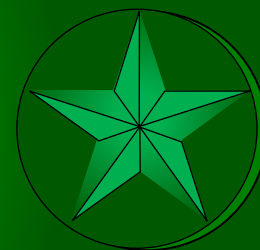




# Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

November 2022



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jazz educators,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the fruits of your hard work at this point in the semester. It has been such a joy and privilege to watch all the outstanding ensembles performing already this year.

Congratulations to all the students and directors who participated in the region jazz auditions. We are looking forward to the upcoming area auditions and hearing the incredible All-State jazz ensembles this year!

There are many exciting endeavors coming your way from TJEA. The first of which is a proposal that has gone to the UIL board to begin a region and state jazz ensemble competition. The rules and procedures are still being drafted and will undoubtedly undergo revisions. Be on the lookout for a survey from UIL asking you about your interest in participation, relevance to you, etc. We need everyone to respond to this survey so we can help UIL make the most informed decisions about this process.

Be on the lookout for information regarding our jazz symposium on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in San Antonio.

Musically yours,  
Matthew Hedrick



***Read on to learn  
why this eagle is  
packing its bags  
and flying north in  
December.***

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 2022-2023 TJEA Board members.....       | p. 2    |
| JEN Conference – Orlando.....           | p. 2    |
| Austin Academy to Mid-West Clinic.....  | p. 3    |
| Lamar Jazz Festival.....                | pp. 4-5 |
| Lamar Jazz Ensemble Holiday Concert.... | p. 6    |
| Membership renewal.....                 | p. 6    |
| SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival.....    | p. 7-8  |

# The 2022-2023 TJEA Board

|                  |                 |            |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| President:       | Matthew Hedrick | Directors: | Preston Pierce  |
| President-Elect: | Jesse Espinosa  |            | Mark De Hertogh |
| Treasurer:       | Heather Mensch  |            | Matthew Sawyer  |
| Secretary:       | James Cook      |            |                 |

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Executive Officer: | Alex Parker    |
| Webmaster:         | Heather Mensch |
| Social Media:      | Sarah Roberts  |

Please feel free to contact any board member with questions about the organization or with suggestions on how we can help improve jazz education in our state.

Contact information is found in the Membership Roster [on the TJEA home page](#).



**The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Education Network Conference** will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Omni Orlando Resort Hotel January 4-7, 2023. Click [JEN Conference 2023](#) for all the conference details.

From the conference web page, "The annual JEN conference offers a variety of events, including sessions and clinics to fit every attendee's jazz interest. If you want to learn more about jazz education research, technology, jazz industry and music business, improvisation, composition...and more, we have a session for you!"



## Austin Academy Jazz Ensemble is Chicago Bound for The Midwest Clinic

The Austin Academy Jazz Ensemble (Garland ISD) directed by **Margaret Wis** will perform at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic on December 19 at 10:45 a.m. in W196. The performance will feature guest artists, **Wayne Bergeron** and **Micah Bell** on trumpet. Mr. Bell's new composition, "Wayne's Domain," will close the program. Mr. Bell started his trumpet career at Austin Academy with Mrs. Wis as his director. Austin Jazz has performed at IAJE New York in 2006 and at JEN in St. Louis 2010, Atlanta 2013, San Diego 2015, and Reno 2019. The Austin Jazz Ensemble began Midwest preparation with a special summer jazz camp in June and continue to prepare with expert assistance from **Phil Alvarado**, **Art Ruangtip**, **Joseph Figarelli**, **Matt Sawyer**, **Preston Cummins**, and **Micah Bell**. Please come hear us in Chicago. 🎵🎵



Photo by Jane Samford

*Austin Academy Jazz Ensemble*



**Wayne Bergeron**



**Director Margaret Wis**



**Micah Bell**





# LAMAR UNIVERSITY



# REGISTRATION OPEN

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2023 JIMMY SIMMONS JAZZ FESTIVAL  
at Lamar University on April 1, 2023

This [LINK](#) will take you to the online registration form.  
Space is limited and early registration is encouraged.

The Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival is a **NON-COMPETITIVE** educational exchange.  
This year Lamar is proud to feature a performance by the

**Multi-Grammy award winning  
YELLOWJACKETS.**



Photo courtesy of the Yellowjackets

Having recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the **Yellowjackets** will be performing music written by band members **Bob Mintzer** and **Russell Ferrante**, which was featured on their recent recording **XL** in collaboration with the **WDR Big Band**. This year's final concert will take place at the historic Jefferson Theatre in Downtown Beaumont.

**JEFF COFFIN**, a member of the legendary Dave Matthews Band and Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, came to Lamar for a two-day clinic and concert with the Cardinal Jazz Orchestra on October 12 and 13. Jeff electrified the audience with his charismatic and virtuosic command of his instrument. Check out this [5-minute cadenza](#) from the final tune.

Continued, next page...



Photos by Rick Condit



Jeff is an alumnus of the University of North Texas where he studied in the 1980's. He currently resides in Nashville and, when not on tour, he is an adjunct teacher at Vanderbilt University. His philosophical and practical approach to improvisation was inspiring and eye-opening to the students. Jeff receives sponsorship assistance from Yamaha Corporation and would love to come to your school. To find out more about Jeff, his recordings, etude books, and his new improvisation app, check out [jeffcoffin.com](http://jeffcoffin.com) or [soundartistsupport.com](http://soundartistsupport.com).



Coming up on November 18<sup>th</sup>, the **Lamar Cardinal Jazz Orchestra** will present its annual **Holiday Jazz Concert** featuring some great holiday themed big band music by Rob McConnell, Tom Kubis, Gordon Goodwin, and others. Our special guest will be Lamar alum, **Eric Diaz**. Eric graduated from Lamar in 2017 and went on to play lead trumpet in the One O’Clock Lab Band and Latin Big Band at UNT. He recently finished a summer stint with the Disneyland All-American College Band in California. We are thrilled to now have him back in the area teaching at Kirbyville High School, Kirbyville, TX. 🎵🎵



Photo courtesy of Eric Diaz

## ***Have you renewed your TJEA membership?***

### **TJEA membership benefits include:**

***Annual Jazz Director Symposiums***

***TJEA Newsletter -- 4 times per year***

***School Grant Program offering up to \$300 per program***

***Jazz information resources***

***Ongoing support of jazz education in Texas***

***A shared voice in the continued enhancement of jazz education***

**Please email Heather Mensch at [webmaster@tjea.org](mailto:webmaster@tjea.org) for your membership renewal link. Include your full name in the request. If you still have your membership link from last year, you may use that link to complete your transaction in PayPal.**

# 13th Annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival Friday and Saturday, March 31 & April 1, 2023

---

*The State's Oldest Jazz Festival...  
65 years running!*

---

The **Bill Watrous Jazz Festival** at Sam Houston State University is a competitive, educational event where high school and college jazz bands perform at 30-minute intervals throughout the day. Participating ensembles receive critique sheets from each of the nationally renowned jazz educators and are strongly encouraged to hear performances of at least two other bands. This will provide valuable listening opportunities for young, developing musicians, plus ensure appreciative, dedicated audiences for all of the performing groups.

Division ratings will appear on each band's critique sheet and trophies will be awarded on the consensus of the judges at the awards ceremony. First, Second, and Third place will be awarded within each category: college, high school, and middle school. Outstanding Soloists and Musicians will also be selected. Awards will be announced and presented during the SHSU Jazz Ensemble's closing performance. This adds an element of excitement to the festivities and recognizes superior individual achievement.

Each group registration fee of \$425 includes the adjudication, an audio CD of the performance, access to clinics and the daytime performances, as well as admittance to the evening concert. Evening concert tickets for the general public can be purchased separately.

***Featured artist is Allen Vizzutti,  
International Yamaha  
Performing Artist on trumpet.***



CLICK [HERE](#) FOR COMPLETE FESTIVAL INFORMATION AND LINKS TO THE FESTIVAL APPLICATION.

## SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival guest judges/clinicians:

### Kris Berg

Recording artist - MAMA Records; Composer/arranger - Alfred Publishing & Belwin Jazz; Artist/Clinician - Yamaha Corporation & Bag End Loudspeakers; Author – “Bass Lines in Minutes”

### David Caceres

Houston-based vocalist/saxophonist.

### Patrick Harbison

Jazz trumpeter, author, clinician, and professor of jazz studies at the Jacobs School of Music-Indiana University, Bloomington IN

### Greg Petito

Professional guitar player with over 23 years' experience who is well established in the music community of Houston and across the State of Texas.

### Richard DeRosa

Grammy nominated composer, conductor, arranger, and director of the One O'Clock Lab Band at the University of North Texas from 1981-2008. Since 2001 Mr. DeRosa has arranged and conducted music for Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra to feature Toots Thielemans, Annie Ross, Willie Nelson, Norah Jones, Cassandra Wilson, Roberta Gambarini, and Renée Fleming among several other notable artists.

Come be a part of the oldest jazz festival in the state of Texas. Spots are filling up fast so [get your application submitted right away.](#) 🎵🎵

## TJEA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The **TJEA Newsletter** is compiled four times a year, in February, May, September, and November. Articles should be sent by email to the editor in a Word formatted attachment. Avoid sending PDF files. Please convert PDF files to a Word document before sending. Photos should be placed copyright-free with photographer credit listed. Place photos in your Word formatted article or send as separate JPEG images.

Email should be sent to the newsletter editor, John Goode, at [newsletter@tjea.org](mailto:newsletter@tjea.org).

|            |            |                     |
|------------|------------|---------------------|
| DEADLINES: | August 20  | (September Edition) |
|            | October 20 | (November Edition)  |
|            | January 20 | (February Edition)  |
|            | April 20   | (May Edition)       |

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