winners as well.

Continued on next page...

JAZZ SOLOIST - Graduate College Outstanding Performances:

Eric Hitt - Upright Bass

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Student of Lynn Seaton

LARGE JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Graduate College Outstanding Performances:

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas

Paul Hageman, director

VOCAL JAZZ SOLOIST - Undergraduate College Outstanding Performances:

Katelyn Robison

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Student of Rosana Eckert

SMALL VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Graduate College Outstanding Performances:

West End

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Rachel Azbell, director

LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE - Graduate College Outstanding Performances:

UNT Jazz Singers

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Jennifer Barnes, director

JAZZ ARRANGEMENT - Undergraduate College Winners:

Kara Walton, "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?"

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Student of Rosana Eckert

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements-Small Ensemble:

Jackson Churchill, "Silent Way"

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Student of Nick Finzer

Graduate College Outstanding Arrangements-Big Band:

Simeon Nathanael Davis, "Herbs and Roots"

University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Student of Jose Aponte



The 2021-22 All-State Jazz Etudes are available!!
To purchase your copy, click here: [Jazz Etudes](#)

Bart Marantz, continued from page 5

A FEW MEMORIES...

Auditions at Booker T. Washington HSPVA took place during the first week of school in the jazz room, #143. This allowed me to size up the larger ensemble for the year and place musicians in crucial spots, such as lead players and soloists. There were some wonderful musicians auditioning, and I particularly remember **Danny O'Brien** on trumpet coming into the room to play for me. "What position do you play Danny?" I asked. "I play lead trumpet," he replied. I asked him to play his prepared piece and sat back ready to hear another high school trumpet player play "at" lead trumpet. He took a deep breath and absolutely blew me away. His articulation, consistent note placement, and mature style of hard core swing was something only the finest lead players in the top colleges, or pro groups around the country, would have demonstrated in this essential and most important position in a big band setting. As he left the room, I said "thanks" and closed the door. It was only then, when I was alone, that I started to laugh and jump up and down, knowing that, for the next few years, I had one of the top lead trumpet players in the country to help direct the jazz ensemble toward dreams even our young students couldn't imagine. Thirty-eight years later, Danny O'Brien has three Grammy awards and still plays trumpet as very few can.

That same year, I heard another young trumpet player performing with the Holmes Middle School Jazz Ensemble under the direction of **Mr. Dean Hill**. As I stood in the rear of the auditorium, I could hardly believe my ears. A jazz trumpet player of this caliber is not supposed to exist in eighth grade! This was my first introduction to **Roy Hargrove**. In that same band was **Keith Anderson**, alto sax, and **Keith Loftis**, tenor sax. I went and spoke to all three musicians and asked them to audition for our school. The rest is history.

Roy led the jazz world on trumpet until his untimely passing on November 2, 2018, at 49.

He was voted the world's best jazz trumpet player by the critics in *DownBeat* magazine some years earlier. Roy was nominated for three Grammys and won two. Keith Anderson was on three Grammy-nominated albums and toured with Herbie Hancock, Les McCann, Marcus Miller and Roy (Hargrove). Keith Loftis was in the Ray Charles Band, touring the world, before Ray's death.

Due to some problems with the program at "Arts," a wonderful jazz trombone player left our program to go back to his home school just before I came on board in 1983. **Joe Jackson** heard about our new Big Band and came over on a number of occasions to sit in and check out what we were up to now. In a short time, he made the decision to return to "Arts Magnet," and

Continued on next page...

NOTABLE B.T.W. MUSIC ALUMNI:

Roy Hargrove - Trumpet
 Norah Jones - Voice
 Erykah Badu - Voice
 Keith Anderson - Sax (Prince)
 Matt Marantz - Sax (Herbie Hancock, Michael Bublé)
 Luke Marantz - Piano (Olli Hirvonen)
 Daniel Jones - Keyboards (Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake)
 Alan Emert - Drums (Brave Combo)
 Danny O'Brien - Trumpet (Brave Combo)
 Joe Jackson - Trombone and Director (Airmen of Note)
 Frank LoCrao - Piano (Pat Martino)
 Donessa Washington - Vocal (Kirk Whalum)
 Keith Loftis - Tenor Sax (Ray Charles)
 Shaun Martin - Piano (Kirk Franklin, Snarky Puppy)
 Robert Searight - Drums (God's Property, Snarky Puppy)
 Edie Brickell - Vocal (Edie Brickell and the New Bohemians)
 Aaron Comess - Drums (The Spin Doctors)
 Fred Sanders - Piano (Leaning House Records)
 Tim Owens - Vocal (Atlantic Records)
 Eric White - Drums (Reprise Records)
 Andrew Griffith - Drums (Cedar Walton)

This roster by no means contains the names of all of those many alumni who are out in the art world playing and supporting music of all types.

within a year was winning "DownBeat Student Music Awards" for his wonderful solo work and just-as-incredible arranging. He won the "Young Talent Award" (now the NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search Arts Awards) from NAJE, which later changed to IAJE (The International Association for Jazz Education). After graduating from The University of North Texas, where he played lead and jazz trombone in the One O'Clock Lab Band, he joined Maynard Ferguson's band. After this stint, he auditioned and was accepted by the Airmen of Note, one of the nation's top military jazz ensembles, stationed in Washington, D.C. Joe led this prestigious group until he left the service and is one of those very special musicians known for his wonderful jazz work around the world.

A short time after my first semester began back in 1983, I wrote a letter to the White House trying to convey my excitement for what I felt and still feel. I believed that the "Arts" Big Band was the best high school big band in the nation at the time, and I wanted to share this with the world. I wanted them to play a concert at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue for the President. My return answer from the capital was, "Thanks, but..." It would be twenty-two years later that one of our alumni, **Matt Marantz**, would play and represent our school at that address. Matt performed with Dr. Billy Taylor, James Moody, and Chico Hamilton and the New Generation II in June of 2004, following right on the heels of his graduation from Booker T. Washington.

From 2001 to 2004, our Jazz Combo I performed around the world both as a group and as individuals. They performed at prestigious venues such as the Monterey Jazz Festival in Monterey, CA (four performances in four years); World Sax Congress in Minneapolis, MN; Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL; NFAA Arts Recognition and Talent Search in Miami, FL; International Association for Jazz Educators Conference in New York (three performances in four years); Grammy Big Band in Los Angeles, CA (two performances in four years); Texas Music Educators Conference in San Antonio, TX (three performances in four years); Vail Jazz Workshop in Vail, CO; Monterey All-Star Japan

Big Band in Japan; Brubeck Institute in Stockton, CA; and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The wonderful performances finally culminated with a command performance at the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue! While at the White House with our son Matt, we were privileged to have the opportunity to meet and talk with President and Mrs. Bush. When the President asked me where I worked, I proudly told him Booker T. Washington HSPVA. Mrs. Bush immediately turned to her husband and said, "Honey, they are from Booker T. Washington High School. You know, the one with alumni **Norah Jones** and **Erykah Badu**." We were stunned but proud to know that our school had a reputation that had traveled as far as our nation's capital!

THE LIST GOES ON, BUT SO LITTLE ROOM.....

I might have gotten discouraged way back in 1983 if I had known it would take twenty-two years to have our school represented at the White House by one of our graduates. However, through the years, I knew it was an attainable goal only because our students were like no others. It was their commitment and energy that fueled our quest as a school to promote and attain the highest level of art excellence possible. From our students with so many achievements over those many years, to our alumni's long records of accomplishments, it's quite obvious that, as an arts institution, we had been consistent in working and reaching these weighty goals. Just a few of our school's achievements include 245 "DownBeat Student Music Awards," 200 NFAA awardees with 15 Presidential Scholars in the Arts, five "Grammy Big Band" awardees, and three "Grammy Signature Awards" for the music department are. To those students who dream the impossible and realized that Booker T. Arts Magnet was a place where the impossible became reality - "Thank you." Thanks, also, for allowing me to enjoy this incredible experience with you over my 32-year journey. What a ride it's been!

Thanks again TJEA, I'm humbled and honored.

BART MARANTZ

SUMMER IS
HERE!

TIME TO PLAY!

Join us for the 4th Annual UT Tyler Jazz Camp! We will be inviting students to campus for a face-to-face Day Camp and will be engaging students unable to travel to campus with a Virtual Camp!



JUNE 21–25, 2021 | 9AM–5PM

Age: 12+ (completed 6th grade)

Cost: Commuter: \$150 | \$125 Early Bird
Online: \$75 | \$50 Early Bird

Location: UT Tyler Center for Musical Arts

Registration Deadline: June 21 (Early Bird May 1)

Director: Sarah Roberts, sroberts@uttyler.edu



Scan the QR code to learn more!

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FEATURING SINGER, TROMBONE PLAYER
& SONGWRITER.

AUBREY LOGAN

We are very excited to have guest artist Aubrey Logan! Both the day camper and virtual camper options will allow camp participants to attend all classes, masterclasses, and performances! Utilize the code "2021" to receive \$15 off registration and if you have any questions please contact Dr. Sarah Roberts at sroberts@uttyler.edu.


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. Please convert PDF files to a Word document before sending. Photos should be copyright-free with photographer's credit listed. Place photos in your Word formatted article or send as separate JPEG images.

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

DEADLINES:	August 15	(September Edition)
	October 15	(November Edition)
	January 15	(February Edition)
	April 15	(May Edition)

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



**HOPE YOU HAVE A
BALL THIS SUMMER!!**