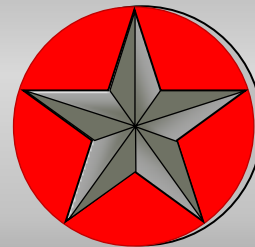


Texas Jazz Educators Association Newsletter

Highlighting Jazz Activities in the State of Texas

February 2022



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

I am beyond excited for the upcoming TMEA Convention that kicks off with our TJEA Symposium on Wednesday February 9th! Our President-elect Matt Hedrick has put

together such an inspiring day of clinics, and we look forward to seeing you all there, in-person! Register at tjea.org.

As I write this, the spring semester is officially underway and started with the spectacular Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference in Dallas. The theme was Renaissance, and it was very appropriate. The sense of community and support was phenomenal. There was electricity in the air.

The first JEN conference performance my students attended was a high school vocal jazz group from Liberty HS in Iowa called "Voltage." The group was completely self-sufficient, with the director taking a backseat the whole show. Student leaders were the speakers, and the kids poured their hearts and souls into the music. We've heard so little live music shows the last two years so emotions ran high. I literally felt the tears hit my cheek thinking of all the work these students put forward, day after day. It truly was a labor of love.

As we get into the day to day realities this spring semester—the grind—we have to continue to strive to keep dreaming....with the goal to turn dreams into

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*Don't miss 'em...
Great Symposium!
Great Convention!
Great Jazz!*

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reality. My goal as an educator is to do what that director from Iowa did for his jazz choir; he helped provide an opportunity for his kids to make their dream come true, and through hard work and determination, created an ensemble that made music that made the audience cry. They left me inspired and in awe, speechless, and verklempt.

We have our own dreams and goals as educators, and we can't forget them. It's what drives us, and as long as we think big picture and do what's best for our kids, our success is defined not by what others think but by what we have instilled in our students. My students have defined success with four terms: **Respect** (for the music, for the process, for each other, and themselves); **Mastery** (work to achieve it); **Pull** your own weight (each one has to do it); and finally, it's all about the **Grit**. I keep them in check every so often, reminding them that this is their list, their dreams, and their goals. I ask them if they feel like they are achieving or have achieved them. We aim to keep dreaming as we move forward. But more importantly, we believe in ourselves and each other. My job this spring is to keep pushing for greater heights, prioritizing the emotional aspects of our music and what intangibles we can deliver through live performance.

Have a great spring and see you at the Symposium!

Matt Sawyer

Waltrip High School Jazz Ensemble All Over Texas!

As the new year began, Houston's Waltrip High School kicked things off with a bang with their Jazz Ensemble #1 being showcased at the Jazz Education Network Conference in Dallas. The band got some clinic time with composer **Kris Berg**, before their preview concert at Sunset High School. Thursday, they swept the stage at JEN with charts by **Alan Baylock**, **Kris Berg**, and **Maynard Ferguson**. The students had a blast getting to be around world renowned musicians and are thankful for everyone who helped get them to Dallas!

As soon as the band got home back to Houston, the program had the incredible opportunity to have a residency with Playbook, a music software curriculum focused on providing resources for students to unlock their jazz potential in all aspects of the genre. The Playbook staff, consisting of members of *Sammy Miller and The Congregation*, came to Waltrip for three days to provide an in-person and interactive form of what Playbook is all about. The residency provided an opportunity for the Playbook staff to work with each of the four jazz bands at the band's own playing level. The program is so grateful



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for the opportunity to be the testing group for this innovative design of resources for young jazz musicians.

Adding to our Texas tour this year will be a stop in San Antonio for the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention in February. The jazz band will be a demonstration group for a session led by **Jesse**

Espinosa, Director of Bands at Waltrip HS.

The session will demonstrate how to warm up a jazz band as well as how to pick the best charts for your group.



Playbook staff, **Sammy Miller and The Congregation**, and WHS band director **Jesse Espinosa** (far right).

Born out of the Jazz Ensemble is a cover band known as *The Big Horns*. They will be showcased at TMEA as well. This group consists of vocalists, a horn line and rhythm section, and they play music ranging from Stevie Wonder to Selena.

The students have had an incredible beginning of the year touring all over Texas and are so grateful for the endless opportunities to perform and work with so many incredible musicians from all over the world. They still

have more ahead of them as the program will be hosting its own jazz festival, the *Jazz@1900 Music Festival* in the spring. This year's featured guest will be trumpet artist, **Jon Faddis**. The festival will be at Waltrip High School on Saturday April 9, 2022, and will host bands of all levels from elementary jazz bands to advanced high school ensembles. You can find more information on the website, waltripramband.org/jazz-1900.

[Editor: Thanks to Waltrip High School Assistant Band Director, **James Elam**, a Waltrip Alum c/o '16, for writing and sending the article.]



Churchill Jazz Festival



Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio will be hosting its First Annual Churchill Jazz Festival with guest artist, **Pete Rodriguez**, on April 23rd at Churchill High School. Students will receive a recorded stage performance, a clinic with the amazing judging panel, photo opportunities, individual and ensemble awards, and tickets to the evening concert and awards ceremony with Mr. Pete Rodriguez. The "Director Info Letter" and

"Registration Form" can be found at: <https://wcchargerband.org/jazz-festival>. Feel free to contact Churchill Director of Bands **Amanda Stevenson**, for more information (amarin2@neisd.net).

See poster on next page...

- 1st Annual -

WC JAZZ Festival

Featuring the Bradley Jazz Ensemble and Churchill Jazz Ensembles with Guest Artist

Pete Rodriguez

SATURDAY
April 23
\$10 TICKETS

CONCERT
7pm
AWARDS

Churchill High School Auditorium
12049 Blanco Road

The Band Entry Fee includes 10 complimentary tickets for the evening concert/award ceremony. If you need additional tickets, please purchase them here: wcchargerband.org



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
 Mary Morgan Moore Department of Music

The Lamar University Cardinal Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of **Rick Condit**, will be the featured guest band at the Alief Jazz Festival to be held on Saturday, March 5th at Kerr High School in Houston.

ALSO – the 2022 Lamar University Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival will be held on Saturday, April 30th. Special guest artists for this non-competitive educational exchange will be **Kris Berg** and the **Metroplexity Big Band** with special guest, **Eric Marienthal**.

Kris Berg is a best-selling big band composer and arranger for over 20 years. Kris has written charts for artists such as Kurt Elling, John Pizzarelli, Wayne Bergeron, Chris Vadala, Delfeayo Marsalis, and Phil Woods, as well as for All-State jazz bands in Texas, Oklahoma, Montana, Arizona, and South

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Carolina, and for professional, college, and public school bands all over the world. His popular bass method book, *BASS LINES IN MINUTES*, has helped thousands of young bass players approach the art of the walking bass line.

Kris' latest release is his big band CD, *Time Management* (MAMA Records, MAA 1046), featuring the Metroplexity Big

Band with special guests Phil Woods, Wayne Bergeron, Clay Jenkins, Denis DiBlasio and Andy Timmons. "Time Management" is the follow up to his highly acclaimed 2012 release, *This Time / Last Year*. Both recordings feature Kris' unique writing and arranging as well as many of the outstanding musicians in the Dallas area and have garnered four Global Music Awards.



Kris Berg and the Metroplexity Big Band

Photo courtesy of Kris Berg



Photo courtesy of Eric Marienthal

Eric Marienthal is a Grammy Award-nominated Los Angeles-based contemporary saxophonist best known for his work in the jazz, jazz fusion, smooth jazz, and pop genre

After graduating high school in Southern California in 1976, Eric went on to study at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. There he studied with the legendary saxophone professor, Joe Viola. By the time he left Berklee, Eric had achieved the highest proficiency rating given by the school. In 1995, Eric was awarded the Berklee Distinguished Alumnus Award for outstanding achievements in contemporary music. He has since gone on to perform in over 75 different countries, recorded 14 solo CD's and has played on hundreds of records, films, television shows, and commercial jingles.

Eric started his professional career in 1980 with famed New Orleans trumpeter Al Hirt. After returning to Los Angeles Eric became a member of the famed Chick Corea Elektric Band. He recorded six CD's with the band and won two Grammy Awards. Eric went on to join the Jeff Lorber Fusion. Among the CD's Eric recorded with Jeff, two were nominated for Grammy Awards. Jeff Lorber was instrumental in producing many of Eric's CD's. Other artists Eric has performed with include Elton John, Barbara Streisand, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, Burt Bacharach, Aaron Neville, Johnny Mathis, Dave Grusin, Lee

Ritenour, George Duke, David Benoit, The Rippingtons, The Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band, Patti Austin, Lou Rawls, David Lee Roth, The Yellowjackets, B.B. King, Ramsey Louis, Patti Labelle, Olivia Newton-John, and many others. You can check out Eric's many fine performances on YouTube.

Deadline for applications to the Lamar University Jimmy Simmons Jazz Festival is February 15th. For more information contact Rick Condit at Lamar. RCondit@lamar.edu or you can find all the details and a registration form in the festival page on the TJEA website. [Log in here.](#)



***Attend Your Annual
TEXAS JAZZ EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION MEETING
During TMEA***

Thursday / 1:00 – 2:00 PM / CC 212

BE SURE TO FINALIZE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2022 SYMPOSIUM !



2022

Symposium

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022
Grand Hyatt Crocket AB Room
San Antonio, TX**

Vincent Gardner

- Jazz at Lincoln Center
- Jazz Houston



Erika Uribe

- Vela Middle School



Preston Pierce

- Plano West HS



Phil Alvarado

- retired,
Richardson ISD



Mark De Hertogh

- Grand Prairie Fine Arts Academy



Andre Hayward

- Duke Ellington Orchestra



SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

9:00-9:50 - TEACHING IMPROVISATION

Clinician: Andre Hayward

10:00-10:50 - RHYTHM SECTION METHODS

Clinician: Mark De Hertogh

11:00-11:50 - DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL JAZZ BAND

Clinician: Phil Alvarado

**12:00-1:00 - Lunch
Break On Your Own**

1:00-1:50 - HOW TO GET YOUR BAND SWINGIN'

Clinician: Preston Pierce

2:00-2:50 - TEACHING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

Clinician: Erika Uribe & the Vela MS Jazz Band

3:00-3:50 - REHEARSAL STRATEGIES & TECHNIQUES

Featured Clinician: Vincent Gardner

"See you there!!"

\$ ✂ \$ TJEA SCHOOL GRANT WINNERS ✂ \$

Congratulations to the following schools and directors that are winners of the Texas Jazz Educators Association 2022 Grants!

Vela Middle School – Erika Uribe, director

Caldwell Arts Academy – Phil Rumbley, director

Lanier High School – Anthony Flores, director

PSJA Memorial ECHS – Eric Gomez, director

Churchill High School – Amanda Stevenson, director

Lake Belton High School – Jacob Guerrero, director

Tulia Junior High School – Erik Lerma, director

Waltrip High School – Jesse Espinosa, director

The grants will be awarded and these directors and their jazz programs will be recognized at the upcoming TJEA meeting at TMEA on Thursday, the 10th, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM in Room CC 212.

The \$300 grants are issued to at least 10 eligible school programs each year.
Grants may be used for clinicians, educational materials, or other program needs.
The application deadline is October 1st each fall.

If you missed your chance to fill out an application for this year's grants click the link here for the [TJEA grant application information](#). Make plans to get your application submitted next year. You must be a member of TJEA to apply.

CALLING ALL COMPOSERS!

TJEA is soliciting jazz etudes for 2015-2016 All-State Jazz Ensemble audition packet. Etudes are needed for the following instruments:

Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, and Baritone will use the same etudes) Trumpet, Tenor Trombone, Bass Trombone, Guitar, Piano, Bass

Etudes are needed in the following styles:
SWING – BALLAD – LATIN - FUNK

Etudes should be relatively brief. Past etudes have ranged in length from approximately 16 to 40 measures. Etudes should contain rhythmic, technical and range challenges (within reason) that allow judges to differentiate the playing ability of those auditioning.

Etudes should be based on traditional jazz chord progressions e.g. blues or standards. Include chord symbols with your etude. TJEA will make available mp3 files that will allow students to

Continued, next page...

practice the etudes with accompaniment. These accompaniments will NOT be used in the actual auditions.

Include tempo/style markings, dynamics, and articulations with your etude. Etudes for tenor trombone and trumpet may be written in such a manner that the first two thirds of the etude will be of moderate difficulty and range with the last third reserved for more difficulty and higher range. This will allow a region to use the

material at local auditions for students who may not possess the skills for the State level, but may be interested in the Region level.

Etudes for guitar, piano and bass should include sections that are fully-notated as well as sections with just chord symbols.

Etudes should be notated with a computer notation program (preferably Finale or Sibelius), or can be neatly handwritten and scanned.

Etudes should be sent to **Alex Parker** at Alex_Parker@baylor.edu.

The deadline for submission is March 15, 2022.

Jazz Events at TMEA

Editor: Be sure to do your own research for clinics and concerts in case an event was accidentally missed in the listing below or the time or venue has changed.

Wednesday, 2/9/22

CONCERT: University of Texas at Arlington Jazz Orchestra

Wednesday / 8:00 – 8:50 PM / CC STARS AT NIGHT BALLROOM 3-4
Conductor: Tim Ishii, Univ of Texas at Arlington

Thursday, 2/10/22

CONCERT: Reynolds MS Jazz Ensemble

Thursday / 10:00 – 10:50 AM / CC STARS AT NIGHT BALLROOM 3-4
Conductor: Tina Parr, Reynolds MS

Texas Jazz Educators Association Meeting

Thursday / 1:00 – 2:00 PM / CC 212
Presider: Matthew Sawyer, Paschal HS, TJEA President



How to Teach Jazz Students to Swing Authentically

Thursday / 2:30 – 3:30 PM / CC 304

Clinician: Josiah Boornazian, Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley

PRESIDENT'S CONCERT: Jazz Ambassadors – United States Army Field Band

Thursday / 8:00 – 9:30 PM / Lila Cockrell Theatre

Conductor: CWO Alexander Davis, United States Army Field Band, Conductor, Officer in Charge

Friday, 2/11/22**Break Through with Technology! Enhancing Your Jazz Pedagogy**

Friday / 11:30 – 12:30 PM / GRAND HYATT 4TH FL – REPUBLIC B

Clinician: Andrew Stonerock, Tarleton State University

TMEA/TJEA Region Jazz Coordinators Luncheon

Thursday / 12:30 – 2:00 PM / MARRIOTT RW TRAVIS

Presider: Matthew Sawyer, Paschal HS, TJEA President

Jazz in a Box

Friday / 4:00 – 5:00 PM / GRAND HYATT 4TH FL – CROCKETT CD

Clinician: Eric Ruyle, Lone Star College - Montgomery

CONCERT: Harlingen HS Jazz Ensemble

Friday / 6:30 – 7:20 PM / CC STARS AT NIGHT BALLROOM 3-4

Conductor: Maria Coronado, Harlingen HS

Saturday, 2/12/22**Let's Warm Up the Jazz Band and Pick the Right Charts**

Saturday / 9:00 – 10:30 AM / CC 225

Clinician: Jesse Espinosa, Waltrip HS; Daniel Ferreira, Waltrip HS

Demonstration Group: Waltrip HS Jazz Ensemble #1, Jesse Espinosa, director

CONCERT: ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble

Saturday / 1:00 – 1:50 PM / CC HEMISFAIR BALLROOM 1-2

Conductor: Russell Schmidt, Valley Jazz Cooperative, Phoenix, Arizona

No lineup location. Go directly to the venue.

CONCERT: TMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble II

Saturday / 2:30 – 3:20 PM / CC HEMISFAIR BALLROOM 1-2

Conductor: Aaron Lington, San Jose State Univ.

No lineup location. Go directly to the venue.

Continued...

CONCERT: TX Community College Band Directors Assoc. All-State Jazz Ensemble

Saturday / 4:00 – 4:50 PM / CC HEMISFAIR BALLROOM 1-2

Presider: Deb Scott, Stephen F. Austin State Univ.

No lineup location. Go directly to the venue.

CONCERT: TMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble I

Saturday / 5:30 – 6:20 PM / CC HEMISFAIR BALLROOM 1-2

Conductor: Vincent Gardner, Jazz at Lincoln Center

No lineup location. Go directly to the venue.

SEE YOU AT TMEA!!

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, transfer 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:	August 15	(September Edition)
	October 15	(Nov. Edition)
	January 15	(Feb. Edition)
	April 15	(May Edition)

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