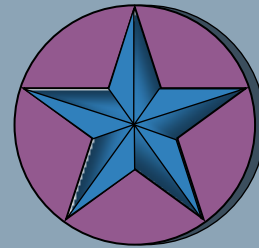


Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

November 2019



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear TJEA Members,

As we are sprinting 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 our school's Jazz Sextet 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 1-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 1-year old children reminded me how we can sometimes forget and get caught up in the stresses of marching season, upcoming competitions, 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 TMECA CONVENTION

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If you haven't done so already, please visit our new website www.tjea.org. I want to give a special thanks to Heather Mensch for stepping up and taking over the role of Webmaster on top of doing an already fantastic job as our Treasurer.

Furthermore, I am excited to announce our annual TJEASymposium will now be held the Wednesday of TMEA, February 12th, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. [See ad below] There are going to be a lot of great clinics given by experienced Texas Jazz Band and Choral Directors. Attendees can earn up to 7.5 CPE Credit Hours. I especially have to thank our President-Elect, Mark De Hertogh, and our Executive Officer, Alex Parker, for making this happen.

Since I have served as President of TJEAS, I have been overwhelmed with the kindness, generosity and helpfulness of so many of you. For those of you who are starting up your jazz programs next semester or now that marching season comes to a close, please remember, there are SO MANY individuals out there who are more than willing to help. All you have to do is ask. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me or any of the Board Members.

Warm regards,

Preston Pierce

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

JAZZ DIRECTOR SYMPOSIUM

TEXAS JAZZ EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



DETAILS

Come early to join us Wednesday at the TMEA convention. Sessions scheduled throughout the day, 9 am – 4 pm, at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio

SESSIONS

Transcribing / Rehearsal Strategies / Basic Improvisation / Classroom Resources
Jazz Curriculum / Jazz Repertoire / Rhythm Section / Vocal Jazz Techniques

FEATURED CLINICIAN

Bob Lark - Mr. Lark is recognized regionally, nationally, and internationally as a contemporary jazz educator and performer of integrity.

CREDITS

Up to 7.5 CPE Credit Hours available through this symposium.

**Texas Music Educators Association Convention
February 12, 2020 - San Antonio, Texas**

To register or for more information, visit: www.tjea.org

College of the Mainland News

College of the Mainland Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble, directed by Sparky Koerner, presented a concert on October 22nd in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. The concert kicked off with the new combo of young music majors interested in learning to play in the jazz style. Selections for the concert included: *Blue Bossa*, *Watermelon Man*, *Tootsie* (blues in F) and *Moanin'*. Sparky commented, "I was quite pleased with their first public performance."



COM Jazz Combo (L to R): Jonathan Ramey-alto, Eric Martinez-drums, Jared Steele-bass, Lamarq Orange-piano, Luke Brinkley-piano

The Jazz Ensemble has many of the usual players that have been in the band for many years and it makes for a solid sounding group. Some of the selections included: *Wave*, arranged by F. Mantooth which featured Terry Dunn on flugelhorn; *Angel Eyes*, arranged by Al Cobine; *Jive Samba*, arranged by Alan Baylock; Gordon Goodwin's tune *Sing Sang Sung* from his Big Phat Band's repertoire featured Gary Lively on clarinet. A new arrangement of *Malaguena* by Dallas Burke closed out the concert.

Plans are in the making for the 10th annual *Evening of Jazz* that takes place in April during Jazz Appreciation Month. Joe Eckert, alto sax, will be our guest artist. He currently is associate professor at Texas Christian University and former musical director of the Airman of Note from 1984 – 2004. <http://www.ioeckert.com/>

The *Evening of Jazz* has been a great collaboration between the Texas City ISD Middle and High School jazz bands and the College of the Mainland Jazz Ensemble.

The next concert for the COM Jazz Ensemble will be December 10th.

The COM music department's musical events can be found at www.com.edu/music



The Curt Wilson Alumni Jazz Band

The Curt Wilson Alumni Jazz Band (TCU) traveled to Portugal and Spain this July to perform in Lisbon, Porto, and the San Sebastian JAZZALDIA Festival in Spain. The tour ran from July 16 through July 26 and travel was arranged by Cultural Tour Consultants in Kalamazoo, Michigan.



Twenty TCU Jazz alumni, mostly from the classes of the 1980's plus family members, had a wonderful time performing at two jazz clubs, a clinic for high school students and a major jazz festival. Wilson added, "This was our third tour since my retirement from Texas Christian University in 2011."

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The JAZZALDIA festival web page stated, "This huge band is made up of former students from the Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, brought together around the figure of Curt Wilson, professor emeritus at the TCU School of Music. While its members have their own careers as professors, doctors or entrepreneurs, their love of jazz has taken them [in prior years] on tours of England, France and Italy, with noteworthy performances at the Umbria Jazz Festival, the Royal Academy of Music in London and the French festival Jazz à Juan."



TCU Jazz Ensemble 1985 and below, 2019, thirty-four years apart. Not the exact same personnel but most in the alumni group were from the 1980's.



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The JAZZALDIA festival audience were packed in to hear the Curt Wilson Alumni band.





**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.



BAYLOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERU TOUR

Every other summer, the **Baylor Jazz Ensemble** of The Wayne Fisher Jazz Program at Baylor University travels the world on a mission and performance tour. In July 2019, the Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of **Alex Parker**, traveled to Peru on a ten-day performance/mission trip. The group performed eight concerts throughout the city in many different venues.

Day one included three concerts for the students and parents at Colegio San Andres, a Presbyterian School for

grades pre-k through high school. The Baylor students performed with the school's band and choir, making a very fun and memorable day for everyone.



On day two, they traveled to the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, to perform for, and give a clinic for students in the ProJazz Program. The band enjoyed their time playing jazz with these outstanding students.

Then they headed to the First Baptist Evangelical Church in Lima for the next performance.



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Day four's visit to Collique, Peru was one of the most meaningful and rewarding days of the trip. Collique is home to [Operacion San Andres](#) Partnership of Holistic Transformation which our Peruvian guide, Dr. Campos, founded. This is a school for underprivileged children on the outskirts of Lima. Baylor performed jazz for children who had never heard jazz before and then interacted with each student with an "instrument petting zoo".



Continued next page....



Financial challenges are abundant in the neighborhood of Collique, where the Operacion San Andres School is located.



The Bayor students demonstrate the instruments that will be part of the instrument petting zoo the school kids would explore following the performance.



The performance that evening was at the Auditorium at the Municipalidad de Comas. The crowd response was amazing and the band played many encores and took many pictures with their new fans after the performance!

Continued next page....

Day five included a tour of the La Victoria Municipal of Lima and a performance at a Pre-Columian/Pre -Inca pyramid in the middle of the city, Huaca Santa Catalina.



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Day Six was a relaxing day for some sightseeing and a performance at the Union Church of Lima.



After a day of shopping and traveling to Cusco, the band headed up into the Andes mountains, and spent the next two days sightseeing in the ruins at Ollantaytambo.



Continued next page....



The final stop on the trip was Machu Pichu.



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Director Parker summarized the tour saying, "It was an amazing, uplifting, and unforgettable trip for all."
Sic'em Jazz in Peru!

SAN ANTONIO'S JAZZ CORNETIST, JIM CULLUM: A SAD FAREWELL

By John Goode

Earlier this semester we saw the passing of a Texas jazz legend, Jim Cullum, the San Antonio-based traditional jazz cornetist. He passed away on August 11, 2019. He was seventy-seven years old.

For years, every time I attended the TMEA convention or the summer TBA convention I would make a point to walk over to the Hyatt and descend the marvel of waterfalls and walkways that led from street level across from the Alamo down to the ground floor, or river level, of the hotel. Through the glass doors and a little to the left was The Landing. It was Jim Cullum's Riverwalk Jazz home.

"Riverwalk: Live From the Landing" became a fixture on public radio for twenty-three years, from 1989 to 2012 featuring live performances by Cullum and his stellar band mates. Often sharing the spotlight were jazz luminaries from nearly everywhere. Pianist Dick Hyman, trumpeter Clark Terry, vibraphonist Lionel Hampton, clarinetist Bob Wilber, pianist Shelly Berg, and singer-guitarist John Pizzarelli were just a few. During a career that spanned nearly 60 years Cullum performed with jazz royalty like Louis Armstrong, Earl Hines and Benny Goodman.

Space does not permit the exhaustive text needed to chronicle Cullum's accomplishments. But, below are links to a few of the many commentaries honoring and chronicling his life and career.

[Tobin Center Holds Musical Memorial for...Jim Cullum](#)

[JazzTimes tribute to Jim Cullum](#)

[Washington Post: Keeper of the Traditional Jazz Flame](#)

[Texas Public Radio: tribute and obituary](#)

Stanford University, where Cullum was a faculty member for the Stanford Jazz Workshop for twelve years, is now the keeper of the "Live from the Landing" broadcasts. Tune in anytime for ongoing broadcasts from the twenty-three years the show was on the air.

Go to Stanford University Libraries at riverwalkjazz.stanford.edu.





**Booking now for
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.

Continued next page....

"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.

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.

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, plus, in keeping with Stan's insistence on not just performing nostalgic music, they also perform fresh new material written in the Kenton style, as well as original material written by members of the band. The group is NOT trying to be the "Stan Kenton Orchestra," they are carrying on his 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

Band leader, Mike Vax, has led a big band off and on since his days at College of the Pacific 60 years ago. A few of his credits include being first trumpet, soloist and road manager of the Stan Kenton Orchestra, as well as being co-leader while Mr. Kenton was recovering from surgery, playing lead trumpet in Clark Terry's Big Bad Band, leading the Dukes of Dixieland in New Orleans, producing and/or music directing for over 50 jazz festivals, and performing workshops for more than 3000 high schools, colleges and universities all over the world. Mike now lives in Northern Arizona and still travels on the road many months a year. Mike is a signature artist for The Warburton Company and plays Warburton horns and mouthpieces exclusively including the "Vaxinator" Model Trumpet.



Have you renewed your TJEA membership?

Contact the web master for a link to pay fees and update membership information.

webmaster@tjea.org

Are you a JEN member?



Click [Membership Information](#) to join or click the [JEN Home Page](#) for general information and links to the...

2020 JEN conference in New Orleans!

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.