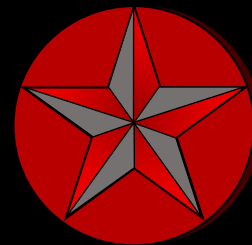




Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

September 2019



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

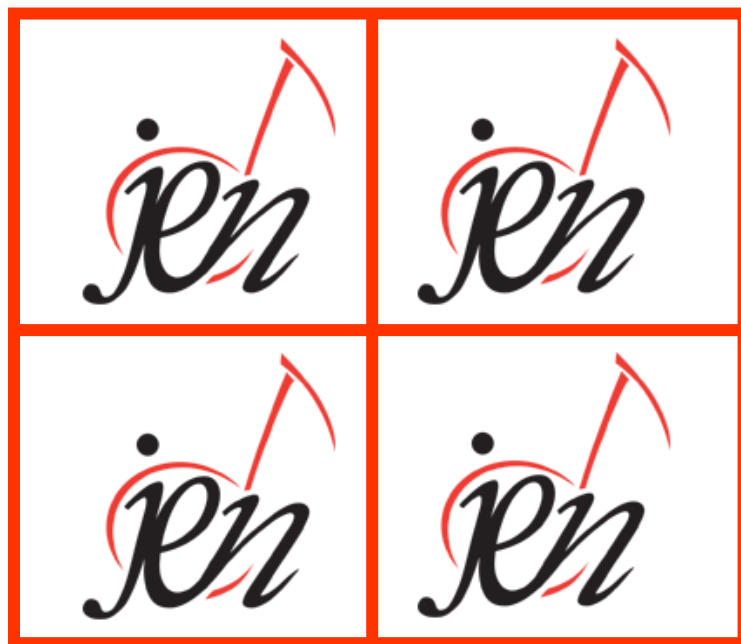


Dear TJEA Members,

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 19 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 Sneed, Sarah Roberts, and David Lown** for being so helpful in assisting me with the Symposium. I also have to give a special thank you to **Mr. Frank Demiero**; 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 vocal 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



The Jazz Education Network (JEN) brings its Convention to New Orleans in January. See p. 7.

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network for vocal jazz directors with the hope of seeing our local jazz festivals host vocal jazz groups as well. I strongly feel that doing this will have a positive impact on our instrumental jazz programs as well.

With region jazz auditions around the corner for most of us I would like to remind everyone what a great learning tool the audition etudes can be if used in a "healthy" manner. While finding recordings of the tunes the etudes are based on is a great idea, showing students historically significant recordings that are in the same spirit or era of the etude goes well beyond just learning another etude for an audition. I have found that doing this has opened up other musical doors for students to explore that they might have never found.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate our two TMEA Invited Jazz Ensembles, **Westlake High School**, Eanes ISD, **Jana Robertson**, Director, and **Vela Middle School**, Harlingen ISD, **Erika Uribe**, Director.

I hope you all are having a wonderful start to this school year. If there is ever anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to ask!

Warm regards,
Preston Pierce

You must never, under any circumstance, sacrifice the swing.



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 they will go to at least 10 school programs for clinicians, educational materials, or other program needs. The deadline is October 1st and the grants will be awarded on November 1st. See the 'Grants' link on the [TJEA](#) home page. You must be a member of TJEA to apply.

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

Send Applications to Alex_Parker@baylor.edu, or mail to
Alex Parker, 1931 Ruidoso, Waco, TX 76712

SAVE THE DATES !

Each year TJEA organizes judging of the All-State jazz audition tapes. This year, the judging dates are November 9 and 10. If you are interested in judging or have facilities to host a judging panel, please save the dates. An email will be coming to the membership with more details and a request for assistance.



LAMAR UNIVERSITY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

The **Lamar University Cardinal Jazz Orchestra** under the direction of **Rick Condit** will have several exciting events in the coming academic year:

FALL JAZZ CONCERT, TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 – 7:30 PM at the Jefferson Theatre in downtown Beaumont, featuring international jazz piano virtuoso, **SORIN ZLAT**



Photo by Micafotografa

Sorin Zlat is the winner of over 20 awards including the Grand Prize at the 2015 Jacksonville Piano Jazz Competition; the Grand Prize and Prize of the Public at the 2013 Monaco Jazz Competition; Best Solo Performance, Best Band Performance, and Prize of the Public at the 2011 International Jazz Competition in Getxo, Spain; the Grand Prize at the 2011 Europafest Jazz Competition; and a finalist of the 2015 Montreux Jazz Competition

He has Appeared in numerous jazz festivals worldwide including Jacksonville Jazz Festival, Florida, United States; Izmir Jazz Festival, Turkey; Montreux Jazz Festival; Getxo Jazz Festival; Sibiu Jazz Festival; Jazz Napocensis, Cluj Napoca; Bucharest Jazz Festival; Jazz Compass; Terra Festival, Istanbul, Turkey; Jazz Hoeillart, Belgium; Enter Music Festival, Poland.

Continued next page....

He has shared the stage with Kenny Garrett, Lee Ritenour, Branford Marsalis, Lee Konitz, Chick Corea, Joey Alexander, Roy Hargrove, Chris Potter, Chucho Valdes, Sonny Emory, Jeff Ballard, Dave Grusin, Ravi Coltrane, and Leszek Mozdzer

Some of you may have heard his dazzling rendition of John Coltrane's Giant Steps on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seYibqP3eLY>

SPRING JAZZ CONCERT "TRIBUTE TO BRAZIL", TUESDAY MARCH 10 – 7:30 PM at the Rothwell Recital Hall on the Lamar campus, featuring European Jazz Diva, **LUIZA ZAN**, and one of Brazil's greatest jazz pianists, **JEFF GARDNER**



photo by Aleksej



photo by Mike Reyes

Born in 1980, **Luiza Zan** began her career at the age of 4. That's when she won her first award at a contest for "Soimii Patriei" ("The Fatherland's Falcons", a Communist youth organisation). Some time later, the same song, played at a children's contest ("Frunzulita d'alior"), would bring her the grand prize at the International Festival "Cerbul de Aur" ("Golden Stag") 2004, a week after winning second place at the Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland. At Montreux, she had her first chance of being accompanied by renowned musicians. She was joined onstage by such people as Geri Allen, Bob Hurst, Eric Harland and Omar Hakim.

Jeff Gardner was born in New York and moved to Brasil in 2002. After classical piano lessons with Ruth Schontal and Ivan Tcherepnin he studied jazz piano with Jaki Byard, Charles Banacos, Don Friedman, and John Lewis, and harmony with Nadia Boulanger. He has performed with such musicians as Kenny Wheeler, Gary Peacock, Norma Winstone, Eddie Harris, Steve Lacy, Freddie Hubbard, Bob Sheppard, Rick Margitza, Nelson Veras, Dominique di Piazza, Paulo Moura, Lisa Ono, Clark Terry, Slide Hampton, Victor Assis Brasil, Dori Caymmi, Karim Ziad, Sheila Jordan, Ron McClure, Drew Gress, Ndugu Chanler, Roberto Bonisolo, Dave Carpenter, Charlie Mariano, Guillermo Anderson, Julio Barreto Anthony Pinciotti, Gary Wang, Lukmil Perez, André Ceccarelli, Hein van de Geyn, Lars Daniellson, and the piano quartet with Jaki Byard, Martial Solal, and Paul Bley.

Active in jazz education, Jeff has given workshops in many different countries and is the author of JAZZ PIANO: CREATIVE CONCEPTS AND TECHNIQUES, SENTIMENTO BRASILEIRO, JEFF GARDNER'S BLUES BOOK, EASY JAZZ PRELUDES, and SHAPES (all published by Editions H. Lemoine), 24 JAZZ PRELUDES (Terramar Music), and co-author with Niels Lan Doky of JAZZ TRANSCRIPTION (Advance Music).

Continued next page....

His new books include POPULAR MUSIC HARMONY VOL. 1 - CYCLES, POPULAR MUSIC HARMONY VOL. 2 - CADENCES AND HARMONIC SEQUENCES, HARMONIC CONCEPTS FOR BASS (WALKING BASS LINES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS, and BLUES WORKSHOP (published in Brasil by Edições Irmãos Vitale). Jeff has published three new collections of solo piano music - RADAMESIANAS, CHILDREN'S SONGS, and SONGS OF INNOCENCE

THE 2ND ANNUAL JIMMY SIMMONS JAZZ FESTIVAL, SATURDAY MAY 2 – ALL DAY EVENT PLUS 7:30 PM CONCERT - In the Lamar University Theatre, featuring guest artists and clinicians and **THE STAN KENTON LEGACY ORCHESTRA**



The Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival is a non-competitive educational exchange open to middle school, high school and community college big bands and combos. The goal is to give regional groups an opportunity to perform for an audience of their peers and be coached by outstanding professional educators in the tradition and execution of America's original art form - JAZZ. Each group will perform for 30 minutes followed by 30-minute sectional clinics given by members of the Stan Kenton Legacy orchestra.

The Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra...28 years and counting

With the blessing of Leslie Kenton, Stan's eldest daughter – who had represented the interests of her father before her untimely passing in 2016 – the SKLO continues to keep the Kenton legacy alive. 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. It performs some of the well-known music of the Stan Kenton Orchestra; plus, in keeping with Stan's insistence on not just performing nostalgia type music, the band also performs 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.

Continued next page....

The goals of the band are to perform meaningful music, talk about the importance of the jazz heritage in America, bring jazz music to young people, and to offer their audiences a relaxed, entertaining atmosphere.

Check out the SKLO at a recent performance at the Roseville Jazz Festival near Sacramento, CA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gKYqxqKCns>

For further information about these events, please contact:

Rick Condit, Director of Jazz Ensembles, Professor of Music
Lamar University
rcondit@lamar.edu
tel. 409-880-8146



Have you renewed your TJEA membership?

For membership questions or to join TJEA,
please email Heather Mensch:

webmaster@tjea.org

The 2019-2020 TJEA Board



President: Preston Pierce
President-Elect: Mark De Hertogh
Treasurer: Heather Mensch
Secretary: James Cook

Directors: Matthew Seifert
Sarah Roberts
Warren Sneed

Executive Director: Alex Parker

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

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

Our webmaster is Heather Mensch and the newsletter editor is John Goode.

JEN is coming to New Orleans – January 7-10, 2020

The Annual Jazz Education Network Conference (JEN) will be held in New Orleans at the Hyatt Regency. The new schedule this year runs Tuesday through Friday, January 7-10, 2020. Membership details, the concert schedule, housing information, and other details are [posted at the website. Click here.](#)

If you're not a member [check out member benefits!](#)

One of the most exciting aspects of the annual JEN conference is the dozens of exciting performances, workshops, panel discussions, research presentations, live mentoring clinics in the JENerations Jazz Festival, and the Hang! Each conference is home to hundreds of talented performers, with several stages throughout the event hosting beginners to professional-level talent for your enjoyment.

Among the dozens of talented school ensembles performing in concert are two from Texas:

The University of North Texas Jazz Singer directed by Jennifer Barnes

Diaz Music Institute's Caliente directed by Jose A. Diaz, featuring Emmy Award Winner and two-time Grammy Nominee Dr. Jose Valentino and Grammy Winner Francisco Torres

Conference REGISTRATION

Advance Online Registration Oct. 1-Dec. 15

**Early Bird Online Registration
Open until Sept. 30**

Current JEN membership is required to purchase a registration badge.

If you are not a member, you can join online prior to registering for the conference.

World-class performances, education, research, entertainment, jam sessions and industry exhibitions.

[Click here for the full convention schedule!](#)

2019 TJEA Jazz Symposium

Symposium host, Preston Pierce at Plano West Senior High School, put together a superb symposium package this year. The well-attended event provided jazz directors of all skill levels a variety of exceptional clinics and thought-provoking events. Preston stated, "I want to extend a huge 'Thank You' to **Julius Tolentino** and **JTol Music** for sharing all of your wisdom, knowledge, and experience! Also, thanks go to **Frank DeMiero**, **Amy Stewart**, and **Jennifer Barnes** for putting together a wonderful Vocal Jazz Symposium. And lastly, I can't thank enough the entire TJEA Board. All of you were extremely helpful in making this year's TJEA Symposium a successful one!"



Julius Tolentino leads a discussion on selecting music with sustenance for your big band.



Julius leading Rhythm Section 101 session.

Continued next page....



Frank DeMiero leading a fantastic Vocal Jazz session at 2019 TJEAS Symposium.



Rosana Eckert provided a mini-concert for the Symposium attendees.

Rosana Eckert is **Principal Lecturer of jazz voice at the University of North Texas** and also serves on the faculty of the **UNT Vocal Jazz Summer Workshop** and the **New York Voices Summer Vocal Jazz Camp**. Her many vocal ensemble arrangements, published by **Sound Music Publications, Hal Leonard Corp., and Rosana Eckert Music**, have been performed worldwide.

Continued next page....



Student demo group plays for rehearsal techniques.



Julius Tolentino gives hands-on instruction on basic big band drumming.



Jennifer Barnes leading a vocal jazz session

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT SYMPOSIUM!!



**Saturday,
Dec. 28,
2019
7:00pm**

**Denney Theatre
Kinder High School for Performing
and Visual Arts
790 Austin Street
Houston, Texas**

featuring:

**EVERETTE HARP (saxophone)
MICHAEL ROJAS (piano/keyboard)
HSPVA JAZZ COMBO**

Inducted into the HSPVA Jazz Hall of Fame:

MICHAEL ROJAS (class of 1980)
(from Nashville)



**Also:
reunion jam session!**



**Tickets available at
www.docfestjazz.org**



DocFest is an annual concert/reunion/jam session, conceived by Chris Walker and Tamar Davis to honor the career of Robert "Doc" Morgan, HSPVA Director of Jazz Studies, 1976-99. The occasion primarily benefits the Helen and Bob Morgan Jazz Scholarship at New York's New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, for graduates of HSPVA.

DocFest was conceived in 2013 by **Chris Walker** (Houston HSPVA '86) and **Tamar Davis** (HSPVA '98) to honor the career of **Robert "Doc" Morgan**, HSPVA Director of Jazz Studies, 1976-99. Held annually during the late-December holiday season at a major Houston concert venue, this fund-raising event features a concert, reunion and jam session, all highlighting graduates of Houston's renowned High School for Performing and Visual Arts.

DocFest also serves as the occasion for celebrating new inductees into the HSPVA Jazz Hall of Fame.

DocFest, Inc., established in 2014, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves as conduit for all donations generated by **DocFest** events. Its primary beneficiary is the **Helen and Bob Morgan Jazz Scholarship Fund** at New York's New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, established by the Morgans in 1999, and dedicated to graduates of HSPVA. 🎵🎵

See related article on next page....



After retiring as Director of Jazz Studies at the Houston HSPVA in 1999, **Robert “Doc” Morgan** has maintained a constant presence on the jazz scene near and far. “**Doc**” will be guest professor at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Nov. 6-8. He will be lecturing/coaching approx. 30 students in the innovative Roots, Jazz, and American Music program, a cooperative venture between SFCM and SF Jazz. Morgan is proud that the founder/director of RJAM and his assistant are both Kinder HSPVA alumni, respectively: **Dr. Simon Rowe** ('80); **Jason Hainsworth** ('92).

Morgan and **Vince Gardner** will be conductors for All-Region XXIII Jazz Ensembles, Jan. 24-25, 2020.

Morgan continues to enjoy interviewing selected jazz artists, on-stage/pre-concert, for *DaCamera of Houston*. Interviews currently scheduled (both 7:15 pm) include:

Oct. 4: John Scofield

Nov. 2: *James Francies and James Carter

*Kinder HSPVA alum ('13)

Further info: dacamera.com

Doc remains honored and humbled at the existence of “DocFest,” founded in 2013 by **Chris Walker** ('86) and **Tamar Davis** ('98). These annual benefit concerts have not only provided great music for Houston jazz fans and camaraderie among returning ex-students, but raised substantial scholarship funds (well over \$ 100,000) for various Morgan university scholarships, as well as funds for current Kinder HSPVA jazz projects.

See previous page for DocFest '19, featuring:

Everette Harp, saxophone ('79); **Mike Rojas**, piano/KB ('80)

Everette was 1st tenor sax in the very first Texas All-State Jazz Ensemble, 1979, and Mike was all-state pianist the following year. Both are enjoying significant professional careers: Everette, internationally; Mike, based in Nashville. Incidentally, the pianist in the very first Texas All-State Jazz Ensemble was **Billy Stritch**, now-renowned Manhattan pianist/personality/consort of Lisa Minnelli/etc., graduate of Dulles High School/Sugar Land. Mike Rojas was Billy's alternate.

Dr. Robert Morgan was Director of Jazz Studies at Kinder HSPVA, 1976-99. He was previously on the faculty at Sam Houston State University, 1965-76. Morgan is an alumnus of the University of North Texas and University of Illinois/Urbana. ♪♪♪



STANKENTON LEGACYORCHESTRA

Catch the Band's Spring 2020 Tour

Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra to tour in April 2020, including Texas!

The Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra, directed by Mike Vax, will be on tour in April of 2020. They are starting in the Midwest and working their way down into Texas. The band is booked for the Lamar University Jazz Festival on Saturday, May 2nd and will be accepting dates in Texas starting on April 27th through May 8th.

This is a true all-star band and half of the band played with Stan Kenton when he was alive. Members have also performed with Count Basie, Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson, and many others.

"Any school that books the band for an evening performance also gets a FREE afternoon clinic from the whole band. We also like to have the host school's jazz ensemble open the concert for us", stated Vax.

Continued next page....

The current band has the blessing of the Kenton family who has approved all the band is doing to keep Stan Kenton's love of creative music and commitment to jazz education alive.

"Mike Vax has done a yeoman job of keeping alive the musical legacy of Stan Kenton. He has been leading the STAN KENTON LEGACY ORCHESTRA for 29 years, and has not only carried on Kenton's musical influence, but has also continued to follow the commitment that Kenton had to jazz education. The band is full of scintillating soloists, but it is the ensemble playing that gives it the true Kenton stamp. The band is not a "nostalgia" band. They do play many of the original Kenton charts, but concentrate more of their concerts on playing new arrangements and compositions that are done in a style that reflects the Kenton influence, but are unique to this band"Joe Lang, Jersey Jazz Magazine

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

FRIENDS OF BIG BAND JAZZ is the support group for The Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra. This nonprofit corporation sends students to summer jazz camps on scholarships, donates funds to high school music programs and youth orchestras, and raises money for many good causes that support music and education.

MIKE VAX MUSIC PRODUCTIONS
FRIENDS OF BIG BAND JAZZ
10638 E. HIGH POINT DRIVE * DEWEY, AZ 86327
(925) 872-1942 * vaxtrpts@aol.com

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 transfer them to Word before sending. Photos should be placed in the 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)
	August 15	(September Edition)
	October 15	(Nov. Edition)

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