

PROVIDING RESOURCES TO IOWA'S JAZZ EDUCATORS

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- Iowa Jazz Championships
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kelli Swehla

Fellow Jazz Educators,

Welcome to the end of March! It's that time of year where we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. I hope you have had successful seasons with your jazz groups and are looking forward to all that will be offered at IBA regarding jazz education. I wanted to highlight some things in this newsletter.

First, we have so much to be proud of regarding jazz and the jazz educators in this state. Take a moment to read the list of students who made the All-State Jazz Ensembles. We've also highlighted the bands and choirs who've made their respective jazz championships. Congratulations to all students and educators on these endeavors and good luck in the upcoming performances!

Also featured in this newsletter is our second composer spotlight. This month we feature Mike Conrad from UNI! We don't always get to know and understand the composer's insight and this section offers that unique perspective.

Finally, please remember to vote for our next Hall-of-Fame Jazz Educator of Iowa! Steve Grismore and David Kobberdahl are the candidates. Please read about them and vote if you haven't already!

Sincerely,

Kelli Swehla

ALL STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLES

**Congratulations to students participating in
this year's All-State jazz ensembles!**

1A/2A JAZZ BAND PERSONNEL - DR. DEAN SORENSON, DIRECTOR

Saxophones

Alto 1: Valerie Wagner, South Hamilton

Alto 2: Jasmine Schaffer, MVAOCOU

Tenor 1: Miguel Hernandez, West Lyon

Tenor 2: Alan Arriaga-Rangel, Monticello

Bari: River Smith, Monticello

Trombones

Lead: Ethan Feikema, West Lyon

2: Nina Torkelson, West Branch

3: Evan Wham, Tri-Center

4: Zach Thoe, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura

Bass: Alex Oswald, Monticello

Trumpets

Lead: Samantha Shelton, Tri-Center
2: Jackson Doornweerd, West Lyon
3: Julia Bennett-Ellis, South Hamilton
4: Adrik Kolpin, Alta-Aurelia
5: Angus Miller, Alta-Aurelia

Rhythm

Piano: Grant Rogers, Griswold
Guitar: Maxon Herbold, Woodbury Central
Bass: Ethan Jones, Woodward-Granger
Drums 1: Danson Moody, Union
Drums 2: Easton Robinson, West Lyon
Vibes: Evelynne Church, Treynor

Alternates

Alto: Alexander Lopez-Djukic, Southeast Polk
Tenor: Camden Neff, Cedar Rapids Kennedy
Bari: Chase Hamilton, Waukee Northwest
Trumpet: Asa Leonard-Newton, Urbandale
Trombone: Drew Burggraaf, Waukee Northwest
Bass Trombone: Zac Clark, Waterloo East
Piano: Chase Beightler, Prairie
Guitar: Marko Perencevich, Iowa City
Bass: Simon Gilfanov, Indianola
Drums: Benjamin Hollinger, Prairie

3A JAZZ BAND PERSONNEL - MICHELE FERNÁNDEZ, DIRECTOR

Saxophones

Alto 1: Cole Becker, Okoboji
Alto 2: Eli Ebeling, Pella
Tenor 1: Camdyn Baxter, Carlisle
Tenor 2: Jamon Buhr, Marion
Bari: Rachael Stratton, Pella

Trombones

Lead: Aaron Piper, Marion
2: Ian Griffith, Harlan
3: Bobby Dunn, Center Point-Urbana
4: Fred Schultz, Clear Creek Amana
Bass: Xander Cunningham, Harlan

Trumpets

Lead: Marcus Camacho, Xavier
2: Zachary Sloan, Marion
3: Levi Schechinger, Harlan
4: Laura Carrico, Williamsburg
5: Abner Erickson, Pella

Rhythm

Piano: Carter Menken, Waverly-Shell Rock
Guitar: Ethan Johnson, Marion
Bass: Penny Shriver, Pella
Drums 1: Ian Kearney, Harlan
Drums 2: Christian Toma, Waverly-Shell Rock
Vibes: Delaney Jacobi, Center Point-Urbana

Alternates

Alto: Tess Hopkins, Pella

Tenor: Aidan Smith, Pella
Bari: Violet Lotenschtein, Harlan
Trumpet: Colton Hagle, Harlan
Trombone: Hunter Hallengren, Okoboji
Bass Trombone: Cooper Gehlsen, Denison
Guitar: Drake Landau, Mount Pleasant
Bass: Addison Landmesser, Ballard
Drums: Noah Lindell, North Polk
Vibes: Abigail Brand, Pella (accepted into 4a)

4A JAZZ BAND PERSONNEL - DR. COLLEEN CLARK, DIRECTOR

Saxophones

Alto 1: Andrew Wittmer, Waukee Northwest
Alto 2: Nathan Anderson, North Scott
Tenor 1: Hudson Lybarger, Urbandale
Tenor 2: Collin McCann, Valley
Bari: Evan Shanley, Linn-Mar

Trombones

Lead: Zach McMann, North Scott
2: Elias Thompson, Ames
3: Kristen Engelhardt, Cedar Falls
4: Warren Faga, Liberty
Bass: Caleb Burke, Waukee Northwest

Trumpets

Lead: Jack Crilly, Dallas Center-Grimes
2: Taylor Johnson, Cedar Falls
3: Blake Migiel, North Scott
4: Ethan Peterson, Davenport Central
5: Nathanael Buelow, Valley

Rhythm

Piano: Everett Sams, Linn-Mar
Guitar: Carter Buske, Linn-Mar
Bass: Griffin Bieber, Cedar Rapids Kennedy
Drums 1: Jack Deahl, Southeast Polk
Drums 2: James Kardos, Iowa City
Vibes: Abigail Brand, Pella

Alternates

Alto: Alexander Lopez-Djukic, Southeast Polk
Tenor: Camden Neff, Cedar Rapids Kennedy
Bari: Chase Hamilton, Waukee Northwest
Trumpet: Asa Leonard-Newton, Urbandale
Trombone: Drew Burggraaf, Waukee Northwest
Bass Trombone: Zac Clark, Waterloo East
Piano: Chase Beightler, Prairie
Guitar: Marko Perencevich, Iowa City
Bass: Simon Gilfanov, Indianola
Drums: Benjamin Hollinger, Prairie

VOCAL JAZZ CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Congratulations to the following groups that participated in
this year's Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships!**

CLASS 1A

Bishop Garrigan | Viva Voce
Central City | On That Note
Griswold | Griswold Jazz Choir
Harris-Lake Park | Harris-Lake Park Vocal Jazz
Newman Catholic | Knight Lights
Riverside, Oakland | Riverside Jazz Choir

CLASS 2A

Akron-Westfield | Akron-Westfield Vocal Jazz
Emmetsburg | 5 Island Jazz
MVAOCOU | MVAOCOU Tune Squad
Rock Valley | Rocktavo
Roland-Story | Roland-Story Vocal Jazz
Sibley-Ocheyedan | Night Sounds
Treyner | Treyner Jazz Choir
West Lyon | Wildcat Jazz

CLASS 3A

Center Point-Urbana | To Be Announced
Gilbert | Tiger Voices
Greene County | Ram Jive
Iowa Falls-Alden | Scenic City Singers
Mount Vernon | Lincoln Highway
North Polk | Fermata Nowhere
Solon | 5th Street
Spirit Lake | Lake Effect

CLASS 4A

Cedar Rapids Kennedy | Moonlight Express
Dallas Center-Grimes | Dissonance
Pleasant Valley | Leading Tones
Waukee | Avenue Jazz
Waukee | Soundcheck
West Des Moines Valley | Vocalese
West Des Moines Valley | Vocal Point
West Des Moines Valley | Vox

2024 GRAND CHAMPIONS

1A | Newman Catholic - Knight Lights

2A | Roland Story - Roland Story Vocal Jazz

3A | Solon - 5th Street

4A | Waukee - Avenue Jazz

JAZZ CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following bands for being selected to the 2024 Iowa Jazz Championships! Good luck to all performers and directors!

CLASS 1A

Earlham
George-Little Rock
Griswold
HLV
IKM-Manning
Janesville
Kingsley-Pierson
Moravia
Mt. Ayr
Newell-Fonda
North Butler
Riverside
South O'Brien
Winfield-Mt. Union
Woodbury Central

CLASS 2A

Belmond-Klemme
Garner-Hayfield-Ventura
Lisbon
Logan-Magnolia
Mediapolis
Mid-Prairie
Monticello
MVAOCOU
Ogden
Roland-Story
South Central Calhoun
South Hamilton
Trey nor
West Lyon
Woodward-Granger

CLASS 3A

Algona
Anamosa
Ballard
Carlisle
Clear Creek Amana
Glenwood
Harlan
Iowa Falls-Alden
Marion

CLASS 4A

Abraham Lincoln
Bettendorf
Cedar Falls
City High
Davenport Central
Fort Dodge
John F. Kennedy
Lewis Central
Linn-Mar

MOC-Floyd Valley

Okoboji

Oskaloosa

Pella

Waverly-Shell Rock

Xavier

Northwest

Prairie

Sioux City North

Southeast Polk

Storm Lake

Valley

COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL
CONRAD



Mike Conrad is a composer and improviser currently serving as Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. His compositions have earned him four ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards, a SONIC Award from the International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers, the 2023 Sammy Nestico Award, and many other accolades. Conrad's music has been performed all over the world, including at Birdland in New York (Count Basie Orchestra feat. Carmen Bradford, 2023), the Midwest Clinic in Chicago (Cedar Falls High School Jazz I, 2022), a 2017 concert by the Metropole Orkest in the Netherlands, and a performance at the US Presidential Inauguration in 2013. Mike Conrad's wide-ranging creative projects include his unique 15-piece group, the All Angles Orchestra (*New Angle*, 2017), the Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra (*Fertile Soil Suite*, 2021), a reimagination of Beethoven's 3rd symphony in collaboration with the Berlin-based Stegreif

Orchester (2019), and a 2022 trio album release entitled *Reconnect*. He records and performs regionally on piano and trombone with groups like Christopher Merz's "*Shorter Stories*," the Jon Ailabouni Quintet, Bob Washut's "*Emeritet*," and the Max Wellman Big Band, and has also performed and recorded with musicians such as Louis Hayes, Alexa Tarantino, and Greg Gisbert. His jazz festival appearances include the Umbria Jazz Festival, the Rochester International Jazz Festival, the Rockport Jazz Festival, the Twin Cities Jazz Festival, and the Iowa City Jazz Festival. Dr. Conrad earned degrees from the University Northern Iowa (BM and BME), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and the University of Northern Colorado (DA). He is in high demand as a clinician and guest director for jazz ensembles, having directed the Iowa All-State Jazz Band (4A) in 2023. Mike lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa with his wife Ashley and their daughter Madeline. www.mconradmusic.com

FROM THE COMPOSER

"**Goodly Creatures**" was the first piece I wrote after accepting the job at the University of Northern Iowa in 2018. Chris Merz invited me to compose something for the annual Scholarship Benefit concert to feature myself on piano and trombone as a guest with UNI Jazz Band One.

This piece uses a lot of the musical language associated with the ECM record label, drawing inspiration from Kenny Wheeler in particular. Keith Jarrett's "Questar" is a good reference for the overall style/feel of the piece. At the end, a gospel feeling emerges, with Jack Ashford-style tambourine adding an important and groovy layer. A mature rhythm section is required to pull this off. For the horns, the lines should be very legato throughout. When in doubt, add slurs all over the place and tongue less!

The pianist is the primary featured soloist with some rubato space out front, but there is some trading for trombone 2 and tenor 2 later in the chart. The F phrygian scale works well over the first two chords of the progression (Gbmaj7#11 and F7susb9).

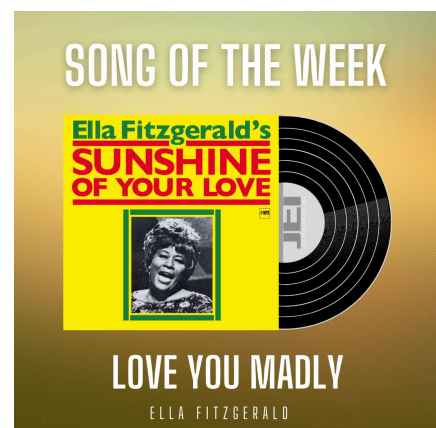
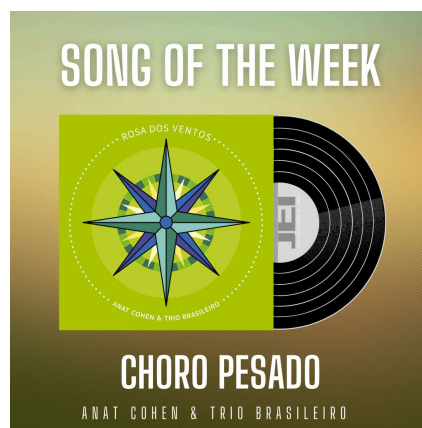
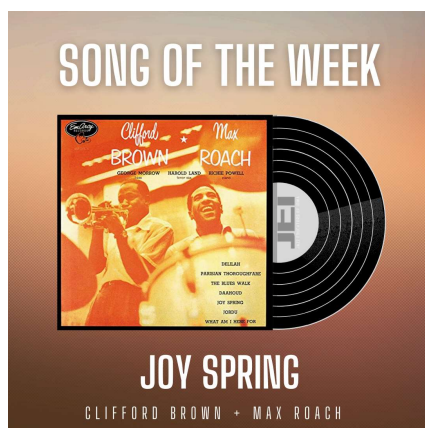
"Goodly Creatures" has been performed by UNI Jazz Band One, Cedar Rapids Washington Revolutionists, Muscatine High School Jazz Ensemble, Waukee High School Jazz I, and the Blair Big Band at Vanderbilt University. In addition to the UNI Jazz Band One recording on *Vibrant Lights* (2019), I eventually made a trio version of the tune which was released on my 2022 album *Reconnect*, featuring Katie Ernst and Cassius Goens III.

BIG BAND RECORDING

TRIO RECORDING

STUDENT LISTENING RESOURCE

Encourage your students to follow JEI on Instagram (@jazzeducatorsofiowa) to discover new artists and recordings every week! Here are our most recent charts:



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