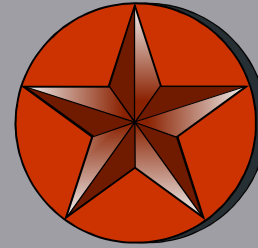


Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

May 2013



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.



The Jazz Connection and director, Bob Price, combine many facets to create unified performances. See story, page 3.

- Entries for the TMEA Invited Jazz Ensemble are due May 15
- The TJEA Summer Symposium will be hosted by President Elect Aric Schneller on the campus of Sam Houston State University June 7 & 8 [See p. 2].
- Our Summer meeting will be held during the TBA 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 slate of officers. **Heather Mensch** has been reelected 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 TBA meeting when **Aric Schneller** begins his term as president. I'd also like to thank **Paul Baker** who has served on the board for the

Continued on next page.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

TJEA summer symposium.....	p. 2
The Jazz Connection.....	p. 3
Booker T. Washington HSPVA.....	p. 4
College of the Mainland.....	p. 6
Jazz Appreciation Month info.....	p. 6
Phil Wilson in concert.....	p. 7
New TJEA Officers.....	p. 8
TJEA Invited Jazz Ensemble 2014.....	p. 8
Summer Jazz Vacation.....	p. 9
Newsletter submission guidelines.....	p. 10

last three years and whose term is ending. Congrats to all and thank you for your service to TJEA.

Another big thank you needs to go out to **Dan Cavanagh** who is serving in his second year as the editor of the All-State Jazz Etudes. This is a monumental job and we all owe him, and all the contributing composers, a great deal of gratitude.

Remember that there will be two All-State Jazz Bands at TMEA next year so encourage your students to get involved.

I hope you all have a great summer and come back swingin' in the fall!

Cheers,
Greg Ball, President TJEA

2013 TJEA Jazz Symposium

Spend some quality time this summer with two days of relaxing, learning and having fun. Make plans to attend the summer 2013 TJEA Jazz Symposium in Huntsville. Aric Schneller, jazz director at Sam Houston State University and our incoming TJEA president, is hosting this event and welcomes your clinic ideas and proposals. These can be sent to Aric at schneller@shsu.edu.

Dates and location:

June 7-8, 2013
Gaertner Performing Arts Center
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, TX

Symposium Schedule:

Friday

1-2 pm: Registration
2-3 pm: Clinic
3-4 pm: Reading Session
4-5 pm: Clinic
5:00 pm: Dinner on your own
8:00 pm: Jam Session at The Stardust

Saturday

9-10 am: Roundtable "Coffee Talk"
10-11 am: Clinic
11-12 pm: Clinic
12-1 pm: Lunch (provided)
1-2 pm: Clinic
2-3 pm: Clinic
3-4 pm: Reading Session

Official Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Express
148 South IH-45
Huntsville, TX 77340
936-295-4300

16 rooms (8 doubles, 8 singles) are blocked for our Symposium for Friday night. Since most everyone coming is a public school teacher, you get the **State Rate (\$85/night)** instead of the regular \$155/night.

You will need to show your school ID upon check-in to receive that rate.

This information can be found on our web site at <http://tjea.org/tjeasympodium.php>

We hope to see you there!

Creatively Combining Resources

The Jazz Connection, established by **Bob Price**, is a non-profit organization that has created a jazz ensemble for young musicians from area junior high and high schools in the Conroe-The Woodlands area just north of Houston. Bob explains, “We started the band in April of 2009. Our program is geared towards students that are interested in a comprehensive approach to jazz, swing, rock, R&B, and improvisation. **The Jazz Connection** was started as I began to notice that very few of the local schools had a working jazz ensemble. As a private music teacher I had several students with the desire to explore various genres of music and felt that giving them a place to further learn their instrument and build relationships with students from other schools would benefit them immensely.”



The Jazz Connection explores all types of stage band material ranging from the 1930's and 1940's to present times including songs by Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Gordon Goodwin, and Woody Herman. They currently rehearse two to three Sundays per month at the Conroe Community Church. The band has performed all over the greater Houston area including gigs at the Montgomery Food and Wine Tasting, The Commemorative Air Force, the Continental Club in Houston and other miscellaneous concerts and private parties in the Conroe, Texas community. Additionally, Bob has recruited assistance from some professional musicians and band directors who assist from time to time in this educational process.

Price explained the larger picture of the group by saying, “We are strictly a volunteer

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group; all participants, including the students, professionals, and myself, give up Sunday afternoons to spend time together learning this art form. We do not collect fees to be a part of the group and no one gets paid; all practices and performances are on a voluntary basis. We recently became a 501c.3 organization and are actively soliciting corporate sponsors to further the endeavor. Our long term goal is to have a rehearsal space of our own in which students can spend time practicing and socializing with like-minded students.”

Since the group was formed there has been great response from kids, parents and band directors. This year the group had ten, either past or present students, participate in the District 9 All-Region Jazz Ensemble and one that made the Texas All-State Jazz Ensemble. According to Price the group stays busy. “We have performed at twenty-eight different events. The students have really grown in their sight reading skills as well as improvisation. We were lucky to be able to have **Sparky Koerner** from The College of The Mainland in Texas City clinic the kids a year ago. The band has grown to a size that we could almost have two or three bands if we limited one player to a part but I believe it is best to include everyone. I think it is also a great opportunity for the students to interact with students from other schools. I know it has been a real honor for me to be able to teach the kids that are really going to do something in their lives. I think other directors should do the same in their area where feasible.”

Feel free to contact Bob Price for more information on how the group started or how you can support the band and help them achieve their goals at 936-648-3373 or info@jazzconnectionband.com.

***Bob Price** is currently an active private lesson teacher with 100 private sax, clarinet, and flute students in the Conroe and Montgomery, Texas area. He grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and started playing at age five. He was a freelance musician in Atlanta, played at Six Flags over Georgia, attended North Texas State University and participated in the lab jazz program. Bob has played back up for Trini Lopez, Ward Duvall, and Paul Haney and is also owner of a used instrument and repair business.*

2013 DownBeat Student Music Awards Booker T. Washington H.S.P.V.A., Bart Marantz, director

Congratulation to the jazz students at Dallas’ Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts and their directors for their many awards again this year in the DownBeat magazine Student Music Awards. Director, Bart Marantz, sent the following list of BTW winners in several categories.

Performing Arts High School Winner

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist | <i>Mike Mitchell, Drums</i> |
| 2. Blues/Pop/Rock Group | <i>BTW Midi Ensemble '12</i> |

Performing Arts High School Outstanding Performance

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Jazz Group/Combo – Instrumental | <i>BTW Jazz Combo '13</i> |
| 2. Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist | <i>Matthew Babinieux, Alto Sax</i> |
| 3. Blues/Pop/Rock Group | <i>BTW Midi Ensemble '13</i> |

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4. Original Composition Lead Sheet

Ben Hickson, Purge Original Jazz

5. Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble

BTWHSPVA Jazz Singers, Kent Ellingson, director

BTW Midi Ensemble '13



Original composition winner



BTW Jazz Combo '13



BTWHSPVA Jazz Singers

Blues/Pop/Rock
soloist winner

Matt, Luke and The Primary colors

COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND

On March 28th the two jazz combos from the College of the Mainland in Texas City presented an evening of jazz. "It is great having two combos this semester allowing for the students to have more time dealing with improvisation, which as we know is the heart and soul of jazz," said college jazz director, **Sparky Koerner**. Both combos performed on April 13, 2013 for the Colleges Open House / Alumni Event.

The College of the Mainland Jazz Ensemble, presented their spring concert on April 16th in Celebration of *Jazz Appreciation Month*. "I have always tried to schedule some sort of concert or jam session during April to help bring recognition to jazz music," said Sparky.

Sparky reported all three groups from COM performed at the GCIC Jazz Festival on April 20th at Brazosport College. The GCIC is the Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium, a partnership among the music and visual art departments of the sixteen community colleges in the greater Houston



Jazz Combo at COM Open House performance. Kim Chavez, trumpet; Ben Hewett, piano; Al Cofrin, bass; Bryan Chapman, drums.

area. The annual GCIC Jazz Festival gives students an opportunity to hear other community college groups. This year several combos performed as well as full ensembles. The Directors' Band was once again a highlight of the day backing up guest artist, American Idol vocalist and bassist, **Casey Abrams**.

Plan Ahead to JAM !!

If you missed the opportunity to showcase your group or participate in Jazz Appreciation Month in April starting planning now for how you can take part next year. Check out the JAM web site: http://www.smithsonianjazz.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=70

[Editor: Thanks go to Sparky Koerner for sending the following J.A.M. description.]

April is Jazz Appreciation Month

The purpose of Jazz Appreciation Month is to draw greater public attention to the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz and its importance as an American cultural

heritage. In addition, JAM is intended to stimulate the current jazz scene and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz—to study the

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music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and support institutional jazz programs.

The U.S. Congress passed legislation which was signed by the President in August 2003, Public Law 108-72, declaring "(1) the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History should be commended for establishing a Jazz Appreciation Month; and (2) musicians, schools, colleges, libraries, concert halls, museums, radio and television stations, and other organizations should develop programs to explore, perpetuate, and honor jazz as a national and world treasure."

The Smithsonian operates the world's most comprehensive set of jazz programs—it collects jazz artifacts, documents, recordings, and oral histories; curates exhibitions and traveling exhibitions; operates its own big band, the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra; publishes books and recordings on jazz; offers fellowships for research in its collections; and offers concerts, educational workshops, master classes, lectures, seminars, and symposia. Launching JAM is consistent with the Smithsonian's 30-year record of

leadership in jazz.

The noted producer-musician Quincy Jones helped the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History announce the Jazz Appreciation Month initiative, at a press conference in July 2001. Branford Marsalis helped kick off the first JAM, in April 2002. The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, the museum's acclaimed 18-member big band, performed a weekend of concerts. There were lectures, educational offerings, and an exhibition. Also, in honor of Jazz Appreciation Month, the museum will continue to collaborate with other national institutions in a range of educational and outreach activities as it has in the past.

April was chosen for two reasons. First, April maximizes JAM's educational potential because it is the end of the school year when schools can not only participate, but student jazz ensembles can culminate year-long preparations and play at their best. Secondly, April is also the birth month of a number of leading figures in jazz: Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Johnny Dodds, Billie Holiday, Charles Mingus, Lionel Hampton, Gerry Mulligan, Shorty Rogers, Tito Puente, and Herbie Hancock.

"Herd" trombonist, Phil Wilson, in concert

Trombonist and educator, **Phil Wilson**, will perform May 16, 2013 with the **Pecos River Brass Big Band** at the Irving Arts Center in Irving, Texas for their **Woody Herman 100th Birthday Concert**. This is a chance to hear one of the former Woody Herman band members from that great band of the 1960's. More information and a link to purchase tickets can be found here: <http://www.artandseek.org/event.php?id=46800>

According to the web site, "*Special guest Phil Wilson is one of the last surviving members of the Herd. Mr. Wilson, recently retired professor at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, is an outstanding trombone performer and writer. He was the lead trombone during the Swinging Herd era and his remarkable talents will be on display during the concert. He'll join Pecos River Brass Big Band to perform his "Suite for Woody" during the second half of the show.*"

According to Wikipedia, "**Phillips Elder Wilson, Jr.** (born January 19, 1937 in Belmont, Massachusetts) is a jazz trombonist, arranger, and teacher. He might be best known as an instructor at the Berklee College of Music and a former chairman at the jazz division of the New England Conservatory of Music.

... He played for Herb Pomeroy's band from 1955 to 1957 and after that toured with The Dorsey Brothers. He would also work with Woody Herman's band and in the 1960s wrote music for Buddy Rich.

By the mid-1960s he had made a name for himself as an educator. He had joined the faculty at Berklee in 1965. He formed an ensemble there that became one of the most well-regarded college jazz bands."

Our thanks go to **Dr. Dean Canty** who gave us the 'heads up' for this event. Dr. Canty, retired trumpet and music teacher from University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas leads the Dean Canty Orchestra.

NEW 2013-2014 TJEA LEADERSHIP

TJEA would like to announce and congratulate the newly elected officers for the 2013-14 membership year!

President-Elect: Mark Nichols
Treasurer: Heather Mensch
Director: Greg Ball

Their term will begin on July 1 with the new membership year, along with **Aric Schneller**, who will start his term as President. You can meet them at the TJEA meeting at TBA in July. Thanks to everyone who voted and was nominated.

Also a thanks to **Paul Baker, Roland Sandoval, Brent Matheson** and **Aric Schneller**, who served on the elections committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Seifert
Elections Committee Chair

PERFORM AT TMEA 2014 !! TJEA INVITED JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The first annual Invited Jazz Ensemble performance at the 2013 TMEA convention was an outstanding success. It's time to start planning for next year and your ensemble could be on stage next February. To get started all you have to do is submit an application and recording.

TJEA director, Alex Parker, sent the following to the membership earlier in April. "The due date for the applications and recordings for the Second Annual Invited Jazz Ensemble performance at TMEA is rapidly approaching. Entry information, as well as the application, can be found on our website or via the TMEA page, both listed below. Entries must be received by **May 15!!**

Please remember you must be a "Regular" member of TJEA and an "Active" member of TMEA to enter.

We can't wait to hear your bands!"

Alex Parker
Baylor University
254-710-4625 office, 254-709-5350 Cell
Alex_Parker@baylor.edu

Visit the following links to download an application:

http://www.tjea.org/web_files/Publications/JazzEnsemblePerformanceApplication.pdf
<http://www.tmea.org/divisions-regions/band/jazz-ensemble-application>

Jazz Up Your Vacation This Year

by John Goode, editor

I came across an article a while back about the new San Francisco Jazz Center which got me thinking about summer vacations. More accurately, I was thinking about summer vacations and summer jazz festival venues. If you are one of those individuals who spends more time planning your school's band trips than you do your personal or family trips maybe this summer, if you still haven't made any plans, you might consider combining your love for jazz with a destination that excites you. Here are some suggestions.



If you're headed to the west coast consider visiting the new SFJAZZ Center. Their web site advises, "The SFJAZZ Center is the first concert hall of its type in the United States: a freestanding performance venue with flexible seating and staging for artists of every stature, built specifically for jazz music and audiences alike.located in San Francisco's vibrant cultural corridor, the SFJAZZ Center comprises 35,000 square feet in a transparent, LEED Certified structure. It features a state-of-the-art auditorium that is adjustable from 350 to 700 seats.

Most events, according to their calendar, in Season 1 are in May and early June, so the schedule may not fit your time table but investigate their events calendar for specific details.

If the SFJAZZ Center isn't exciting enough for you consider the San Francisco Jazz Festival. The festival runs June 12-23 this summer. If you go, take a warm coat. My family and I watched Fourth of July fireworks by the bay one year and had to buy jackets and hoodies to bundle up in! San Francisco is very cool (attitude) and often very, very cool (temperature). <http://sfjazz.org/>

Just north of San Francisco sits Napa Valley, wine country. Check out the Napa Valley Jazz Getaway set for June 5-9. <http://napavalleyjazzgetaway2013.com/>

If you are staying closer to Texas motor yourself east a bit to New Orleans. Nothing says 'summer vacation' better than beignets, muffalettas, alligator-on-a-stick and the Satchmo Summerfest 2013. A full weekend of jazz concerts and historical events in the heart of the city. The festival runs August 2-4. (Yeah, I know that's late in the summer but do you really need that many days of Marching Band Camp?) <http://www.fqfi.org/satchmosummerfest/>



If you're taking the kiddos to see the nation's capital make a side trip outside of Washington DC for some smooth jazz. The 21st annual Capital Jazz Fest will take place on June 7-9, 2013 at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland. Google says you'll drive 34.4 miles for 42 minutes to get there from DCand a little longer if driving directly from Texas. See details at <http://www.capitaljazz.com/fest/>. Without even leaving the city you can catch the DC Jazz Festival which runs June 5-16. <http://dcjazzfest.org/>

Norfolk, Virginia is the second largest city in the state, second only to Virginia Beach which is less than a half hour away. It's full of history dating back to the late 1500's and early 1600's. Norfolk is full of naval history, too, and is home to The Virginia Symphony, Old Dominion University, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk State University, Tides baseball, the Admirals hockey teams...and The 31st Annual Norfolk Jazz Festival. Dates are July 19 - 21, <http://www.festevents.org/mini-site/jazz-music-festival>

Wherever you vacation this summer, chances are there is a jazz festival nearby, especially during the month of June.

This final listing of festivals can all be found, along with many others, on the web site below. Always do your own investigating of festivals and check multiple listings to verify festival details. Often different versions of dates and line-ups of performers appear on different sites. Enjoy your summer and, if possible, get out and hear some live jazz.

There are many, many festivals listed on the following web site, including but not limited to, the ones below: <http://www.jazzfestival2013.com/>

Elkhart Jazz Festival runs Thursday, June 20 – Sunday June 23, 2013
Xerox Rochester International Jazz Festival set for June 21 – 29, 2013
Saskatchewan Jazz Festival set for June 21 – July 1, 2013
Jazz Winnipeg Festival set for June 13 – 22, 2013
TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival set for June 21 – July 1, 2013
Long Beach Jazz Festival set for June 22 – 23, 2013
Ottawa Jazz Festival set for June 20 – July 1, 2013
Isthmus Jazz Festival (Michigan) set for May 31 – June 1, 2013
Toronto Jazz Festival set for June 20 – 29, 2013

Have a Great
Summer!



TJEA NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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