



# Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

May 2022



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to take a moment and thank the membership for the opportunity to have served as your TJEA President. In Texas and beyond, the future is certainly bright for jazz education with incoming president

**Matthew Hedrick**, along with all the wonderful ideas and teaching you all bring to the table.

Summer is almost here, and that is very exciting for all the right reasons! For our students, they get inspired by summer band camps and jazz camps. For us, we find opportunities to still teach or perform. We find ways to best prepare our students for the jazz all-region and state process for next year. But we also find ways to rest, and I have found I struggle with this one but continue to work towards a more healthy balance.

We have had to overcome a lot of adversity over the last few years, and this will be a much-needed time to celebrate what we have accomplished and prepare for how we can make next year even better for our students. This starts with taking some meaningful time away from what we love to do so we can enjoy summer activities with family and friends. We all come back better for it and offer so much more to our students.

If there is anything I can do for you, any time, or if I can be a resource to you, please reach out by email or social media. Thank you again for all you do, being advocates for jazz education, and teaching this great music! We are changing lives, every day.

Sincerely,  
Matt Sawyer  
[mattsawyermusic@gmail.com](mailto:mattsawyermusic@gmail.com),  
or [matthew.sawyer@fwisd.org](mailto:matthew.sawyer@fwisd.org)  
My personal, @paschaljazz, and YouTube



Utah Hamrick with guest artist, Brian Bromberg – bass. See page 5.

KTYarbrough Photography

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## 2022-2023 TMEA All-State Jazz Audition Material

Audition packets will be available for purchase [HERE](#) on 5/15/2022 at 12:00 AM.

## All-State Jazz Audition Policies and Procedures

Click [HERE](#) for a PDF version of the Jazz Audition Policies and Procedures (Revised 2021)

## Invited Jazz Ensembles

Click [HERE](#) for the full requirements and the application for the TMEA annual clinic/convention MS/HS invited jazz ensembles. Applications and recordings must be submitted online by **11:59 pm (CDT), June 1**.

The directors must be active members of both TMEA and TJEA.

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## TEMPLE HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS

### Spring 2022 News!

In January of 2022, the Temple High School Jazz Bands traveled to Dallas, TX to participate in the Jazz Education Network national conference. Three groups, the Wildcat Jazz Combo, Temple Blues, and Temple Highlighters performed in the JENerations Jazz Festival. Each ensemble received constructive feedback and clinics from world-class clinicians that included **Scott Wilson** (Univ. of Florida),

**Brad Lindee** (Washington D.C. saxophonist), **Ingrid Jensen** (Maria Schneider Orchestra), **Ashley Shabankareh** (JEN Board of Directors VP), **Brian MacDonald** (USAF Airmen of Note), and **John Beasley** (MONK'estra). The Temple Highlighters were joined on stage by Highlighter alums **Altin Sencalar** and **Jeremy Langthorn**.

On February 19 and 20, the Temple Highlighters were a featured ensemble in the big band category in the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Charles Mingus Virtual Festival. The Highlighters performed Mingus' big band arrangements



Highlighters' trumpet section with Ingrid Jensen (3<sup>rd</sup> from right).



of *Haitian Fight Song* and *Boogie Stop Shuffle*. As part of the educational outreach portion of the festival, students were provided Zoom Masterclass sessions with members of the Mingus Big Band while the festival broadcasted the virtual performances to an international audience. Please

access the Mingus Festival at [www.charlesmingus.com/jazz-education](http://www.charlesmingus.com/jazz-education) or use the YouTube link: [https://youtu.be/tX\\_HBJW6kRc](https://youtu.be/tX_HBJW6kRc)



Walter Blanding, Jr. with Temple Highlighters members.

On Saturday, March 4, the Temple Highlighters traveled to Houston, TX to participate in the Essentially Ellington Regional Festival at Texas Southern University. Students were treated to masterclasses with members of the Texas Southern instrumental faculty as well as a Music Business presentation led and moderated by festival host, **Vincent Gardner**. Immediately following their festival performance, the Highlighters received a clinic from Jazz at Lincoln Center tenor saxophonist **Walter Blanding, Jr.** Students **Makale Edwards** and **Jacob Enriquez** were named outstanding soloists.

On April 22, The Temple Highlighters were named national winners of the *Perform with Mintzer* contest sponsored by Eastman Winds. The Highlighters submitted an essay and a video performance. After submissions were reviewed by the judging panel of Eastman artists **Jimmie Highsmith** and **Henry Tirfe**, the winner was announced by **Bob Mintzer** himself (view here on facebook: [https://fb.watch/cyQHvAU\\_gh/](https://fb.watch/cyQHvAU_gh/)). The Highlighters will receive a private clinic with Mr. Mintzer and he will be a featured artist with the band at a date that will be determined during the 2022-2023 school year. 🎵

## Consistent Quality at the Highest Level

The **Plano West Jazz Orchestra** was selected as one of fifteen national finalists in the prestigious Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival. This is the fourth time and third year in a row that the ensemble has made the competition's finals. The Plano students and directors traveled to New York City to participate in the festival which took place May 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. **Preston Pierce** is director of jazz bands at Plano West Senior High School.



Plano West received the following individual and section recognitions for their performances.

Outstanding Saxophone Section

Outstanding Flute: **Shyam Thandullu**

Outstanding Alto Saxophone: **Nicolo Boselli**

Honorable Mention Trombone: **Alex Heidelbaugh**

Honorable Mention Bass: **Cade Medearis**

Each finalist band was chosen by a panel of judges comprised of distinguished jazz musicians and historians: Jazz at Lincoln Center's Managing and Artistic Director **Wynton Marsalis**; Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra trombonist **Christopher Crenshaw**; **Joe Lovano**; **Carmen Bradford**; and **Jeff Hamilton**.

**The 2022-23 All-State Jazz Etudes are available on May 15.**

**To purchase your copy, click here: [Jazz Etudes](#)**



The Texas State University jazz program was honored to have legendary bassist **Brian Bromberg** on campus for a short residency on April 25-26. Bromberg gave an engrossing and informative master class on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and that night played a concert featuring big band adaptations of his original music with the Jazz Ensemble, the school's top group, in the Texas State Performing Arts Center.

The following night Bromberg and the Jazz Ensemble performed to a sold-out crowd at Parker Jazz Club in Austin. Working with such a master artist was a great experience for the students. Bass players from all over central Texas came to have their jaws dropped by Bromberg's amazing playing!



## *National Jazz Orchestra - Texas Selectee*

The NJO is one of the education programs for young musicians sponsored by Carnegie Hall in New York City. Texas students are often selected and this year congratulations goes to an outstanding young musician from Houston.

### *Matthew Fu, Drums*

Matthew was also a member of the Texas All-State Jazz Ensemble 1 and 2 in past years. Matthew is a student at Houston's **Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts** under the direction of jazz director, **Warren Sneed**.

The Carnegie Hall web site explains, "Gifted young jazz musicians come together as NYO Jazz—one of Carnegie Hall's three national youth ensembles—to study with and perform alongside world-class jazz masters. Acclaimed trumpeter, composer, and educator **Sean Jones** serves as artistic director and bandleader."

Selection to the summer program is by audition and is available to students ages 16-19. The application process can be found [HERE](#). General information can be found [HERE](#). For the NJO information, scroll over the 'Education' tab on the home page and click on 'Young Musicians'. 🎵🎵

# College of the Mainland Community Jazz Ensemble

The COM Community Jazz Ensemble continues under the direction of **Sparky Koerner** although it has been moved from being a 'for credit' course to the Continuing Education-Lifelong Learning area. Their first concert of the year was March 8, 2022 held at Stuttgarden Tavern in the Mainland City Center. Sparky said, "I wanted to get the band off campus and bring the music to the community. We had an excellent turn-out of around 120 in audience. I believe we exposed members of the community to music they haven't listened to before. That is one of our missions in playing jazz."

Their final concert of the season was given on May 3rd. "I was disappointed that I couldn't get it scheduled in April because I always have tried to be involved in Jazz Appreciation Month" said Koerner. The May concert went back to the COM Campus with a 7:30 pm performance in the Learning Resource Center. Admission was free and open to the public. Many soloists were featured.

Thanks go to **Mark Nguyen** for filming and editing the concert as well as playing trombone in the group. You can view the concert by clicking [HERE](#).

## The concert program included the following song list.

"Hickory & Twine" – Alan Baylock

"Who's Sorry Now" – Count Basie / arr. Sammy Nestico

"Over the Rainbow" – Stan Kenton / arr. William Russo – solo by **Shawn**

**Rampy** - trombone

"Song for A.E.G". – Tom Garling (Buddy Rich & Maynard Ferguson)

"The Silver Tinge" – Dave Hanson

"Wendy" – Steve Spiegl – solo by **Aaron Koerner** - flugelhorn

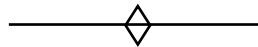
"There Will Never Be Another You" – arr. Mike Tomaro – solo by **Gary Lively** – alto sax

"Blue" – Bobby Shew / arr. Gordon Brisker – solo by **Sparky**

**Koerner** - trumpet

"Another Great Day" – Mark Taylor – solo by **Steve Montgomery**  
- Guitar

"Take the "A" Train" – Billy Strayhorn / arr. Alan Baylock



**Sparky's Jazz Express Duo** plays at Marais Restaurant in Dickinson, TX for their Jazz Brunch every Sunday from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Performing along with Sparky is **Tom Borling** on piano.

**Sparky's Jazz Express Trio** will start performing again on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Tremont House in Galveston. They will play there every Friday 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Performing in the trio, along with Sparky, is **Tom Borling** on piano and **Steve Montgomery** on bass.



## *Another Swingin' Summer of Camps at UT Tyler*

The University of Texas at Tyler will host two music camps this summer. **Dr. Sarah Roberts**, associate professor of saxophone and jazz studies, announced, "We are excited to be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual UT Tyler **Jazz Camp** June 20-24, 2022, and our first-ever **Brass Camp** June 13-17, 2022. We have discounts for All-Region, All-State students, and students who might choose to attend both camps. In addition, we have financial aid available for a limited number of students."

### Jazz Camp details

Jazz Camp is an exciting week featuring all things jazz including jazz theory, jazz listening, improvisation, and instrument-specific classes taught by our outstanding faculty. In addition, evening activities include jam sessions, movie nights, pool party night, and evening concerts. Students can choose to be day campers or residential campers. In addition, **middle school, high school, and college students** are welcome to attend. Note: if you have a college student wanting to attend please have them contact Dr. Roberts. This is one week that will truly inspire your students!

### Guest Artist

The 2022 guest artist is the incomparable tenor saxophonist, **Chad LB**! Hailed as a "Sax Phenom" by the New York Daily News, Chad LB has toured globally as a bandleader, and with superstars ranging from **Chris Botti** to **Taylor Swift**. He has been a featured soloist with premiere ensembles like the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra, and he was formerly a prominent member of the multi GRAMMY winning Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. At only 31-years-old, Chad has now become one of the first jazz headliners of his generation, amassing a loyal social media fan base of over 250,000 followers across platforms. Despite his demanding tour schedule, Chad continues to be a visiting artist at the renowned San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he gives monthly masterclasses during the scholastic year. Read more about Chad LB [here](#).

To find out more information or register for the UT Tyler Jazz Camp please visit [uttyler.edu/jazzcamp](http://uttyler.edu/jazzcamp). If you have any questions or would like further information please contact Dr. Sarah Roberts at [sroberts@uttyler.edu](mailto:sroberts@uttyler.edu).

**ATTEND YOUR *TJEA* MEMBERSHIP MEETING DURING  
THE TBA CONVENTION IN JULY.  
SEE YOU THERE!**





**UTTyler**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

# SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS '22

## BRASS & JAZZ CAMPS



PLAY IN  
CONCERTS



DISCOUNTS  
AVAILABLE



COMMUTER &  
RESIDENTIAL CAMPERS



ROSE CITY  
BRASS QUINTET

### BRASS CAMP

Join us for an intensive week of music for high school trumpet, horn, euphonium, trombone and tuba players! Students will improve fundamentals, techniques, and performance, while being inspired and directed by the fabulous UT Tyler Brass Faculty and Rose City Brass Quintet. We will end the week with a student and faculty concert of large brass choir repertoire and chamber groups celebrating the majestic writing for brass!

**JUNE 13-17, 2022**

**VISIT: [UTTYLER.EDU/BRASSCAMP](https://uttyler.edu/brasscamp)  
SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE! >**

FEATURING GUEST ARTISTS ROSE CITY BRASS QUINTET



### JAZZ CAMP

Jazz camp is an exciting week where participants work with incredible faculty in performance and classroom scenarios to learn all facets of jazz. In addition, students will have an opportunity to interact with special musical guests. From jam sessions and arranging classes, to instrumental masterclasses, students of all ages will have an exciting and engaging week!

**JUNE 20-24, 2022**

**VISIT: [UTTYLER.EDU/JAZZCAMP](https://uttyler.edu/jazzcamp)  
< SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!**

FEATURING GUEST ARTIST CHAD LEFKOWITZ-BROWN



CHAD LB



# STAN KENTON LEGACY ORCHESTRA 2023 TOUR

The Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra will finally be touring again in 2023. Band leader, Mike Vax, says, "The tour will happen between April 10th and April 30th. The actual length of each tour depends on how many dates are booked. I'm looking at a wide area to start with and will pare it down as dates come in. Midwest, Texas, Central and Southeast. This message is to start a dialog to see where we can obtain the most bookings. Please get back to me if you have any interest at all. Remember that any school that books the SKLO for an evening performance, gets a FREE afternoon clinic from the whole band. We are open to any type of venue that would be interested, and yes, we also have a dance book."

Alumni from the 1956 – 1978 Stan Kenton Orchestras, plus some wonderful young new members, come together to perform for festivals, clinics, concerts, cruises and dances. The band makes tours around the United States every year. They perform some of the well-known music of the Stan Kenton Orchestra; in keeping with Stan's insistence on not just performing nostalgia-type music, they also perform fresh new material written in the Kenton style, as well as original material written by members of the Band. The band is NOT trying to be the "Stan Kenton Orchestra," but is carrying on Kenton's tradition of dedication to creative music and to jazz education.



To book the band for your school contact director Mike Vax.

Mike Vax Music Productions 925-872-1942  
vaxtrpts@aol.com www.friendsofbigbandjazz.com [www.mikevaxmusic.com](http://www.mikevaxmusic.com)



## GRANTS TO TEXAS JAZZ PROGRAMS

The Texas Jazz Educators Association provides jazz grants for elementary, middle school, and high school programs. The grants are for a maximum of \$300 and will go to 10-12 school programs for clinicians, educational materials, or other program needs.

Depending on applications, grants will be distributed to approximately:

- 5-6 high schools
- 5-6 elementary/middle/intermediate

The deadline is October 1st and the grants will be awarded on November 1st. You must be a member of TJEa to apply.

[\\*\\*Click Here for Grant Application\\*\\*](#)

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



Texas jazz programs made another strong showing in the annual DownBeat student music awards. In addition to Plano West High School (**Preston Pierce**, jazz director) several Texas college groups and individuals were category winners. The following are the Plano West Senior High School winners:

**ORIGINAL COMPOSITION - SMALL ENSEMBLE**

Alex Heidelbaugh, "Goliath"

**BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST:**

Owen Underwood - Guitar

**LARGE ENSEMBLE:**

Plano West Jazz Orchestra

Congratulations to the following Texas university students and ensembles who were also 2022 DownBeat winners.

**VOCAL JAZZ SOLOIST**

**Graduate College Winners**

**Kira Goidel**, University of North Texas - Rosana Eckert, dir.

**LATIN GROUP**

**Undergraduate College Winner**

UTA Latin Combo  
University of Texas at Arlington - Christian Valdes, dir.

**LATIN GROUP**

**Graduate College Winner**

Latin Jazz Lab Band  
University of North Texas - José Aponte, dir.

**SMALL VOCAL JAZZ GROUP**

**Graduate College - Outstanding Performances**

West Mulberry Trio  
University of North Texas - Lynn Seaton, dir.  
Outstanding Soloist: **Rachel Azbel**

**LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**Graduate College Outstanding Performance**

UNT Jazz Singers  
University of North Texas - Jennifer Barnes, dir.  
Outstanding Scat Soloist: **Tyler Thomas** on "Too Close for Comfort"



*It is easy to let good habits get lost during the often crushing demands of running a jazz program. By being better to yourself this summer you could make next August —and beyond— feel much better.*

## *Some Summer ZEN for Jazz Educators*

*Unicorns are a myth – Eight hours of sleep is not.*

*Short walks in nature might assure a longer walk on earth.*

*Fruits and vegetables are the ‘shout chorus’ of the food pyramid.*

*If you don’t make time for yourself, you might have to make it for the doctor.*

*“Running the changes” doesn’t count as cardio.*

*If summer is stressing you out, you’re doing it wrong.*

*A bass can go walking and so can you.*

**~ HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER ~**

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## TJEA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The TJEA Newsletter is compiled in February, May, September and November. Articles should be sent by email in a Word formatted attachment. Avoid sending PDF files. Transfer them to Word before sending. Photos can be placed in the article or sent as separate JPEG images. Send your information to the newsletter editor, John Goode, at [newsletter@tjea.org](mailto:newsletter@tjea.org). Texas Jazz Newsletter reserves the right to approve and edit all materials proposed for distribution.

### DEADLINES:

August 20  
October 20  
January 20  
April 20

(September Edition)  
(Nov. Edition)  
(Feb. Edition)  
(May Edition)