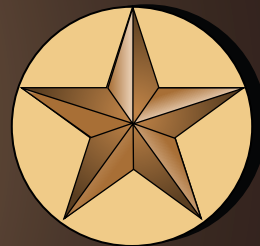




# Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

November 2021



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

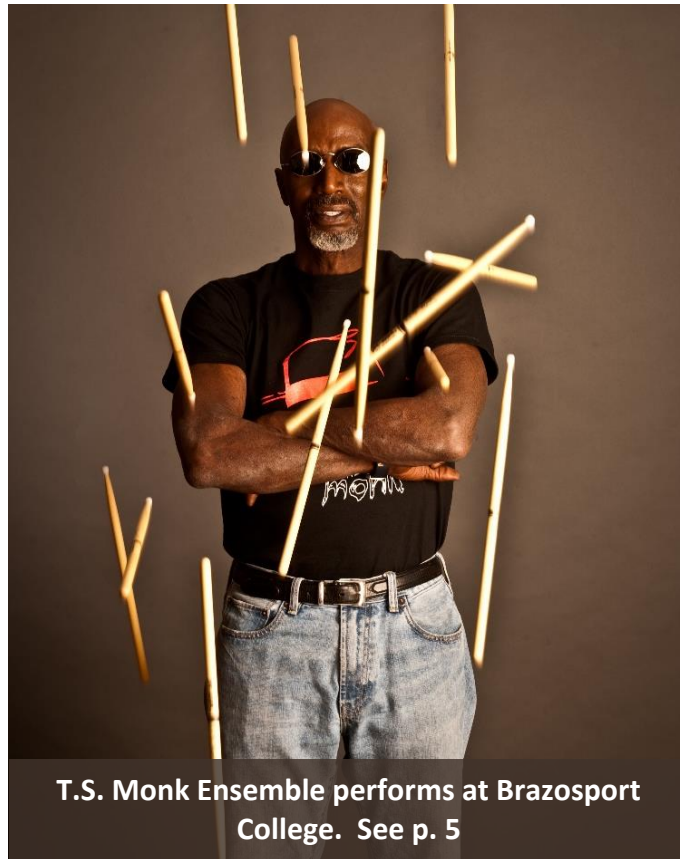
For jazz educators in Texas, October and November represent a time of year where we **celebrate**. We celebrate our students through completion of the Region jazz audition process, All-State jazz recording submissions (and their subsequent results), and the clinics and opportunities that follow.

It is truly wonderful to return to 'live' Region jazz clinics with all members together on the same stage. Our students missed this wonderful and engaging experience last year. My kids even missed the live audition experience. They felt it to be valuable and rewarding even if they experienced disappointment. They understood what the process really creates: an invaluable experience, with the reminder that music is about friendships and relationships.

It's about **togetherness** and **dialogue**, my themes for this month's message. And this month, we and our kids, appreciate and celebrate these themes more than ever. More on this later in my article, "*Thoughts on Teaching Jazz Part 2: An Open Dialogue*."

We can't wait for our symposium in February! It is another moment of **togetherness** and **dialogue** for educators. This will give us much knowledge to bring back to our own programs. We are fortunate to have an extraordinary symposium lineup including **Andre Hayward, Mark De Hertogh, Phil Alvarado, Preston Pierce, Erika Uribe, and Vincent Gardner!** There is a variety of topics that will benefit your jazz band program greatly. Special thanks to President-elect **Matthew Hedrick** for setting up such a wonderful and beneficial day.

- Continued -



T.S. Monk Ensemble performs at Brazosport College. See p. 5

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Thank you, TJEA members, for everything you do for jazz education in Texas. It is incredible to serve this organization. Please let any of us on the board know if there is anything we can do to help, any time.

Sincerely,  
Matt Sawyer  
2021-2022 TJEA President



# LAMAR UNIVERSITY

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## LAMAR HAPPENINGS

Like so many schools around the state and nation, we are beyond thrilled to be back on campus full time and able to perform live for the first time in 18 months. The photo below is from our first concert of the school year taken on Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> on the Lamar campus.



*Photo courtesy of Karen Bourdier*

We survived the last year by some creative online projects including virtual visits by **Peter Erskine**, **Tom “Bones” Malone**, **Mike Williams (Basie Band)**, and **Kim Richmond**. We also hosted a virtual Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival with clinics by **Ingrid Jensen**, **Jeff Coffin**, **Andy Martin**, and **Bobby Sanabria**. All the clinics are posted on YouTube.

As part of the festival, we assembled a 2.5 hour gala concert featuring segments by the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra, a piano/vibes duo featuring **Sullivan Fortner** and **Kyle Athayde**, and a collage segment of **European Jazz All-stars** assembled by virtuoso **Romanian pianist, Sorin Zlat**. The entire concert video can be viewed on [YouTube](#) [see next page].



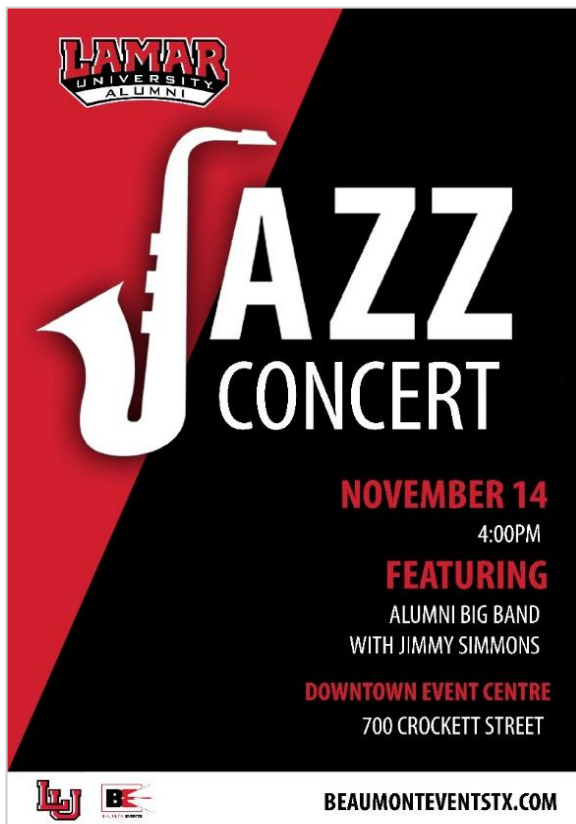


The following video of Lamar's Cardinal Jazz Orchestra from the Gala Concert features solos by **Ingrid Jensen, Kyle Athayde, and Bobby Sanabria** playing [Rat Race by Rich DeRosa](#)



- Continued -

## UPCOMING...



We're excited to announce an upcoming concert by the recently formed **Lamar University Alumni Big Band** featuring graduates from the 1970's to the present and fronted by former Lamar University President, **Jimmy Simmons**.

The free concert will be sponsored by the city of Beaumont and will be held on Sunday afternoon, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Event Centre on Crockett Street.

AND – the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual **Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival** will be held on **Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 2022** on the Lamar campus. Guest artists and clinicians will be the **Kris Berg Big Band**.



*Photo courtesy of Tom Hull*

For more information about the Lamar University and the Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival contact Rick Condit, Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Ensembles:

[RCondit@lamar.edu](mailto:RCondit@lamar.edu)



## Jazztravaganza Returns!!

Richard Birk, Coordinator of Music at Brazosport College reported, “We are having our annual Jazztravaganza on Thursday, November 18. This involves our local school jazz bands and consists of two days of rehearsals/clinics with this year’s guest artists the **T.S. Monk Ensemble**.”

The T.S. Monk Ensemble members are:

T.S. Monk - Drums  
Patience Higgins - alto sax  
Stantown Kendrick - tenor sax  
Helen Sung - piano.  
Chris Berger - bass  
April May Webb - vocals  
Randall Haywood - trumpet



T.S. Monk, Jr

Participating jazz bands are from Freeport Intermediate, Lake Jackson Intermediate, Brazosport High School, Brazoswood High School A.M & P.M., and Brazosport College. All the school groups will perform on a concert at 7 pm on November 18 with members of the T.S. Monk Ensemble joining each group as guest soloists. Then on Friday, November 19 at 7:30 pm, the T.S. Monk Ensemble will perform a concert of their own music.”

Tickets for the Friday evening concert are \$25-adults, \$20-senior citizens 60+, and \$10-students or children 12 and under. Tickets are available online at [clarion.brazosport.edu](http://clarion.brazosport.edu).

**T.S. Monk, Jr.**, son of the jazz legend Thelonious Sphere Monk, has established himself as one of the leading forces in jazz composition, performance, and education. The young Monk joined his father’s trio and toured with his dad until the elder Monk’s retirement in 1975. T. S. then launched into the music that had captivated him and his generation, R&B. He first toured with a group called Natural Essence and afterward, with his sister Barbara, formed his own band with which he had hits on two recordings, *House Of Music* and *More Of The Good Life*, where he played drums, arranged, and sang.

T. S. received the New York Jazz Awards first annual “Recording of the Year” and *Downbeat*’s prestigious 63rd Reader’s Poll Award for *Monk On Monk*, the “80th Anniversary Birthday Tribute to Thelonious Sphere Monk” featuring twenty guest artists including Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Arturo Sandoval, Dianne Reeves, Nnenna Freelon, and Howard Johnson, among others.

Shortly after his father passed away, Thelonious turned his attention toward forming the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, sponsoring music education for students in the form of full scholarships, funding, and supplies. As chairman, Thelonious has been at the forefront of helping to create a number of programs supporting after-school athletics.

In 1992, Thelonious formed his jazz sextet and received raves from the moment they hit the stage and the studio.



## AFTER TWO YEARS OF NOT TOURING, THE STAN KENTON LEGACY ORCHESTRA WILL BE ON TOUR AGAIN IN 2022!

The Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra leader, Mike Vax, is eager to announce the group is back on the road and ready to come to your school in 2022. Vax reported the following:

- We will be in Texas the first half of April next year and would love to come to your school to work with you and your students.
- Any school that books the band for an evening performance, gets a FREE afternoon clinic from the whole band.
- We also encourage your school jazz band to open the concert for us.



Additional funds are raised through the non-profit *Friends of Big Band Jazz* in order to keep the cost more reasonable for schools to be able to afford a clinic and concert. The band is made up of world-class musicians, many of whom played with Stan Kenton when he was alive, plus members of the Count Basie orchestra, the Maynard Ferguson band, the Woody Herman orchestra, the Harry James orchestra, and the Glenn Miller orchestra.

Contact and Information:

[www.friendsofbigbandjazz.com](http://www.friendsofbigbandjazz.com)

[Vaxtrpts@aol.com](mailto:Vaxtrpts@aol.com)

925-872-1942

## Thoughts on Teaching Jazz Part 2: An Open Dialogue

By Matthew Sawyer

We should call this *jazz season*, because we have much more available time to prepare for 'live' fall or winter jazz concerts or begin jazz meet-and-greets. These can set the tone and momentum for a great spring semester and festival season. If the schedule and possibility exists, it is a time to plant seeds or continue doing so.

An open *dialogue* is an opportunity to plant the seed that we are all in this together. It will show the students you are listening and truly care about their ideas and give your jazz band members a sense of 'ownership'. I welcome my student's input and have developed a rapport that allows input and dialogue. They can often see where they've 'put their stamp' on the program.

We should all want to challenge our students to think and we can really stretch their imagination by asking questions. Sometimes this does create interesting group dynamics along with the challenge of what I would call a 'good problem'. That is, your kids will enjoy having a say and will want more responsibility. Even though there really can be a 'too many chefs in the kitchen' kind of mentality, by asking probing questions and encouraging student's active input we can really create an atmosphere where we see benefits almost immediately. As long as this is balanced, it can create an amazing environment.

A silent jazz class may mean the kids are merely going through the motions while a rowdy class means they aren't being efficient. I explain it as a professional musician might operate: offer help to a neighbor silently when needed, ask questions one at a time, and err on the side of listening. The 'buy-in' can be pretty neat to see.

What are some good ways to get them asking questions and buy in to opening up a dialogue? I find it very effective to ask for volunteers, and if the room is silent, "volun-tell." A buy-in culture of an open dialogue often starts with calling on eager students—the ones that cannot wait to share their idea. I also try to sit down during our dialogue sessions because I want to be eye-level with everyone. Even though I am leading the conversation, it feels less that way to them. When I sit amongst them they are more encouraged to raise their hands and talk about the music.

Another suggestion is to ask probing questions like, "What can we do at Letter I to make it more interesting?", or "Who should we be listening to at Letter I?" I'll sometimes ask if our leads are in a row, who's playing lead, who in the rhythm section should we listen for, what just happened in the piano part's right hand, etc. There are lots of ways to better bring the music to life by using this kind of question-answer dialogue, and the dialogue can go to some incredible places.

I call it a 'light switch'. That's where the students understand it is time to work versus a brain break. I do this by having an established routine and a disciplined environment. Routine and discipline create that feeling of *togetherness*, which means all the individual personalities have come together for the common goal of creating great music together as a band. I tell my students I have one rule: *We are silent during the count-off*. The reason is because that's our opportunity to focus in order to really hone in on starting together and feeling the music together.

Our count-offs are long which creates the opportunity to get in the zone. So, if a student is talking, it defeats the purpose of what we are doing. I then tell them, if I had my way, I'd have a second rule: We are silent during instruction **and** when others have the floor to speak. By establishing what I want, everyone is on the same page and the priorities are very clear: I want a band who does everything together and is respectful to each other and the music. We want to do this music right.

Lastly, how much time in a rehearsal should we allow for an open dialogue? I think it should happen in every rehearsal and it should feel organic, not rigid, even though it should be structured in your planning. The goal should be a rehearsal so effective that the students walk away from it thinking about the music for hours on end, talking about the music with their friends, and being curious enough to do some listening research on their own or in groups. As their teachers, our responsibility is to know the source recording so well (and others like it, plus the score) that we can effectively describe what we want the players to do. Furthermore, our feedback has to always be specific and direct. It is sometimes really hard to explain what you want with words, so sing or play on your instrument exactly the way you want it done. Have the recordings ready to play as an added reference. Remember to ask probing questions and to ask for volunteers to get the dialogue started. Once your students see this happening, their buy-in can go through the roof and jazz has won them over!



## SAVE THE DATE !

Our annual Symposium returns — live in San Antonio — on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at the beginning of the TMEA convention. This year's project is organized by President-elect **Matt Hedrick**. Take this opportunity to network with like-minded educators, to ask questions, and to be inspired. Put February 9<sup>th</sup> on your calendar now! You won't want to miss any of the fabulous morning and afternoon clinics. See you there!



The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Education Network Conference will be held in Dallas, TX at the Hyatt Regency Dallas from January 5-8, 2022. The evening concert schedule, housing information, membership, and other details are posted at the website: [Jazzednet.org](http://Jazzednet.org)

JEN now reaches across the globe to help expand and improve the jazz arts. It has touched thousands of lives. JEN is committed to the education of and the performance of jazz while striving to reach new audiences who will continue to keep the love of this art form alive well into the future.





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# Two Decades Texas Jazz News

by John Goode, editor


In 2001, when Sparky Koerner became president of the IAJE's Texas unit, he made it a goal to resurrect the IAJE newsletter and once again make it a part of the Texas jazz organization. Almost exactly twenty years ago, in December 2001, I edited the first Texas jazz educator's newsletter in the new millennium. A prior newsletter had been published for years, but it had ceased for a brief period.

Noe Marmolejo (University of Houston) was the newsletter editor prior to me and I used his format for my first few editions. The first 'Deep In The Art' newsletters were laid out on paper in 'printer spreads'. 'Printer spread' pages are not in numerical order but arranged to allow them to end up in correct numerical order once the pages are printed. This spread was taken to Sparky Koerner at College of the Mainland, where he had it printed, addressed, folded, and mailed to the membership. Everything was done in black and white. Color copies were not available until we could email the editions to the members which made publishing the newsletter is much easier.

To me, it's fulfilling to realize the amount of teaching and the number of students who were affected by the great efforts of our music teachers, and by TJEA, over these past twenty years. A lot of that was chronicled in these editions. Though there is still work to be done, I hope all the members are proud of TJEA's achievements to date.

Many of these newsletters are archived on the TJEA website but I thought it might be fun to show two decades of cover pages en masse, so I've displayed them on the following pages in chronological order from left to right, row by row. The images are small but you may be able to zoom in and read, at least somewhat, anything that catches your attention. Enjoy.

PS: Keep sending your great articles for future newsletters!!


**Deep In The Art**  
 Texas Unit Newsletter  
 December, 2001

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues:

I am glad to be writing you and want to say that this newsletter is something that is long overdue for the members of the IAJE TX Unit. As your president since last February I want to keep the lines of communication open to all the members. Through the newsletter we can exchange ideas and share what has been happening with our school jazz programs. Performances we have been involved in as professionals, clinics we have held and of course things about our students who might have made the region or state jazz ensembles.

I want you to feel free in the future to send material to John Goode at [jgoode@tjia.com](mailto:jgoode@tjia.com). He is the Director of Bands at South Houston High School. Some of you might recognize his name, especially if you are a trumpet player. He has been one of the writers of the all state trumpet studies over the years. I really appreciate him taking on this job of handling the newsletter. The newsletter needs your input so please submit material for publication.

I want to mention that the All-State Jazz Ensemble was selected from a group of 354 audition tapes. I think it is time for Texas to have two All-State Jazz Ensembles. I know that the region jazz ensembles will be strong with this many applying for the All-State ensembles, congratulations to all those students who made the ensembles.

Over the next year and a half events will be getting into place for the Regional IAJE Conference to be held in the spring of 2002 at the University of North Texas. Rick Condit, the South Central Coordinator for IAJE will be helping us inform us to how things are progressing. One way I would like to get information out to you is via email. When you receive this newsletter please send me your email address so that in between newsletters I can keep you up to date with what is happening in jazz in the state of Texas.

I hope that everyone has a great holiday season.

Musically,  
Sparky Koerner  
President, IAJE/TXAS

**CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

This year the High School All State Jazz Ensemble Concert will take place in the TMEA Conference Center at the TMEA Conference in Feb. No more Beethoven Hall! Rehearsals will also be scheduled at the Convention Center.


Here is a Break Down of the 354 All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition Tapes:

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 37 Alto Saxs  | 83 Trumpets        |
| 33 Tenor Saxs | 57 Tenor Trombones |
| 18 Bari. Saxs | 31 Bass Trombones  |
| 17 Piano      | 19 Bass            |
| 18 Guitar     | 41 Drums           |

see VENUE on page 4

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**Deep In The Art**  
 Texas Unit Newsletter  
 Summer 2002

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues:

In the last newsletter it was mentioned that an IAJE Regional Conference was planned for spring 2003 in conjunction with the North Texas Addition Jazz Festival. Well things are a ways in the planning season and it will not happen next year. We are going back to the drawing board and hope to put something in place by spring 2004. UNT is still under consideration as the location. Please consider attending the North Texas Addition Jazz Festival next year and consider taking an ensemble. The festival will have an additional component with clinics by UNT faculty and a competition as well. You can contact Barbara Kovalevich, Special Events Manager for Addition at [bkovalevich@addition.texas](mailto:bkovalevich@addition.texas).

The most exciting news I can give you is that the new All State Jazz Ensemble Audition packet will be available in July. Richard Bink, professor of music at Braxton College in Lake Jackson worked extremely hard putting this together. The playing material for improvisation and drums will be on CD. Ninety percent of the instrumental studies are new and I want to thank the writers for submitting the new material. Make sure to attend the clinic entitled **New All State Jazz Ensemble Audition Material for Drums and Improvisation** on Tuesday, July 30th at 5:15 PM in CC 214 at the TBA Convention Center in San Antonio, July 28-31, 2002.

I hope everyone had a great semester and can now enjoy some time off. I am teaching a jazz history class at College of the Mainland the 1st six weeks session. I love looking back at the historical nature of jazz. It has come a long way since that first recording in 1917 of the way.

see President on page 2

**Texas IAJE Director's Band**


Editor: During our February meeting at TMEA the idea of a director's band was discussed. Colin Mason from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor volunteered to follow up on the discussion. The following is an edited email from Colin outlining the Florida IAJE Director's Band and a call to action for formation of such an entity here in Texas.

"I recently spoke with Don Zentz, former President of Florida IAJE chapter, and founder of their chapter's Director's Band. The band began as a requirement for a state jazz workshop the chapter has been holding for some 8-10 years. The chapter was almost extinct, and he initiated this workshop based on a model that Georgia has been using for some 20 years. The band eventually began playing at JMEA conferences, and then recorded the tape for the New Orleans conference."

see Directors on page 4

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Colleagues,

I hope that your fall semester has been good to you if you are in the teaching field, and if not, that the these fall months have given you an opportunity to experience some good jazz in your community. We all need to support our school jazz ensembles by attending their concerts or clinics. Most school concerts are free of charge and open to the public so there really is no reason not to attend. One of the best resources for jazz in Houston is [www.jazzhouston.com](http://www.jazzhouston.com) where you can find out about the players and venues.

I would like to mention the passing of IAJE founding Executive Director, Matt Bettos. A memorial celebration is being planned for Matt at the upcoming IAJE conference in Toronto. We all owe a great debt to Matt, who, with his wife, Betty, worked tirelessly to build our organization during its first twenty years. If you would like to read more about Matt Bettos and his accomplishments please go to the [www.iaje.org](http://www.iaje.org) web site.

I feel privileged that I had the opportunity to meet Matt in 1976 for the first time while I was

see President on page 2

**Dallas' HSPVA news**


The school year has been very busy for the Booker T. Washington HSPVA Jazz program. Matt Marante, Director of Jazz Studies, reported some students started even before the semester began.

Guests: Roy Hargrove, trumpet; Alex Malone, Bass; Max Tomlinny, guitar; Terry Morris, drums (off camera).

see DALLAS' HSPVA on page 3

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Colleagues,

I want to thank all of the officers that I have worked with over the past two years in the IAJE TX Unit. I believe that our connection with TMEA and TXAS are growing stronger. By working with all the music organizations in the state of Texas we will be better informed on what is happening musically. Texas is a strong music state and the state of jazz in Texas is also something that we can all be proud of.

I hope that all of you will continue to support the new efforts of officers (see p.15). I know that the IAJE TX Unit will be a strong pro-active President for the IAJE TX Unit over the next two years. I know that we will push to help get a second All State Jazz Ensemble or an Honors Jazz Ensemble. When there are over 185 students auditioning for 20 spots in the All State Jazz Ensemble, I believe that the next 20 players would also provide the state of Texas with a second All State Jazz Ensemble equal to any all state group in the United States. I am proud of the students from the All State Jazz Ensemble that went on to perform in the Grammy Jazz Ensemble. I think having 3 students perform in that group helps to showcase the strength of jazz in Texas.

It has been a rewarding experience working with so many people involved in jazz in Texas. Myself and John Rankin are going to be working on historical aspects of the IAJE TX Unit. There have been many performers and past officers who today continue to lend some of the top jazz programs in Texas and around the country.

In closing I want to give a great thanks to John Goode the editor of our state newsletter. He has helped to bring back to the TX Unit a way in which we can communicate our jazz happenings.

Musically,  
Sparky Koerner  
[skcoerner@com.edu](mailto:skcoerner@com.edu)

**T. Monk Competition Winner Announced**

Jonathan Absher (Hargrave) has earned the high honor of winning first place in the prestigious Thadmon Monk Jazz Solo Competition held in Houston, D.C., April 25 - 27, 2003. The honor includes an award of \$20,000.

see Hayward on page 2

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## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
December 2003

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Educators,

"Will the last one out please leave the lights on!" First, let me start by saying it is truly an honor and privilege to serve IAJE Texas as President. I truly hope to meet and hear from as many of you as possible to help promote this incredible art form. Now, back to the lights; it is extremely important that we all help create and develop jazz education in our great state for future generations. Every student of the art deserves to experience jazz instruction-free to the highest degree possible.



Los Angeles trumpet artist, Carl Saunders, will solo with the TCU Jazz Ensemble at the TMEA convention on February 14th.

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I am very proud to announce that we finally did it. IAJE Texas has commissioned a piece in honor of Al Sturcho (Mr. TBA) and will be presented by the TMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble at the convention. The piece was written by Texas composer and educator, Gabe Musella.

Please plan to attend our IAJE Regional Convention planned for April 2005. The event will entertain membership from five states and be held at Baylor University. Regional Coordinator, Rick Wilson.

see PRESIDENT on page 2

## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
June 2004

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Again, it is an absolute honor to serve as your President for IAJE Texas. I am very proud to announce several items of good news. First, our Regional Conference is a Go!! It is scheduled for April 15-16, 2005 at Baylor University in Waco (Alex Parker). Please visit our NEW website at [iajetexas.org](http://iajetexas.org) for information on the event as well as performance opportunities, clinics, etc.



### MARVIN STAMM RECEIVES "DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS" AWARD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Trumpeter Marvin Stamm has been chosen one of the 2004 "Distinguished Alumni" from the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas. Mr. Stamm (b. 1931) and the other honorees were listed at a formal banquet in Denton the evening of April 18, 2004, with UNT President Dr. N. Scott Johnston presiding.

This award is especially significant in that it is a university-wide award, and Stamm represents the first "senior player" of any genre to be so honored. Given that UNT now boasts almost 175,000 living alumni and only approx. 125 have been

Next, Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) is really opening doors for this great art form (Thank you so much Mr. TBA!!). Sturcho is hosting jazz clinics for every instrument in the Texas All-State Jazz Ensemble on their respective all-state studies. The clinics will take place beginning Monday morning of the convention on July 26, 2004. This is truly a first for the state of Texas! Hopefully many of you can attend (with your students if possible) and perhaps more great things will be just around the corner.

Please try to attend the IAJE meeting if you are at TBA this summer and support all the clinics and concerts. And remember, you are all ambassadors of this wonderful art form, both at school, on the stage and in conversation. So please don't forget to recruit one new member a year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ronnie Rice President

## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
December 2005

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all have had a good fall semester. I have had the good fortune to hear some amazing students and groups this fall and know that there is some great teaching going on! I know that there are areas within our state where jazz and jazz education is thriving but I also know that there are some places where the "joys of jazz" are woefully absent. It is my strong belief that IAJE-Texas should be a leading light in helping to spread jazz education throughout the entire state. I would appreciate hearing thoughts and ideas on what IAJE-Texas can do and look forward to hearing from YOU!

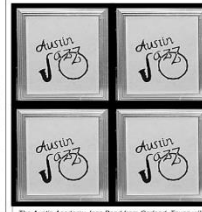
I've heard some IAJE leaders say that the international conference is "what IAJE does best." I have to agree. If you've never been, I strongly encourage you to try to attend at some point in the future. (This year's conference is in New York, January 11-14, 2006.)

The Texas Bandmasters Association continues to be a strong supporter of jazz education and IAJE-Texas. If you're involved with jazz at the collegiate level, please encourage your students to audition for the TBA All-State Collegiate Jazz Band. (See related article)

Richard Bick

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979.238.3272 - office phone

Attend our IAJE Texas Unit meeting at TMEA in February.



The Austin Academy Jazz Band from Garland, Texas will perform at the 27th Annual IAJE Conference in New York this January. See feature story, page 2.

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## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
December 2004

### REGIONAL IAJE JAZZ CONFERENCE A FIRST FOR TEXAS AND BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

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Baylor University School of Music hosts conference in April.

The Texas Unit of IAJE has discussed for years the possibility of hosting a regional IAJE conference here in Texas. In 2005 that idea will become a reality. Baylor's Director of Jazz Studies, Alex Parker, extends an invitation to everyone by reporting the following: "This spring we look forward to hosting all of you at the first ever IAJE South Central Regional Conference. There are many performance and clinics that will be a huge benefit for you and your students. We look forward to seeing all of you on our campus in April."

The opening concert for the conference will be Friday evening, April 15th at 7:30 in Waco Hall. It will feature the Baylor Jazz Ensemble, a choir, guest vocal soloists, and world renowned trumpeter Jon Faddis performing Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert Music*, Parker says. "We will be performing selections from the three core."

For more information, visit our website at [www.iajetexas.org](http://www.iajetexas.org)

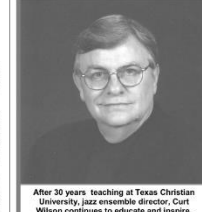
## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
June 2006

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's summer and that means I have a little more time to focus on two of my favorite things - jazz and golf! The older I get, the more I see a parallel between these two activities. Here's what I mean:

- 1) Jazz and golf are life affirming and all ages are welcome. Youngsters and senior citizens can be found in abundance on the links as well as at jazz sessions. (Witness James Armstrong Jazz Camps healthy enrollment of adult hobbyists who are taking a "jazz summer" to play and learn!)
- 2) Jazz and golf are social activities. I find the dialogue between soloists and accompanists during improvisation to be very similar to the healthy banter in a 9-hole golf that occurs between golfing buddies.
- 3) Jazz and golf are open to all ability levels. (You don't have to be John Coltrane or Tiger Woods to play and enjoy yourself!) You can "pick your poison" - starting with the basic 3 course and working your way up to Giant Steps-Agassi National or you can adapt the songbook. Golf makes provisions with different tee boxes and handicap adjustments while in jazz you can play slower tempos and/or easier changes. You can play the same golf course over and over and each round will be completely different based on the weather conditions. Likewise you can play the same standard over and over and it will be completely different depending on the mood, emotion, personnel etc. (This is why I love the eternal challenge of jazz and golf!)
- 5) Jazz and golf put me in the presence of beauty. I have played a great golf course as much as I have playing a great standard. It



After 30 years teaching at Texas Christian University, jazz ensemble director, Curt Wilson continues to educate and inspire. See feature story on page 2.

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## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
June 2005

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to start my presidency by thanking Ronnie Rice for all his efforts on behalf of IAJE Texas as president these past two years. Ronnie is responsible for our updated website ([www.iajetexas.org](http://www.iajetexas.org)) and for our close relationship with the Texas Bandmasters Association. Thanks to Ronnie and TBA Executive Director Al Sturcho, there are many wonderful jazz sessions at TBA's annual convention. Be sure to check out [www.iajetexas.org](http://www.iajetexas.org) for a complete schedule.

I would also like to thank those people who helped make the IAJE South Central Regional Conference at Baylor this past April such a great success. If you weren't there, you missed a great event that showcased and advanced jazz in our state and region. Particular thanks go to Baylor Jazz Studies Director Alex Parker and his dedicated crew of faculty, staff and students who did a fantastic job of hosting such a large undertaking.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of IAJE Texas. I am honored and humbled by the trust and support you have shown me by electing me as your president for the next two years. I promise to make my best effort to promote and advance jazz education in Texas. I truly would like to hear your priorities and your ideas. Please contact me and share your thoughts.

Looking forward to serving you,  
Richard Bick

[rbick@braesport.edu](mailto:rbick@braesport.edu) - email  
979.238.3272 - office phone

Attend our state IAJE meeting at the T.B.A. convention

### TEMPLE JAZZ ORCHESTRA at T.B.A. with BILL WATROUS

The Temple Jazz Orchestra with conductor Bill Watrous will perform at the 27th Annual IAJE Conference in New York City on Sunday July 27th in the John C. Oakes Theater at the Henry B. Grady Convention Center in New York City.

Founded and directed by Thomas Fafie, the Temple Jazz Orchestra is in residence at Temple College in Temple, Texas. TJO emerged from the initial growth of the jazz program at Temple College between 1990 and 2005. Founded in 1990, who began as a collaboration of students and adult musicians from the area has become the premier jazz ensemble in central Texas. TJO now boasts the best professional jazz musicians and students from all areas surrounding Temple, including musicians from Waco, El Paso, Dallas, Rockwall, Austin, San Antonio, Round Rock, Brownwood, and other communities.

Grammy nominee Jazz Trombonist, Bill Watrous, has carved out an impressive career for himself, performing with jazz greats including Woody Herman, Ray Charles, and Count Basie. He has been voted the "Number One Jazz Trombonist" in Downbeat Magazine's reader poll seven years in a row and has won the Grammy Critics Award twice. Watrous is considered to be one of the greatest trombonists of all time. He is also named in the Los Angeles music industry and has received numerous solo awards. His *Classical Records* album, "The Top of New York" was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Performance by a Large Jazz Ensemble.

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## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
January 2007

### Baylor Jazz students perform in Costa Rica

See article, page 4



### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the IAJE-Texas Executive Board, I am pleased to announce the selection of Ronnie Rice for the newly created position of Executive Director of IAJE-Texas (see job description below).

Ronnie is currently Director of Bands at Harlingen High School and is a past-president of IAJE-Texas. Other leadership positions that he has held include: Jazz Chair with Region 14 and 15, Vice-Chair Band Division Region 15, and current Region 28 Band Division Chair.

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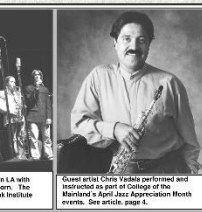
## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
Summer 2007

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me start by saying congratulations to the newly elected executive board for IAJE Texas. I look forward to working with Scott, Richard, Colby and Heather for the next two years and to be involved in the future of Jazz Education in Texas.

A huge thanks is owed to Richard Bick for his work during the last two years, not to mention the many hours he spends putting together the All-State packets and many other behind the scenes items that keep our organization running. I would like to thank Marned and Albert for their service for the last few years. They have put in many hours of work and their dedication to our art form has allowed the new and exciting programs like the improved schedule, the grant program, etc. to get up and running.



Guest artist, Chris Valente performed and instructed as part of College of the Mainland's April Jazz Appreciation Month events. See article, page 4.

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## Deep In The Art

International Association for Jazz Education  
Texas Unit Newsletter  
January 2008

### WINNERS OF FIRST ANNUAL IAJE TEXAS SCHOOL GRANTS ANNOUNCED



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Visit your Texas jazz web site at <http://www.iajetexas.org/>



**Deep In The Art**  
Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter June 2008

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello everyone,

I hope that your summer has gotten off to a great start. This summer will be an eventful one for IAJE Texas.

Let me start by thanking all of you who have emailed me and the other board members offering your support and help over the last few months. It has been exciting to see that there is a high level of interest in maintaining a jazz educator organization in our state.

Let me also assure each of you that the programs and responsibilities of the new organization will not diminish. We will continue the school jazz grants program, we are working to hold three more jazz director symposiums this year, we will continue to print and publish the all-state jazz music, and organize the all-state judging panels, etc. In fact, we are hoping to continue to add to the list of services provided by the former IAJE Texas.

We are financially stable and ready to move on to establish our own organization and serve you and our students better than ever before.

Now, what's next? Your board has been working on setting up a new organization following the demise of IAJE. We have decided on a name, the Texas Jazz Educators Association (TJEA), and we are working now to

*Continued, next page...*

**Ford memories of BTWHSVPA drummer James Kings. See story p. 3.**

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
February 2010

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings Jazz Enthusiasts. First, allow me to wish you a Super-Fantastic 2010. I hope you exceed all expectations with each and every endeavor that awaits you.

Texas Jazz Educators Association (TJEA) welcomes each and every one of you to an institution of resources for all your jazz needs. Even though TJEA is in its early years, many dedicated experts have culminated information available on our website: <http://www.tjear.org>. Please visit this site, and know that our suggestions are welcome to help keep the site current.

My message to you today is very simple. TJEA should not necessarily just be about something jazz educators can reach out to for help, but should be about as (TJEA) reaching out to educators. Everything we do every day is because of kids. There is no other way to put it. Meeting the needs of our youth has to be at the forefront. They are the now and the future. However, our primary objective should be to reach educators through them, maybe someday, we can get to every student in the activity.

Strength in numbers is our victory! Every serious music educator in Texas has an organization. They are strong, influential, and have the ability to make decisions for students in our state that are in the best interest of the status quo. Much more in the jazz world in Texas awaits us. We are responsible for the future of the activity. Currently, we are really providing enough avenues for the children of Texas? Maybe, but we can absolutely have more. 1

Stapophist, Tom Branton, performed with the Helton High School Chamber Orchestra.  
See article, page 2.

Stapophist, Tom Branton, performed with the Helton High School Chamber Orchestra.  
See article, page 2.

Bookmark Our Texas Jazz website:  
<http://www.tjear.org/>

**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
May 2010

The newsletter's new heading design for February 2010 was a bit pre-mature. TJEA was not officially established at that time. There was no May 2010 edition while the organization established its bylaws and obtained 501(c)(3) status. Once TJEA was officially and legally established, the newsletter resumed in August 2010.

**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
August 2010

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

To all the TJEA members, I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years and know that together we can make Jazz Education even stronger than it is in the state of Texas. We have a great board of directors with Alex Parker, Richard Birk and newest member Paul Baker helping to guide us as well as new president elect, Tim Ishii and our returning officers Brent Caldwell and Heather Mench. It will be a pleasure working with them. Thanks to Ronnie Ross for all you did these first two years of the organization as our first president. Thanks to John Goode for taking the responsibility of putting together the newsletter. Send your news worthy articles and photos to [jazzed@tjear.org](mailto:jazzed@tjear.org).

Our web page is being hosted by TJEA and we believe that gives us a stronger connection with them. I want to thank Cathy Bradford for working closely with TJEA to make this happen.

The multi files are up on the website so that your students can have a background to work with while preparing the Jazz All State Ensembles. I want to thank Richard Birk for all his work on collecting the jazz studies and getting them into Finale and creating the multi-files. If any of you find a mistake are out there Richard sure could use some help in the future with that project.

All Elementary, Middle and High School directors make sure you apply for the grants that are available through TJEA. Go to the website for information and applications for the grants.

Volume 1 No. 1 of the *Jazz Journal* was completed and sent to members back in January. I hope that you have found the material useful and your students. I know I have copied a few of the articles and handed them out. *Continued on page 2...*

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
November 2010

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope that everyone is having a successful fall semester with all the music programs. Make sure that you get published out about your concerns to the local newspaper and on the web. Developing and conveying an audience base for your performances is all about communication.

Send a picture of your band with a cut line to the press, post it on a web page. If your school has a newspaper make sure to have your concert listed far enough in advance so that people can plan to attend. Don't forget to list on your school web site or if you have a Facebook page send out an event notice to your friends and interested musicians.

Make sure you mention some of the material that the group is performing especially if some of the tunes have a title that people will recognize or if someone made them famous like Stan Kerton, Count Basie or Duke Ellington; name recognition can be a draw.

Also, list any featured student soloist that you might have with your jazz ensemble. The family love to see the sax of their son or daughter in the paper or on the web. If someone is shooting video or photos of your concert post those on YouTube and on your Facebook page. The more info you can put out prior to and after the concert will help you in developing that audience base that you're looking for. Good luck with publicizing your concerts.

As the TJEA All State Jazz Ensemble Audition Chancel, TJEA and I want to thank all the judges that volunteered their time to help with the judging of the all-state jazz auditions of. This will take place at Martin High School in Arlington on November 6 & 7, 2010. *Continued, next page...*

Terrell Stafford headlines a free jazz clinic and performance with the Baylor Jazz Ensemble in February. See Baylor jazz page 2.

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
February 2011

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello TJEA members. I hope that you are off to a great start for the New Year and keeping jazz alive in 2011.

Jazz was definitely alive at the Jazz Education Network Conference in New Orleans January 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. I believe that JEN is moving in the right direction with their clinics, panel discussions, meetings, and concerts. New Orleans was the perfect city to bring this organization's conference; the birthplace of jazz gave new birth to the strength of JEN bringing together over 2,500 jazz enthusiasts of all types.

Texas was well represented with clinics by Jose Diaz on *Alto Saxophone* and *All First Jazz: A Methodical Approach To Teaching Jazz Ensemble*, Mike Shined on *Blue Year Band Director*, Newell Toss on *Alto Saxophone*, and Alexander Young addressed *Teach jazz improvisation to Elementary and Middle School students* and some performances by Caliente, the Larch Jazz Solo Big Band directed by Jose Diaz, Booker T. Washington H.S. Combo directed by Bart Marantz, New Collection Vocal Jazz Ensemble directed by Paris Rutherford and The University of North Texas One O'clock Lab Band directed by Steve West.

Make your plans now for January 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 JEN will be developing New Auditions Friday, Louisville, Kentucky. [www.jazzed.net](http://www.jazzed.net)

Plus, make an effort to attend the TJEA Meeting on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in CC 212. *Continued, next page 2...*

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
May 2011

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello TJEA Members. I hope that you have had a great school year and that you're looking forward to some time off. I think we all look forward to that at some point in the teaching year.

I do hope that you will make plans to attend the TJEA Jazz Symposium that will take place at the University of Texas Arlington, hosted by our President-Elect Tim Ishii. The date is set for June 11, 2011. See details on page 12 of this newsletter.

No doubt some of you will be involved in Summer Jazz Camps. I want to tell you about a Summer Camp that your students don't have to leave home to enjoy. Trumpeter Willie Thomas is offering a Student Summer Special on his web site. Check it out at [www.jazzed.net](http://www.jazzed.net). He is using Skype video technology to teach students. There is a fee and one gets one lesson a week through September 20, 2011; you also get a free *Jimmy Abernathy* play-along CD once registered. To see more info about the Student Summer Special go to [www.jazzed.net](http://www.jazzed.net). Besides the student summer special he offers plenty of free material to help you with your improvisation. Go check it out I think you will enjoy Willie's laid back approach.

New officers will be taking their position on July 1, 2011. Elected to the Board of Directors is Roland Sandvol, President-Elect Greg Ball and Treasurer will remain with Heather Mench. I want to congratulate each of these people for stepping up to continue helping to make TJEA a strong organization in the state of Texas.

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
August 2011

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It's hard to believe we are already getting ready to start another school year. Once again, the summer has flown by and I hope all of you have had a restful break. It's an honor to serve as President of TJEA and I want to thank our immediate past president, Sparky Kerner, for his insight and help this past year.

The underlying theme that came out of the TJEA General Membership meeting at TBA is one of growth. Now that the organization has some solid roots, it's time to increase membership and visibility across the state.

We will continue to develop our website to facilitate more ease in becoming a member online. Our primary means of communication with TJEA members and non-members is through our webpage and newsletter. Communication is key to our success in being a valuable resource, so please feel free to communicate with our officers and board members. If you have concerns or feedback you would like to communicate, please send that information to [jazzed@tjear.org](mailto:jazzed@tjear.org) or our newsletter editor.

As TJEA continues to evolve, there will naturally be some changes. I want to thank Richard Birk for all of his help with the TJEA Journal and coordinating the All State Jazz ends. Joe Clark (Brenham Middle School, Spring ISD) will be taking over as editor of the TJEA Journal and Ben Cavanaugh (UT Arlington) will be the new coordinator for assembling the study packets.

I would also like to welcome Greg Ball as president-elect. One of his primary duties will be to coordinate the next TJEA Jazz Symposium. The Jazz Symposium continues to gain momentum and this past June was hosted by UT-Arlington. *Continued, next page.*

Circus Dan Cavanaugh (L) and Tim Ishii (R) share information with TJEA symposium attendees in June. See photo gallery on page 5.

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
November 2011

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope you are all having a productive fall semester. As the marching season swings into high gear, I hope you will take a moment to pause and think about your jazz needs for the year. The deadline was extended for our grant applications and I hope you took advantage of this and applied. These grants are a wonderful opportunity to help your students and yourselves learn more about jazz music.

Thank you to all who have encouraged their students to audition for the All State Jazz Band. It truly is one of the finest of its kind in the nation. We still have an initiative to promote a jazz honor band and will continue to have discussions with TJEA about the creation of such a group. Your support is greatly needed here. If you have suggestions or ideas, we would love to hear them. Please feel free to contact myself or any of the officers if you would like to get something on the agenda at our annual meeting in February.

I wish you the best of luck for the remainder of 2011 and will see you at the 2012 convention in San Antonio.

Sincerely,  
Tim Ishii  
President, Texas Jazz Educators Association

**RUSSELL MALONE**  
TRUMPET PLAYER

Malone played with the Russell Malone Trio with featured artists at JAZZ AT ST. JAMES, see article p. 2.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi TJEA Members,

I hope you are off to a great start in 2012. As always, time seems to fly by and our Annual Meeting at TMEA is quickly approaching. We are excited to have **Wesley Gordon** as our featured jazz clinician at TMEA and I hope you will make every effort to come to his clinic. In addition, he is the All State Jazz Band clinician, so please try to stop in on one of the rehearsals to observe his work and support the students.

The Annual Meeting promises to have a full agenda and will include announcements from **Greg Ball** (Tarleton State) about the upcoming TJEA Jazz Symposium. Also on the agenda will be announcements about the ongoing initiatives that TJEA supports. We are currently accepting submissions for All State Jazz Bands as well as are interested in writing an article to be considered or have a question about submitting an article, please contact **Don Cawagah** (UT Arlington).

I look forward to seeing you at TMEA and please circle these events in your calendar program as you plan your itinerary for the convention (see p. 1 for day, time, and room number).

Annual TJEA Membership Meeting  
TJEA Region 4 Coordination Breakfast  
TJEA Jazz Clinic: featuring **Wesley Gordon**

Respectfully,  
Tim Ball  
President, TJEA

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi TJEA Members,

The semester has flown by and summer will soon be upon us. We have much to celebrate in that we have accomplished one of our biggest initiatives yet, the permanent endorsement of a selected high school jazz band at the TMEA Conference. Many thanks go to **Alex Parker** for spearheading this initiative. There are still a number of issues being discussed and the conversations at past membership meetings have been very stimulating. We encourage you to keep giving us feedback and opinions.

We hope to see all of you at the next annual Jazz Symposium. This year's symposium will take place at Tarleton State University on June 1, 2012. Our host will be President **Eric Greg Ball**. Greg is planning an outstanding day of jazz education. Please make every effort to take advantage of this amazing opportunity to learn from some of the state's best jazz educators.

Again, please spread the word about TJEA and encourage your colleagues to join. As the organization grows, we will have a bigger voice and be able to accomplish even more.

Respectfully,  
Tim Ball  
President, TJEA  
Interim Assoc. Chair  
Director of Jazz Studies/Saxophone  
UT Arlington

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi TJEA Members,

I am excited and honored to serve as your president for the next year. I am also excited about what this organization has helped accomplish recently and I'm dedicated to finding more ways to serve Texas Jazz Educators.

In this newsletter you will read about recent developments with the TMEA All-State Jazz Bands as well as the new TMEA Invited High School Jazz Band. These are exciting steps the organization has been working on for a while and it is very satisfying to see that work paying off.

There is a dedicated collection of individuals working for this group and I want to take a moment to thank and introduce them to you. First, some big thanks to our outgoing officers: **Tim Ball**, Past President, has done an incredible job of keeping the Summer Symposium growing and evolving and has a big help in changing me to my duties while steering the organization through the recent developments. Also a huge thank you to **Alex Parker** who helped establish the organization and served as a Director for the past three years. He has been a major factor, working behind the scenes, ensuring all of the recent accomplishments have gone smoothly. Thanks guys for all the work you've done!

Our new officers are **Matthew Seifert**, Secretary (who did a marvelous job filling in for me at TJEAs), **Aric Schneider**, President-elect and **Brent Matheson**, Director. These talented individuals join Directors **Roland Sandval** and **Robert Baker**.

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi Everyone,

Wow, it is amazing how quickly things move sometimes! In the last newsletter we were able to report about the creation of a TMEA Invited High School Jazz Band performance at the convention as well as the establishment of a telephone chair in the All-State program. And now it was recently announced that a second All-State Jazz Ensemble will be added in 2014! We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Alex Parker** and **Frank Goodman** (and I'm sure many others behind the scenes) for making all this happen.

We have had a great response to the TJEA Grant program this year. Those applications are currently under review and will be announced shortly.

A big congratulations is in order for **Terence Gordon** and the **Katy High School Jazz Band** for being selected as the **2012 TMEA Invited High School Jazz Band!** We look forward to your performance in February. We had many outstanding recordings submitted this year and are anticipating even more next year as the event and deadlines are established. Great news for jazz education in Texas!

We will be listening to the TMEA All-State Jazz auditions November 10 and 11 in Houston. Thanks to all of you who volunteered your time for this important event. Thanks also to **Bryan Bullock** and **Clare Lela HS** for hosting.

As marching season winds down, I hope you have all had a good year so far and are looking forward to staying inside! We hope you use the TJEA resources to help find clinics and festivals for your jazz program this year. Let us know if we can help in any other way.

Cheers,  
Greg Ball, President TJEA

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings Texas Jazzers,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are enjoying being back to work and playing music again!

I am looking forward to seeing you all at TMEA. Our meeting is scheduled for Friday night at 6:30 in CC 162. One of the major topics of discussion will be the upcoming JEN Conference in Dallas, January 2014. There will be a meeting following ours to get into this more in depth. Anyone wanting more info or willing to help is invited to attend.

Representatives from JEN are sharing our table outside the Exhibit Hall. If you are not a JEN member, stop by and learn about this increasingly important organization. I know those who were at the 2012 convention in Atlanta give it rave reviews. Next year it will be in our own backyard so stop by and find out more.

If anyone has something they would like to get on the agenda I encourage you to send me an email with ideas we may need to discuss. [ball@tjeda.org](mailto:ball@tjeda.org)

There are many interesting jazz clinics and concerts going on this year and I encourage you to look through the schedule and attend as many as possible. In particular I hope you make it to the first TMEA Invited High School Jazz Band concert featuring the **Katy High School Jazz Band** from Katy, Texas directed by **Terence Gordon**. The concert is Friday at 11:00 in CC Ballroom B.

I know many of you are preparing for jazz festival season. If you are still looking for a place to play look in this issue and on the TJEA website for various listed festivals.

Cheers,  
Greg Ball, President TJEA

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Well the jazz festival season is wrapping up, finals are approaching and we have survived another school year. I hope it was a good one for everyone. As we head into the summer months let me take a moment to remind you about some important things coming up in the next year.

• Entries for the TMEA Invited Jazz Ensemble are due May 15.  
• The TMEA Summer Symposium will be hosted by President **Eric Aric Schneider** on the campus of Sam Houston State University June 7 & 8 (See p. 2).  
• Our Summer meeting will be held during the TJEA Convention in San Antonio July 21-24.  
• The Jazz Educators Network Convention will be held in Dallas January 8-11, 2013.

Congratulations are in order for our newest state of officers. **Heather Menck** has been selected as Treasurer. Our new President-elect is **Mark Nichols**. I am going to stick around and serve on the Board of Directors. This new slate of officers will be installed at the TJEA meeting when **Aric Schneider** begins his term as president. I'd also like to thank **Paul Baker** who has served on the Board for the

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEA Members,

Greetings to all of you. My best wishes to you and yours for the coming school year. I am excited to be serving in your position, and I am committed to this organization's continued time-honored mission of jazz education. I am sure that I am not alone in saying, "we're all about our students" and to this end, I am dedicated to meeting our members in the possibility of finding more ways to serve Texas Jazz Educators.

In this newsletter you will read about the year's accomplishments this last year, but more especially about the TMEA All State Jazz Bands as well as the success of the newly debuted TMEA Invited High School Jazz Band. In the words of **Greg Ball** (Past President 2012), "these are exciting steps the organization has been working on for a while and it is very satisfying to see that this work is paying off!"

There is a dedicated group of individuals working for you that I would like to take a moment to re-introduce and personally thank. Welcome everyone.

**Jazz Education Network**  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Coming to Dallas  
in  
January, 2014

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEA Members,

I hope that everyone is having a productive fall semester. There are many wonderful things happening jazz-wise that I would like to bring to your attention. First, the deadline for the TJEA Grants was extended and we received many excellent entries. The winners will be contacted very shortly, and the results should be on the TJEA website in November. Secondly, thanks to **Greg Ball** for handling the All-State judging which will be held at Allen High School in Allen, Texas November 9th & 10th. As we all know Southlake Carroll High School, directed by **David Lewis**, was chosen as the 2014 TMEA invited high school jazz ensemble. If you want to apply for the 2015 TMEA invited high school jazz ensemble please know the deadline for applications is May 15, 2014 with the announcement of the winner by June 15, 2014. The application is on the TMEA website (TMEA/Divisions & Regions/Band-Conventions HS Jazz Band Applications). The hope is to receive many new entries!

Two new awards presented by TJEA, the **Jazz Educator Hall of Fame** and the **Jazz Educator of the Year** were announced by **Roland Sandval** at the summer meeting. Our thanks to Roland as we finalize the details. These are all of our Region Chairs for hosting and running the All-Region jazz auditions.

I hope all of you are planning to attend the Jazz Education Network's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held in Dallas, Texas January 8-11, 2014. The lineup of artists, clinics, professional and school performances is out of this world! Find complete information at [jazzednetwork.org](http://jazzednetwork.org)

Have a great rest of the year and I hope to see you at the Texas Jazz Education Association meeting this February during the TMEA Convention.

Sincerely,  
Aric Schneider  
President, TJEA

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you'll had a wonderful holiday break with family and friends, and are enjoying being back to work playing and teaching music!

It was great seeing many of you at the 2014 JEN Conference in Dallas. I hope all of you were as inspired as I was by the student performers, the presenters, invited professionals, rock veterans, jazz administration and volunteers. JEN is in great hands and I am sure it will be very healthy in performance and education for years to come. **Mary Jo Pupkin** our JEN president, sends all of us her best wishes in well for the coming year.

TMEA is coming up very quickly and I am looking forward to seeing you all there. Our meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13th, 1:00-2:00pm in CC 162. One of the major topics for discussion will be the proposed four part process and responsibilities of the All-State Jazz Bands going forward. My sincere thanks to **Richard Berk** and **Alex Parker** for taking the lead on bringing us back on target and I am very hopeful and positive that everyone will be satisfied with our initial focus as well as provide wonderful feedback and comments.

Other important TJEA sponsored events include the following: 1. Carroll High School Band performance, Friday, 2/14/14, 7:30-9:00pm and 2. TMEA/TJEA Region Jazz Conferences Breakout, Saturday, 2/15/14, 10:00am-12:00pm, Austin River View, Texas Room.

If anyone has something they would like to get on the agenda I encourage you to send me an email with ideas we may need to discuss to [schneider@tjeda.org](mailto:schneider@tjeda.org)

As always, TMEA will have many excellent jazz clinics and concerts and I

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Friends,

As with the 2014 JEN conference in Dallas, it was great seeing many of you at our TJEA General Meeting during TMEA in San Antonio. This was a particularly collaborative meeting with excellent input from our general membership in attendance. Thank you all so very much!

As per usual for this time of year the jazz festival season is coming to a close and summer break is rapidly approaching, so I would like to take a moment to remind everyone about the following important things in the coming year:

- Applications and recordings for the TMEA Invited Jazz Ensemble contest are due May 15. <http://www.tmea.org/contests>
- President elect Mark Nichols will be leading the TJEA Summer Symposium and the following is the proposed date and city: July 26, 2014 in San Antonio, TX. More information to follow shortly.
- Our summer meeting will be held Monday, July 29, 9:30-10:30 am during the TBA Convention in San Antonio, July 27-30, 2014.

Also, I will be giving the following clinic at TBA, "Jazz Band/Improvisation Rehearsal Techniques for the High School Band Director." If you're in San Antonio, we invite you to attend this as well as the 2014 Summer Jazz Symposium and the TJEA Meeting at TBA.

Congratulations and a big welcome are in order for our newest:

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**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 the same for the many great young people currently involved in music.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a recording to our Invited Jazz Ensemble this year. A score of the judges, it was my pleasure to hear many different styles of music performed. The only score I selected to see so much great jazz education going on across the state, but I was excited to see 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 ensembles 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 to 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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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEA Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying a great fall semester. As we approach our last marching contest and finger's crossed football games of the year, I hope your semester is off to a good start. Thank you to everyone who submitted a recording to the All-Region Jazz groups. When I was a sophomore in high school, my band director encouraged me to try out for All-Region Jazz. I had only played electric bass for a few months and was still very scared, but I tried out. I loved the experience of the All-Region Jazz Clinic, and on this day I still remember it. Thank you to everyone who gave your students that great experience through this process as well to everyone who helped guide and host any of these contests. It truly is about the experience that each student has so thank you for being a part of this process.

We have had several schools apply for TJEA grants this year. Nothing makes the board happier than to give our grants to schools that want to expand jazz on their campuses, help an established program get new music, or help a band travel to a contest for the first time. If you want an application, thank you. If you did not apply this year, please consider applying in the future. It is a great way to get free money for your jazz program.

Next weekend we will be joining the jazz recordings for the All-State Ensemble. This is one of my favorite events. I am continuously amazed at the great music making that happens across the great state of Texas. There are so many student playing their heart and soul into these studies it is shaming they can't all be part of it.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Can you believe that TMEA is just a few short weeks away? As we all get back to our regular school schedules, it is great to sit back and reflect on how lucky we truly are. We all get to make music for a living and share that love of music making with a new generation. This year, I was fortunate enough to attend the Vibes Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. In addition to seeing great concerts and clinics, I was able to see Texas Jazz on display with the San Antonio University Jazz Ensemble. I was great to see Texas Jazz take the spotlight and I could not be more thrilled with their performance. Thank you to the staff and students who were able to make this performance legendary.

Two weeks ago, I was able to start a new jazz ensemble at my school. I have always had the traditional jazz ensembles, but this time I was able to start an experimental ensemble. Instead of strictly asking for the traditional jazz instruments, I invited all that wanted to experience jazz to come out and be a part of the ensemble. I had French Horns on Trombones/Pairs, Clarinets in the trumpet section, Bass Clarinets as key Tenor Saxes, and Flutes as my lead alto. The best part was the 5th and 6th graders who were willing to play mallets and four mallet technique in a small ensemble (but still use an incredible amount of technique). I wish all of you to share our love for jazz with new instruments. I wish I had recorded my class chorale solos, so it was precious. Love, I have all of

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As we all finish up TJEA season, hopefully you are able to look back on a great year and reflect. What could have gone better? What went really well? What can I do differently to help my students love and appreciate music as much as I do? What can I do to give my students on their instruments so they can enjoy everything they want?

This time of year I am filled with new questions than answers. But my heart is full every time I have a kid play something they were never able to play before. In our profession it is natural to have goals. Everyone always asks what were we received, how did this contest go, where are you performing, did you have fun playing at TMEA? Yet, I would advise you to set a different focus to program no matter what the level is. Focus on each kid and what they are able to do. Will they ever leave your program to become a musician? Probably not. Yet, EVERY kid can have your program with a new respect for music they would not normally listen to.

Maybe one day they will be at the mall and a jazz standard will come on that they introduced to them. Maybe they will join a community band. Maybe they will get some friends together from high school to jam from the local blues. You never know what kind of impact you will have on a student years down the road. As my career has gone on, I have shifted my focus. My only true goal is to have every student leave my program with the ABILITY to keep playing ANYWHERE they want. I want them to go to an NFL college having a skill set that allows them to join an ensemble. Will they all be in the jazz ensemble? Maybe not. Will they all be the best players? No. BUT, I want to give them the option through what they learn and

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back from summer everyone! Say it with me: "Jazz in Every Classroom." I ask that this be our guiding focus throughout the upcoming school year. We need to look beyond traditional jazz ensembles and continue following through on our charter to support ALL JAZZ in Texas. From improvisation in the orchestral classroom to scratchy jazz in the concert band to solos and ensembles in the choir, we can support our brothers and sisters across five arts departments everywhere. The bridges we build in this way not only strengthen our school communities, but lay the groundwork for us to work closer with groups like TODA, TJEA and TBA.

Before we get too far into the year, please take time to renew your TJEA membership. TJEA uses this money to provide jazz grants to programs throughout Texas, host the Summer Symposium and support convention in clinics and other projects. Also, while you're registering, please take time to indicate whether you are a clinician or arranger. Showcasing our arrangers is a new feature this year and could go a long way in expanding our membership.

I want to thank our new board members David Lowe, James Cook and Mark Nichols for volunteering to step into the positions of President-Elect, Interim Secretary and Director respectively. I also want to thank our Executive Director, Alex Parker, Treasurer, Heather Mench and Directors Arlie Schneider and Greg Ball for continuing to lead our organization in excellent fashion. We have assembled an outstanding team and I look forward to working with them throughout the year.

Finally, please keep an eye out for a survey from our web master, Cathy Bedford concerning the future of the Summer

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello again Jazz Educators,

"Though we find ourselves in several possible parts of our seasons," one season is clearly ahead of us - the holidays. As we prepare for this holiday season and all the concerts that come with it, please take the time to reach out and help each other as directors and don't be afraid to ask for help. I encourage you to work with other groups in your schools on holiday music. It's never too late to offer a rhythm section to the choir or a set player to the orchestra. These elements strengthen relationships and provide something special to their concerns. This effort may not put us in the spotlight, but builds bridges with these organizations. This is something I believe TJEA needs to start doing. If we work to put holiday jazz in every classroom, we build ties that can intertwine TJEA with our orchestra and choir counterparts.

This year we have seen a record number of grant applications! It's so exciting to see such an interest in how TJEA can directly touch jazz classrooms around the state. We allow enough money to give out ten grants each year and have historically given out more than ten when the applications were worthy. I hope you keep

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings Texas Jazz Educators,

With the holiday season behind us, this is that time where jazz programs can really start getting into the "meat" part of our year. I hope you're all ready for concerts, festivals and generally showing off your programs. Please get your musicians out into the public in every way you can to entertain, educate and advocate not only for your program, but for jazz education in general.

I want to continue to spread the message of getting jazz into every classroom. This means crossing the borders to choir, orchestra and even concert band to ensure our music isn't just represented by the big band and the combo, but in every medium. Blue band may be the flagship or our organization, but our charter is to support all jazz in Texas. We are the caretakers of quality in teaching and instruction and our press may not know how much they have to learn about jazz pedagogy. Don't give anyone the chance to assume you only do one style or one ensemble. Instead, I ask that you demonstrate versatility for your colleagues and your students - be it the way we biggest aid in presenting jazz.

As always, I want to make sure I thank the leadership of TJEA. Our executive staff of David Lowe, Heather Mench and James Cook have been incredible advocates for our organization. Our director staff of Dr. Arlie Schneider, Greg Ball and Mark Nichols remain some of the most education-minded people I know and have been wonderfully supportive of everything we do. Finally, if you see Alex Parker or Frank Caschman at convention this February, please thank them for all of us. Alex is our Executive Director and manages much of the day-to-day needs of TJEA.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Oh thank goodness it's nearly summer! While I hope you have a smooth closing to the school year, I also hope you work to keep jazz alive during the summer months. If you're not part of a local jazz group, try to find one or form one. If your students are looking to engage in jazz during the summer, please steer them to one of the many camps held throughout Texas or to a local jazz band. There are plenty of educational opportunities in June and July that can improve skills for the fall.

With this school year almost at an end, please mark your calendars for our upcoming TJEA Summer Symposium on June 17th and 18th. David Lowe has done a fantastic job setting up an incredible two-day event featuring Ron Carter as guest clinician. Teachers and students are welcome to attend and TJEA members can do so at a discount. This symposium is part of TJEA's mission and we're always striving to increase the quality and impact of the event. David has certainly done so this year and I hope to see you there. You can find more information on the symposium at [www.tjea.org](http://www.tjea.org) and on pages 6 and 7 in this newsletter.

Without a doubt, I need to thank some of our board members for their service both this past year and the past few years. Greg Ball will be stepping down this summer after serving three years as a Director for TJEA. Before that he served as president of our organization and will continue to work as the liaison for the All-State Audition panel. James Cook will also be stepping down from his position as Interim Secretary. He took over the position after Alan Black

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### 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

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEA Membership,

It's a good time to be a TJEA member! I'm very excited to announce that we will be able to give 10 TJEA scholarships this year, and it is a privilege to see how the elementary through high school levels are using their program throughout the state. I'm also happy to see that through the encouragement of our board and the hard work of Executive Director Alex Parker, TMEJA has decided to increase the weight of improvisation in the All-State audition scoring process. I strongly believe this is a good idea for us as we collectively increase the quality and quantity of improvisation pedagogy in our Texas classrooms.

There's so much to the TJEA board for you! Your hard work and advocacy for jazz. Thanks also to Alex Parker for coming to much work below the scenes and to our newsletter editor John Gooch.

I would like to personally encourage you to be a good citizen of this year. Please make a point to attend the excellent jazz clinics and concerts at this year's TMEJA Conference (February 5-11, 2017). These include not only the excellent concerts by the All-State jazz ensembles and the invited High School Jazz Ensembles, but also the All-State rehearsals, the TJEA General Membership Meeting, multiple jazz clinics and the jazz-related exhibits in the exhibit hall. Also, please encourage your students and your communities to support jazz music in your area when and wherever possible. As educators, we have the ability to foster an interest in live music in both our students and their parents and friends. We are the ones who can keep this music alive in this state!

Please keep us posted on your adventures in jazz this year and let us know how we can help you!

I look forward to seeing you at TMEJA!

Best regards,  
David Linn

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Texas Jazz Educators,

I hope the new year finds you excited and motivated to keep bringing this vital music to your students. I believe that we are very fortunate to teach music in this state, and I think that we should all feel the necessity to advocate for music education in our public schools more than ever, on behalf of our students and the music itself.

TMEJA is as you know right around the corner, and I hope you will try to attend as many jazz clinics and concerts as you can! A few highlights of this year's convention are the concerts by the **UT Jazz Orchestra** under the direction of Jeff Ellender and this year's Invited High School Jazz Ensemble, **Hartlage HS** under the direction of **Remmie Ross**. There are also a lot of really exciting jazz clinics, including one by our own Executive Director Alex Parker called "Teaching Improvisation: Simple Ways to Help Students Make the Changes". Another is by jazz at Lincoln Center's **Sharon Bernick** titled "Mind On Jazz for Young People" and a clinic by TMEJA featured clinician **Patrick Ware** entitled "Hip Cat and Cool Cat: Jazz in the Classroom".

Please be sure to visit TJEA.org for information on grant applications, and do consider submitting your high school band's recording for TMEJA Invited High School Jazz Ensemble consideration. We will be discussing all of this, as well as the TMEJA All-State jazz audition process and other new business at our General Membership

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEA Members,

On the night of July 20, 1956, almost 61 years ago, the Duke Ellington Orchestra was reborn. In the years prior to 1956, the Ellington band had been suffering a decline in both its commercial and artistic success. Big bands as a whole were on the decline in the wake of World War II, and there was a general perception of Ellington himself to a has-been and a representative of a bygone era. The band didn't have nearly as many engagements booked in the mid-50s as it had in the 1940s, and they had long ago traded in their iconic train for a more mundane bus.

Artists that back then, the Ellington Orchestra was due to premiere a new Ellington work at the Newport Jazz Festival, the *Newport Jazz Festival Suite*. The premiere's prospects weren't looking too good as the show approached, with Billy Strayhorn being called by Ellington to fill in major parts of the composition to finish it on time, just as the band was struggling to learn the music in time to perform it.

As the band was backstage prior to going on that night, Ellington tried to settle the nerves of everyone in the band. "After we finish [the suite], let's just relax and have a real good time," he said. "Let's play the *Discothem* and *Crescendo*!" He was referring to *Discothem* and *Crescendo* in *Solo*, a band swinging two movements: blues opus with an extended solo section in the middle featuring new saxophone Paul Gonsky. The band had played the suite with varying success at concerts since 1958, and Ellington knew that he could win tonight's audience back if the *Newport Jazz Festival Suite* was a flop.

The Suite was, if not a complete failure, certainly a letdown. The band, and the audience was not in the band's corner following the premiere of the piece. Ellington

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## Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEA Members,

Greetings to each of you from my office on a rainy morning! This message has been started and scrapped several times, as each time I write a single letter it does not convey the real message weighing on my heart and in my mind. Therefore, here I better or worse, you have my honest thoughts regarding our Country's current climate and our role as educators. Regardless of political views, I believe we all have an opportunity to use our love and passion for jazz. America's greatest art form, to inspire greatness in our students.

"Where words fail, music speaks."  
Rumi, Christian Anderson

One glimpse at our country and it is evident that America is hurting. In 2017, after much work for equality and justice we are still struggling. However, this is not the first time we have had to overcome. As our country has grown and developed, so has our cultural expression. Musicians, in particular, have used their art to convey a myriad of ideas and feelings to fight social change, or even as a call to action. Regarded as John Lennon's signature song, "Imagine," says to music a poem by Yoko Ono that conveys hope for world peace, but is perhaps what is now written in 1971, as it is today.

Jazz has had no shortage of cultural expression and influence throughout its history. Jazz has influenced culture, advanced music and social theory, changed ideas of dance, instigated political change, invigorated creativity, and served to connect people from different backgrounds and cultures. Jazz is a time of much negotiation. One thing I'm happy to see is the integration of jazz in the classroom.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEA Members,

Hello and Happy Fall! If you are reading this it means you have successfully completed **HANDTOBELL** Congratulations!

Appearance of pianists slightly "Friday night lights" drawing to a close and a reprieve from the humidity and high temperatures. In addition, the change in season brings about a new variation in the sounds ranging through band halls. Adding to the constant sound of studies from every corner for the impending region auditions for both high school and middle school students, most directors are now able to get their jazz groups up and running! And, for those who have had their jazz ensembles rehearsing since the beginning of the school year, we have reached the middle of the semester - a challenging time where students are not "settling" based on the being just far enough from the first concert of the semester but not quite close enough to the second concert. In my case, I have reached the latter. Before are some of the ways in which I have tried to welcome my students into realizing our rehearsals and progress continues far past the concert date and excellence is achieved through the small steps taken on a daily basis.

**Goals**

Whether explicitly written or not, we are constantly setting goals for ourselves personally and as educators. In fact, most of us have to submit our goals in the form of syllabi and lesson plans for our specific classes. However, when it comes to our jazz rehearsals, we often forget to set goals for our jazz times as we find our goals are to achieve greatness for a specific performance and to use always evaluative application beyond performance. Therefore, this semester I have experimented with

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEA members,

The spring semester is here! I hope those of you who were able to attend the **Jazz Education Network Convention** had a fantastic experience. In planning through the conference book, it was exciting to see Texas so well represented within the **JEN** (Jazz Education Network) Convention! Congratulations to all and I encourage you to post your pictures and video clips to social media with the #JEN and #TJEJA to continue to add to the JEN repository of participant! Next year the convention will be in January in Reno, NV.

As I am sure is true with each of you, one glance at the calendar and I already have a countdown to summer vacation! The spring semester is just a number of conventions, competitions, festivals, workshops - the list goes on and on. Ahead the planning and preparation, spring also features built-in vehicles for taking our jazz education off the printed page and connecting with other departments around our schools and communities in addition to adding to our students' jazz curriculum.

Each February is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time

**CONVENTION TIME II**

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEA Members,

As this is my final President's message for TJEJA, I would first like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve this great organization. I have truly enjoyed working with TJEJA and its fantastic members in an area of which I am incredibly passionate. As you all know, I am an educator, and more specifically jazz educator, starts with us. It is my strong belief that educating students with skills in the jazz vernacular transcends to all aspects of their life. While not every student will attain careers such as Michael Brecker or Wynton Marsalis, the inherent values of creative thinking, communication, and improvisation extend students going by participating in jazz will develop in themselves.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TJEJA 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 auditions 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.tmeja.org/division-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 of the students (BB Blues and A Train for this year), students should make a priority of listening to recordings of the of BB Blues - "Sonny Rollins' *Four Masters and Sonny Rollins 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 studies in our TMEJA All-State jazz audition packs are based on standard tunes - chord progressions such as *G-God! Happen to You*, *Indiana* (a la *Donna Lee*), etc. Why not

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello TJEA members,

I hope everyone's school year has gotten off to a great start and that you have not only survived but thrived during what is aptly described as "Rampant".

Thank you to the directors who had students participate in the Region All-State Jazz audition process. Kudos to the directors and private instructors who were, even with our busy schedules, able to spend a little extra time with the students – working on the phrasing, the different articulations, improvisation, small ensembles, or just giving a little encouragement – all the things that go into a successful musical performance.

And on a related note... Our All-State jazz panels are at the time of this writing being formal. State auditions are just around the corner. Thank you to **Michael Cruz**, TMEA State Jazz Audition Coordinator, for organizing this event. And a big thanks to those individuals who can serve on the various panels as well as those schools that are able to host the panels. State auditions are scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

The next Jazz Education Network Conference takes place in Reno, Nevada, January 9-12, 2019. There are a number of Texas-based jazz ensembles and artists participating in the conference and I'm sure we will have a report about that in the next TJEA Newsletter. For more info on JEN go to [jazzednet.org](http://jazzednet.org). A "great" place to hang, network, and be inspired!

Just a reminder that TJEA's website is a great resource for all things related to Texas Jazz Education. Please visit the site: [www.tjea.org](http://www.tjea.org).

Thank you,  
Warren Seese

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello TJEa members,

A few days ago, I received an email from a university vocal jazz ensemble director who wanted to become more involved in TJEa and to advocate for vocal jazz in Texas. I shared the email with my colleagues on the TJEa board and as you can imagine, we were thrilled to hear from someone who wants to jump in and get involved.

The email was inspiring and brought to mind some ideas:

- Perhaps one day the TJEa board could include a position devoted to vocal jazz.
- A passionate vocal jazz advocate might be inspired to run for a position on the board.
- Bringing in more jazz vocalists as guest clinicians at TMEA and TJEa events would be a great idea.
- What if... we had a TMEA All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble?

On a side note... if TMEA were at some point to have an all-state jazz vocal group, my thinking is that it would only be appropriate for our ensemble to be accompanied by a full rhythm section with perhaps a horn or two. So not only would that provide opportunities for young vocal jazz artists, but it would also foster opportunities for small group playing (something very near and dear to my heart).

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope everyone has enjoyed a great spring semester. It's always amazing to me how quickly the second half of the school year goes. Before you know it, summer will be here and with that in mind I wanted to remind you of a couple of upcoming events scheduled for the summer:

- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual TJEa Jazz Symposium will be held Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at Plano West High School. Saxophonist and educator **Julian Tabet** will be the featured clinician. He is very much involved with Lincoln Center and is one of the very few jazz directors to have experience with the Essentially Ellington Festival from multiple schools. The symposium will also have a vocal jazz component as well. And... keep in mind that with the approval of your administration you can get your 7.5 CPE hours at the Symposium. What a deal! You can keep up with any updates to the event by visiting the TJEa Facebook page. A big thanks to President-elect **Presley Pierce** for organizing and hosting the event.
- If you are planning to attend TJEa in July, I want to encourage you attend the TJEa general meeting. At the time of this writing, we don't have the date and time but it would be "great" to see you! Incidentally, thank you to all who were able to attend our general meeting at TMEA. The meeting room was full and it was definitely a strong turnout.

You may recall from the last TJEa newsletter my opinions about the importance of vocal jazz. That topic

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEa Members,

It's hard to believe that summer is over and that the fall semester is in full swing! I hope each of you were able to find some time to rest and recharge for the school year.

I want to first thank everyone who attended our TJEa Symposium this past June. We had over 50 attendees (not including the 23 piece student big band), and for the first time, we offered a vocal jazz component to the Symposium. I can't say thank you enough to our board members, **Heather Mensch**, **Warren Seese**, **Sarah Roberts**, and **David Lowe** for being so helpful in assisting me with the Symposium. I also have to give a special thank you to Mr. **Frank Demers**; he was the driving force in not only adding the vocal jazz component to our Symposium but also creating a network for Texas choral directors and vocal jazz.

With the addition of vocal jazz to the Symposium we have discovered there are schools across our state that have jazz choirs with little to no network between them. Speaking to other TJEa members and board members this past year, we feel as though this is a great opportunity for TJEa to do our duty to Jazz Education in Texas and to help bridge that gap. One way you can help is by speaking to your school's choir director(s), informing them about TJEa and encouraging them to join. For starters, our goal is to help create a

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEa Members,

As we are springing to the finish line of the Fall Semester, I hope you and your students have made some wonderful and meaningful musical memories. There are some new and exciting things happening with TJEa and I look forward to sharing them with you.

This past month I had a powerful musical experience that really had me thinking about why we do what we do. It reminded me of the reason that I started down this path many years ago, and it's quite simple: for the love of music. I took my school's Jazz Section to one of my district's Child Care Centers to play a few tunes for the little ones. The age group in attendance was 1-4 years old. We started the set off with Billy Strayhorn's "Take the A Train". The 3-year olds immediately grabbed my attention. They were seated in these large, red, 6 passenger strollers, and as soon as the music started, most of them began to move, clap, and dance to the music. It was very heartwarming for me to witness these innocent children were instinctively touched by the music, and without any prompt, instruction, or guidance, did what came naturally to them. These 3-year old children reminded me how we can sometimes forget and get caught up in the stresses of marching season, upcoming conventions, festivals, UIL, etc., and lose sight of what we are really doing, or should be doing: making music.

Continued...

**TJEa's ANNUAL JAZZ DIRECTOR SYMPOSIUM**  
NOW WITH THE TMEA CONVENTION  
See ad page 2

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**Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter**  
Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas  
February 2020

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEa Members,

Happy New Year! I hope your semester is off to a swinging start. With TJEa only a few weeks away, I have some exciting news to share with you.

I recently presented to the board the idea of having a Texas Jazz Educators Hall of Fame. While I am only in my 11<sup>th</sup> year teaching, there are many jazz educators across our beautiful state that I have looked up to and admired since I was in High School. Once I learned that this has been brought up before, I knew we had to make a push for this to happen.

I am excited to announce that the TJEa board passed a motion to create the Texas Jazz Educators Hall of Fame!

Here is what the board decided:

- The purpose of this award will be to recognize individuals who have made a difference in jazz education in the state of Texas.
- The inaugural class of the Texas Jazz Educators Hall of Fame (HOF) shall be nominated by the membership and voted on by the TJEa board.
- Each class after the first class will be voted upon by a designated member of the TJEa board and the members of the TJEa HOF.

Continued next page...

**BREAKING NEWS**

**TMEA CONVENTION Celebrating 100 years**

**TJEa JAZZ SYMPOSIUM**  
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020

**NEW: TEXAS JAZZ HALL OF FAME**

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEa Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a honor and pleasure serving as TJEa President this past year. Since I joined TJEa as a general member I have witnessed growth every year in jazz education in our state. It has been inspiring to see accomplishments like adding the 2nd All-State Jazz Band, invited H&M MS Jazz groups, TMEA Hall of Fame, and now, hosting our Symposium at TMEA. I'm excited to see what TJEa will do next!

As I sit here and write this letter on International Jazz Day, I can't help but reflect on some of the giants we recently lost in the jazz community as well as those who are currently lighting the way for us. I hope you all have found some silver linings during these times and are taking the time to enjoy your families. We all know family time is precious in our profession.

I would like to thank and congratulate our President-elect **Mark DeHoff** on organizing a fantastic Symposium this past February. All clinicians, instrumental and vocal, were fantastic. Thank you to everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this happen.

Should you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Presley Pierce

**SHSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC SHAWNEE

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEa Membership,

I am excited to serve as your president for the 2020-21 school year. It's my honor to follow in the footsteps of so many exceptional TJEa Presidents. In particular, I'd like to thank **Presley Pierce** for his outstanding contributions during the 2019-20 school year and for his constant help and guidance during my year as President-elect.

Looking back on the first 6 months of 2020, it's obvious that it has been a year of change for everyone, including TJEa. Some of those changes have been voluntary, such as moving the TJEa Symposium to TMEA, and halting the first class of the TJEa Hall of Fame. Most however, have been forced on us due to COVID-19. In light of all the negativity and uncertainty we are currently facing, I would like to take a moment to celebrate a few of our successes and highlight some positive perspectives on what has been and continues to be a challenging time.

In early fall of 2019, TJEa was presented with the opportunity to move the Jazz Director Symposium, traditionally held during summer, to the Wednesday of TMEA. Not only was TMEA willing to allow us to host the Symposium on this date but they also offered to provide conference rooms in the Grand Hyatt free of charge. With the generous support of TMEA and TJEa, we were able to accomplish the difficult task of organizing a conference in 3 months. With these words, a lot of help, and a little bit of luck, TJEa was able to host the best attended Symposium to date with over 75 participants from across the state, a number we feel

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear TJEa Membership,

As we fast approach the end of what feels like one of the longest and most trying semesters of all our teaching careers, I'd like to take a moment to share with all of you some positive developments happening in the TJEa organization.

During TMEA this past February, the TJEa board discussed the possibility of making some adjustments and updating the current All-Region/All-State jazz audition materials. In particular, the idea of updating the drum set studies/backing tracks and adding new options for improvisation at both the region and state level were discussed. If implemented, this would allow us to get out of our current 4-year cycle of drum and improvisation studies and randomize the etude selection. In addition, this would mean some fresh material into our current "well used" library. I am happy to report that a great deal of progress is currently being made regarding this effort. While it will likely take more than one audition cycle to complete this process, I feel confident that we will have new material ready to go for the 2021-22 audition year!

As part of our August general meeting, the idea of having TJEa sponsored 2020F masterclasses was discussed. I am pleased to report that we are moving forward with this. We are currently in the process of deciding on which TJEa jazz teaching clinics. This will be an opportunity for TJEa members to interact with master musicians/educators free of charge. We are looking forward to offering this valuable service to our members early as December and continuing throughout the spring semester. More information will be available soon.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Happy 2021 Everyone. I hope that this newsletter finds all of you enjoying a spark of hope that the difficulties of 2020 will soon transition into a less socially distanced future! Here are a few items of business to begin with:

**TJEA Hall of Fame:** I'd like to take a second to personally congratulate each of this year's inductees into the Texas Jazz Educators Association Hall of Fame. Each of these outstanding educators has exhibited a passion for spreading the love of this music we all hold so dear. Each of this year's inductees will be recognized later in this newsletter. An update to the nomination and selection process will be that moving forward, the number of inductees will be reduced to approximately 2-3. Now that we have established a firm base of over ten HOF members over the first two years, the board feels this to be a logical move going forward. Stay posted later this spring for information on the nominating process for next year's HOF class.

**Spring General Membership Meeting:** While this meeting usually takes place during TMEA, this year we will have to move our meeting to a later date due to the limited availability of time slots at the TMEA Virtual Conference. We will aim for a Sunday afternoon as these seem to have the least conflicts. While it is unfortunate that we will once again not be able to meet in person, we are hopeful that this will allow greater participation from our membership as it did in our fall meeting.

**TJEA Sponsored Zoom Masterclass:** I am pleased to announce that our first TJEA sponsored FREE zoom masterclass will be taking place this February! The


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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Dear TJEA Membership,

As we first 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](http://TJEA.org)

**"'CAUSE IT'S SUMMER, SUMMER TIME IS HERE. YES, IT'S SUMMER. MY TIME OF YEAR."**

Come on. Escape the past year's chaos with a little musical retreat. Click and Enjoy **SUMMER** by War Item 3276

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**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Greetings!

Hi, my name is **Matt Sawyer**, and I am grateful to serve all of you wonderful jazz educators in Texas and beyond as the 2021-2022 TJEA president. A special thank you goes to immediate past-president and fellow board member **Mark De Hertogh** for his leadership and service last year. The board and I are here to help you in any way we can.

Despite many of us having the toughest obstacles to overcome, it is just incredible how great things keep happening both in and away from the classroom. Despite all of the virtual auditions and virtual jazz festivals in which we participated, we can celebrate that our students participated in big numbers and found opportunities to learn and grow. "Thank you" educators, for being there for our students and for each other. I was reminded of this and encouraged during our very well attended summer meeting at the Texas Bandmaster's Association in San Antonio.

In my quarterly message to you, there are three main focuses: **celebrations and news**, and **ways our organization can serve you**. The third focus is a longer article, **Thoughts on Teaching Jazz**, later in this newsletter. I will also share a main theme in each newsletter and this time around, it's **"momentum"**. More on that later!

**Celebrations** | There is so much to celebrate coming out of one of the toughest years on educator could have, and that is the first celebration: The spark is very much alive in our kids and programs. On that note, we are thrilled to announce that the TJEA's invited jazz

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**GOOD LUCK**  
**TO ALL THE STUDENTS**  
**IN THE ALL-REGION AND ALL-STATE AUDITIONS!!**

## TJEA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The **TJEA Newsletter** is compiled four times a year in September, November, February, and May. 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 credits 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](mailto:newsletter@tjea.org).

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

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