

JEI - A New Beginning
Steve Shanley, President

This past April, the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 7 of the Federal Bankruptcy Law. While IAJE viewed state units as independent entities, it was anticipated the bankruptcy court and trustee might determine otherwise. Therefore, the executive board of the Iowa Unit acted immediately to ensure the continued stability of the Iowa All-State Jazz Bands, which was the primary financial responsibility of the organization. Special thanks to IBA Past-President Steve Stickney and Treasurer Leonard Upham, who were invaluable in this process.

Many IAJE members indicated their desire to continue a jazz education group in Iowa, and the board held meetings this summer to discuss the future of the organization. We had two primary goals: continue the advancement of jazz education in Iowa and maintain the high quality of the All-State Jazz Bands. The result is the formation of **Jazz Educators of Iowa (JEI)**. All of the money from membership dues will stay in Iowa to support our own magazine, website, commissioning projects and professional development activities. Dues for the new group will be \$20 per school year, which is significantly cheaper than membership in IAJE. Please visit the homepage of our website for more information.

The first official JEI events were the fall business meeting and new music reading session held on Friday, November 21, at the IMEA conference in Ames. The reading session, organized by President-Elect Rod Pierson, featured a live big band playing excerpts of new titles from the major publishers.

Audition results will be posted on our website for the 2009 All-State Jazz Bands. Directors for the bands this year are Chris Merz and Dean Sorenson (biographies can be found on our website). In addition to working with students, both gentlemen will present clinics at the IBA convention.

I would like to thank the JEI board members for their service during this transition. Rod Pierson (President Elect), Pat Kearney (Vice-President), Myron Peterson (Treasurer), Jeff Schafer (Secretary) and Mike McMann (Past-President) all devoted considerable time to the development of our new organization. The state is lucky to have such dedicated individuals serving the development of jazz education.

The JEI board is eager for your input. Please email me (steve.shanley@gmail.com) to share any questions or suggestions you may have.