

October 1, 2007

Dear jazz educator:



We are very pleased to announce our 2008 festival dates: Wednesday evening, April 2 through Friday evening, April 4, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza in Addison, Texas (just north of Dallas). Again, we will feature the very best big bands, combos and vocal jazz groups from the nation's leading high schools, universities, two-year colleges and middle schools, in addition to University of North Texas (UNT) groups and some of today's most exciting "pro" jazz musicians.

The festival begins with an enormous and exciting welcome reception, including food and drink, and performances by the UNT Latin Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jose Aponte, and by the award-winning Two O'Clock Lab Band, directed by Jim Riggs. This event is free to all festival participants. School groups (both college/university and high school/middle school) will perform throughout the day on Thursday and Friday, with outstanding concerts presented each evening.

School participation will be by CD/tape audition. The enclosed application form includes all submission instructions. Note that audition recordings may have been made during the current (2007 – 08) or prior (2006 – 07) school year.

Important Dates:

Dec. 1, 2007: Applications/recordings due
Dec. 15, 2007: Invitations extended to selected school groups
Jan. 31, 2008: Invitations accepted by selected school groups
April 2 – 4, 2008: Festival!

We are endeavoring to present an experience that will be truly unique and highly beneficial for all participants, students and directors alike. Highlights include:

- ◆ Free welcome reception with food & drink, performance by Two O'Clock Lab Band for all participants
- ◆ Free wine reception on Wednesday evening, April 2, for directors, adjudicators, sponsors, etc.
- ◆ Discount accommodations at Crowne Plaza for students/guests (\$ 115 Single/Double/Triple or Quad)
- ◆ Adjudication by the nation's best educators/musicians
- ◆ Clinic for your group by members of UNT's renowned jazz faculty
- ◆ Master classes on each instrument by UNT jazz faculty
- ◆ Headliner Q & A session
- ◆ Directors clinic "Teaching Improvisation to the Young Musician"
- ◆ Continuous rare jazz film presentations by noted historian Hal Miller from Albany, New York
- ◆ Discount tickets to evening concerts
- ◆ Awards for most outstanding individual musicians, soloists, etc.
- ◆ Scholarships awarded for UNT Summer Jazz Workshops
- ✓ Also, a select number of groups and soloists, as determined by the adjudicators, will receive invitations to perform during the Friday evening "pro" concert, resulting in several dozen students having the opportunity to "rub shoulders" musically with the likes of previous headliners Chick Corea, Roy Hargrove, Kenny Baron Trio, etc. (2008 evening headliner will be identified on the website very soon). We trust you agree that this would be a marvelous musical opportunity for your students!
- ✓ Please note that in order to sustain the continued success of this festival, we require nominal festival participation fees as follows: Big Bands \$250; Vocal groups \$200; Combos \$150.

If you have questions/comments, please contact Craig Marshall, cmars@music.unt.edu. We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Neil Slater in black ink.

Neil Slater
Artistic Director

Handwritten signature of Craig Marshall in black ink.

Craig Marshall,
Festival Manager

STEERING COMMITTEE: Town of Addison: Nicole Newkham, Barbara Kovacevich, Chris Terry
UNT: Craig Marshall, Paris Rutherford, Neil Slater, Mike Steinel