

PROVIDING RESOURCES TO IOWA'S JAZZ EDUCATORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kelli Swehla

JEI Membership,

Welcome to May and IBA!

In this newsletter, you'll see that we are highlighting all that's happening with jazz education at the 2025 Iowa Bandmasters Conference. Please come to the concert and listen to our great bands led by Bethany Robinson, Annie Booth and Ayn Inserto. They

will also be presenting clinics on Friday! Also at the concert, we will honor longtime jazz educator and performer Steve Grismore by inducting him into the JEI Hall-of-Fame.

Finally, I want to remind all middle and high school directors to encourage their female students to sign up for Iowa Jazz Girls Day on May 31 at Marion High School. Dr. Colleen Clark from the University of South Carolina will be here to lead the day and there will be a short performance by the Iowa Women's Jazz Orchestra.

Please reach out with any questions and have a great time at the Iowa Bandmasters Conference!

Sincerely,

Kelli Swehla

ALL-STATE JAZZ CONCERTS

Membership, at 3:00pm on Thursday, May 15th, we will present our All-State Jazz Bands in concert in the Cities Ballroom.

Please join us!

1A/2A All-State Jazz Band

Bethany Robinson, Director

Saxophones

Alto 1: Owen Bergstrom, Ogden

Alto 2: Liam Newell, Van Meter

Tenor 1: Alan Arriaga-Rangel, Monticello

Tenor 2: Will Hinman, Belmond-Klemme

Trombones

Lead: Zach Thoe, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura

2: Aiden LeClair, MVAOCOU

3: Nolan Staker, West Branch

4: Tavian Watts, Belmond-Klemme

Bari: Kaylee De Jong, Boyden-Hull

Bass: Daniel Reiter III, Davenport Central

Trumpets

Lead: Ethan Hoekstra, Lisbon

2: Samanatha Shelton, Tri-Center

3: Eric Boote, West Lyon

4: Jackson Doornweerd, West Lyon

5: Addison Moore, Clarinda

Rhythm

Piano: Henry Mauser, Osage

Guitar: Ethan Hora, Union

Bass: Daniel Rodriguez, Belmont-Klemme

Drums 1: Easton Robinson, West Lyon

Drums 2: Callum Sifert, Belmont-Klemme

Vibes: Jayce Norpel, Clear Creek Amana

3A All-State Jazz Band

Annie Booth, Director

Saxophones

Alto 1: Cole Becker, Okoboji

Alto 2: Kassie Anderson, Harlan

Tenor 1: Camdyn Baxter, Carlisle

Tenor 2: Jamon Buhr, Marion

Bari: Rachael Stratton, Pella

Trombones

Lead: Aaron Piper, Marion

2: Jayden Bradley, Denison

3: Benjamin Allard, Xavier

4: Melody Mai, Ballard

Bass: Cooper Gehlsen, Denison

Trumpets

Lead: Abner Erickson, Pella

2: Levi Schechinger, Harlan

3: Colton Hagle, Harlan

4: Abram Booms, Marion

5: Annamaria Simone, Okoboji

Rhythm

Piano: Elliana Antoine, Okoboji

Guitar: Leo Gaede, Waverly-Shell Rock

Bass: Beckett Hunzelman, Waverly-Shell Rock

Drums 1: Caleb Hilario, Xavier

Drums 2: Grant Petersen, Harlan

Vibes: Kamden Brown, Carlisle

4A All-State Jazz Band

Ayn Inserto, Director

Saxophones

Alto 1: Nathan Anderson, North Scott

Alto 2: Oliver Kremer, Pleasant Valley

Tenor 1: Camden Neff, Cedar Rapids
Kennedy

Tenor 2: Nathan Fitch, Dallas Center-
Grimes

Bari: Jack Lopshire, Prairie

Trumpets

Lead: Santoi Marmet, Valley

2: Marley Eickelberg, Dallas Center-Grimes

3: Blake Migiel, North Scott

4: Tom Fireman, Linn-Mar

5: Arabella Kote, Prairie

Trombones

Lead: Zach McMann, North Scott

2: Brody Haugh, Waukee Northwest

3: Drew Burggraaf, Waukee Northwest

4: Ahren Ervin, Dallas Center-Grimes

Bass: Braden Steenhard, Waukee Northwest

Rhythm

Piano: Everett Sams, Linn-Mar

Guitar: Carter Buske, Linn-Mar

Bass: Simon Gilfanov, Indianola

Drums 1: Benjamin Hollinger, Prairie

Drums 2: Jeff Rich, Valley

Vibes: John Hynek, Prairie

HALL OF FAME WINNER

**Congratulations to JEI
Hall of Fame Winner,
Steve Grismore!**

This award will be presented at the
All-State Jazz concert on Thursday,
May 15th at 3:00 pm.

Steve Grismore (<http://www.gizmojazz.com>) is a recently retired Instructor of Jazz Studies at the University of Iowa (from 2000-2022). A prolific performer, Grismore has been playing guitar since 1965 and has degrees from G.I.T. (now called M.I.) and The University of Iowa (B.M. and M.A.). Currently Steve is performing with variations of his own jazz trio, a classic rock band the Beaker Brothers, the Dawg Bone Jazz Trio, and the jazz-funk fusion band Big Fun.

Steve has a long history of jazz education throughout the state of Iowa. He has given workshops at high schools and colleges throughout the Midwest. He has adjudicated numerous high school jazz festivals including those for the Southeastern Iowa Bandmasters Association, the Northern Iowa Area Community College, U of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Central College, Indian Hills Community College, Hoover Jazz Festival, Truman State University, the Tall Corn Jazz Festival, the Jack Oatts Jazz Festival, Liberty Jazz Festival, SEIBA, NEIBA, and many others.

He has taught at several private colleges in Iowa including Coe, Cornell, Central Grinnell, and Iowa Wesleyan College. In addition, he taught at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IA, Blackhawk Community College in Moline, IL, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, and at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, IA. In 1991, Steve along with Mark Ginsberg co-founded the Iowa City Jazz Festival. It continues to be a popular summer music destination for jazz lovers of all kinds. He was the festival director from 1991 to 2010.

Steve is married to Virginia Armstrong and has a son, Alex.

JEI PRESIDENT-ELECT

Congratulations to JEI President-Elect, Ryan Meyer!

Beginning July 1, the new leadership
of JEI will be **President Chris
Strohmaier** and newly-appointed
President-Elect Ryan Meyer.

Ryan Meyer is in his 18th year of teaching and currently serves as a member of the 6–12 instrumental music team in the Denison Community School District. His current duties include assisting with the high school marching band, teaching the 9/10 concert band, directing the top high school jazz band, teaching 7th grade

band, and co-directing the 6th grade band classes. Ryan earned his Bachelor's of Music Education degree from the University of South Dakota in 2007.

A passionate advocate for music education, Ryan is actively involved in the Iowa Bandmasters Association, Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association, and Jazz Educators of Iowa. His leadership has extended beyond the classroom—serving in various roles within IBA and SWIBA, and presenting clinics at IBA conferences on topics ranging from elementary and middle school band to jazz pedagogy. With JEI, he has helped shape programs like the Middle School Honor Jazz Combo Day and the Summer Jazz Symposium.

Beyond the classroom, Ryan is an active participant in the musical community as a clinician, adjudicator and saxophonist, performing regularly in the 515 Big Band and subbing in area dance bands. Ryan is married to his wife of thirteen years, Mallory, and they have two sons, Keegan (11) and Cooper (7). In his free time, Ryan enjoys spending time out in the yard being the all-time quarterback and pitcher for his boys and the neighborhood kids.

JAZZ @ IBA

WEDNESDAY

The University of Iowa Faculty Jazz Quintet

9:00 pm | Mash + Marrow Lounge

THURSDAY

Beginning Jazz Improvisation: A Step-By- Step Guide

11:00 am | Windows on 7th

Eric Lins, Director

Guitar Tone and Amp EQ'ing for the Big Band Director

2:00 pm | Waterloo

Luke Sanders, University of Northern Iowa

All-State Jazz Bands

3:00 pm | Cities Ballroom

Bethany Robinson, Ayn Inserto, and Annie Booth, Directors

Linn-Mar High School Colton Center Jazz Ensemble

8:00 pm | Cities Ballroom

Jen Tiede, Director

Bonorama

9:15 pm | Windows on 7th

Jackson Churchill, Bandleader

FRIDAY

The Power of Diversity in Jazz Ensemble Repertoire

9:00 am | Council Bluffs

Annie Booth, University of Denver

Composition Through Improvisation and Other Techniques

10:00 am | Sioux City

Ayn Inserto, Berklee College of Music

Building Culture Through Dynamic Rehearsal Techniques

2:00 pm | Council Bluffs

Bethany Robinson, Purdue University

North Scott's "Night School"

2:00 pm | Windows on 7th

Mike McMann, Director

Big Fun

9:30 pm | Exhibit Hall

Steve Grismore, Bandleader

SATURDAY

Southeast Middle School Jazz Studio

11:00 am | Iowa Ballroom

Jonah Prall, Director

JAZZ GIRLS DAY

Directors:

**Please encourage your students to sign up for Jazz Girls Day coming up
on May 31! It's open to MS and HS students!**

[LINK TO POSTER](#)

REMINDERS

Invite Your Friends To Become Members of JEI!

QUICK LINKS

Past Newsletters

Clinicians

Resources



Stay up-to-date with current activities and future events by following us on your favorite social media channels.

 [Facebook](#)  [Instagram](#)

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