

Student Chapters: A necessity in your jazz program

by Kristin Duchateau
President, Pulaski High School IAJE Student Chapter

One of the major concerns for jazz programs today is gaining enough organizational help and funding to make all the activities possible. It becomes essential that students be part of the planning of their concerts and activities. This makes the events more meaningful for the students and the spectators. A solution that our jazz program at Pulaski High School, in Pulaski, Wis., turned to was becoming a member of the International Association of Jazz Educators Student Chapters.

Our fifty-nine member jazz club stays very active throughout the year. This large membership is mainly due to the fact that the members reap many benefits and participate in numerous activities. At the start of the school year, we strongly encourage all jazz band members in the top two bands to join, mainly because they take part in the majority of festivals and activities, and benefit the most. Everyone else is welcome too, especially freshmen and "jazz enthusiasts." To give you an idea of the different activities that your club can partake in and benefit from, I have outlined the various activities that our club sponsors.

Our main involvement in our jazz club consists of organizing and carrying out all plans for our jazz bands' performances.

Starting in November, we hold an annual Veterans' Day Dinner Dance. Here we provide a sit-down dinner; this year the menu includes steak or shrimp kabobs, prepared and served by parents and jazz club members. This takes place in our high school commons, which the club decorates and transforms into

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Annual Meeting, Oct. 30, 1998

Clinics and a Website

The officers of WI-IAJE met briefly before the meeting of the membership of the state unit to discuss what items should be on the agenda for the afternoon. The officers decided that the most important item to get before the membership was the idea proposed last summer by President-Elect Karen Johnson of a clinic day, statewide, sponsored by IAJE. This idea had been unveiled in the newsletter that came out a couple of weeks before the meeting.

When the meeting started, this article was presented again to those who were at the meeting. Unfortunately, Karen Johnson could not attend, as she was busy preparing the saxophone section of the Honors Jazz Band for their performance. However, the idea in a variety of possible different manifestations was discussed at some length by those present. To briefly recap: the idea is to have a day set aside in the fall for clinics to be offered at as many sites as possible

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President's Message

This newsletter comes at a terribly busy time for most of us, but I felt that it was important to get this issue out before Christmas. Early in January, when things are (hopefully) a little less hectic take the time to look through it.

There are several reasons why I wanted to get the newsletter out now. First, I wanted to report to the general membership about our annual meeting, which was held during the state music convention in Madison in late October. The report of that meeting is elsewhere in this newsletter, but I did want to make a point about the meeting here. While those who were at the meeting were very actively engaged, and in fact, are members who have a history of being actively engaged in our state IAJE chapter, the number of people at the meeting was discouragingly small. There are any number of reasons why this might be so, including the fact that the meeting was not at a particularly good time, as well as it being at a new "venue," a building most of us had never been in before. Nonetheless, if the activities of the state chapter are to truly reflect the wishes and needs of the membership, clearly we need a better representation of that membership at our one open meeting of the year. For those of you who were not there, please pass along any concerns that you might have to me or any other officer, as we do meet on a much more frequent basis.

I also wanted to get in front of all of you the fine article written for the newsletter by Kristin Duchateau, president of the student chapter headed up by our secretary-treasurer Tom Busch at Pulaski High School.

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a relaxed dinner setting. The proceeds from this event cover the cost of dinner and then go towards defraying costs of festivals.

Our next performance takes place in March. Our Cavalcade of Swing Dance features all four jazz ensembles and three combos. Hors d'oeuvres, donated by jazz members' families, are served. All the money that we earn this day goes directly to the jazz summer scholarship fund. At the end of the school year, students apply for these scholarships of \$50 each. Last year, we were able to give out sixteen summer scholarships for the students to attend camps such as the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Jazz Camp and the Indianhead Jazz Camp.

Another performance which the club members have significant participation in is our Guest Artist Concert, which takes place in April. Each year we pick a theme or time period in jazz to base our concert on. Ideas in the past have been: "An Evening in the French Quarter," "The Golden Age of Big Bands," and "The Count of K.C." This year our theme will revolve around Duke Ellington, to commemorate his 100th Birthday. The jazz club members take these themes and produce and construct decorations for the auditorium where our concert is held. Large backgrounds on stage are constructed and painted, along with elaborating the entrance way with pictures and props from that time period. The major funding from the jazz club goes towards renting a grand piano, and paying for the guest artists. In the past, we have had single artists from the surrounding Green Bay area, single artists from western Wisconsin, Minnesota, and even the entire Bay City Swing band from this area. These concerts are videotaped and available for the students to purchase, along with being aired on the community's Public Access Channel.

One of the main benefits for the students in the jazz club includes funding for jazz festivals. Our jazz bands participate in two jazz festivals:

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Instead of having the students pay a full admission and hotel cost, the jazz club pays for 60% of the members' costs. The club also pays for the coach bus that we charter to the Eau Claire Festival.

Throughout the year, the jazz club has provided many opportunities for the students to work with clinicians and professional musicians. To kick off the year, Jazz I spends a weekend at a lake. Here they practice and rehearse under the guidance of clinicians for each section of the band. The jazz club funded about 45% of the costs this year, to cover the cost of food, lodging, and clinicians. This event helped get

the program off to a stronger start.

In the past, the jazz club has sponsored a Rhythm Section Weekend. We brought in local rhythm section players on a Saturday to hold clinics for rhythm section players. We invited Northeast Wisconsin schools to participate. Therefore, our jazz club has assisted other schools as well.

For enjoyment, our club has organized trips to concerts. Last year we took a coach bus down to Milwaukee to see the Pat Metheny group. We had 42 attendees, who were able to have a question and answer session with the pianist Lyle Mays following the concert. The club funding helped cut down on the students' cost tremendously.

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The size and activity of this student chapter is truly inspiring. While most of us may feel that we can only dream about having this kind of student involvement, this article proves that given the right circumstances (including leadership and hard work), it can be done. In conjunction with that article, I would also like to briefly report about what those present were told about the progress of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire student chapter, which has been a real force in the state IAJE for some years. Jeanine Johnson and David Strong represented this chapter at the meeting, and as has been the case for some years, they had some significant contributions to make to the meeting. Their student chapter has shrunk slightly from the incredible numbers that it had in the last couple of years, but Jeanine and David feel that it is now at a better, more manageable size, with a more committed membership. Although it has not been long since there was an article in the newsletter about the activities of this chapter, I believe that it would be in order to have a follow-up article

soon.

I am personally looking forward to January and another trip to the IAJE convention. This year's is in Anaheim, California and looks to be another terrific "show." Again this year I will be flying out of Appleton on the same flight as members Roberta Porfilio-Sawall and Adam Hardt from New London. We'll hope that we have better luck with the flight than we did last year on our way to New York! I'll room again with Cliff Gribble from the Milwaukee High School for the Arts, who has been to about twenty of these conventions in a row! Among others from the state who I know are attending are Tom Busch of Pulaski and former president Karyn Quinn of UW-LaCrosse. I encourage all members to plan to attend one of these terrific conventions. With their combination of superb performances and clinics, the conventions may be the greatest benefit of being an IAJE member.

Please let me hear from you.

Kurt Dietrich, IAJE-WI President

A keepsake that the jazz bands produce is possible because of our jazz club. Every two years, the jazz bands record and produce a CD that is sold to the public and to the members and their families. The jazz club pays for recording fees and the production of the CDs.

As a part of joining the IAJE Student Chapters, each student receives many items. Along with receiving the IAJE magazine, the *Jazz Educators Journal*, the students receive various jazz mailings dealing with CDs or other magazines. A member also receives a coupon book, which entitles him or her to free CDs, free catalogs, free shirts, free posters, free items at the IAJE convention, and

other discounts on books, CDs, accessories, and subscriptions. In addition, the school jazz program receives free charts for joining. As a member of IAJE, one also has the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference of the International Association of Jazz Educators, where one can see 50+ major jazz artists in more than 100 clinics and concerts. It has been scheduled this year for January 6-10, 1999, in Anaheim, CA. Here at the Disneyland Resort, the conference headquarters and site of all activities, jazz will be heard day and night. It is our hope to send a contingent to this convention, as last year the PHS Chapter tied for the largest chapter recognition.

So, even though the initial cost of joining the club is greater than other student clubs at the high school, the long-term benefits are worthwhile. Our jazz program has reaped many rewards from joining the IAJE Student Chapters, both for the individual student and the program in its entirety. We encourage other schools to join in this wonderful organization.

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around the state. Fall was chosen because it is when most school programs are just getting around to getting the jazz program going and there are not many other competing jazz events at that time of year. (Lawrence University has its jazz festival in November, but the consensus was that this clinic day would be in October.) Clinicians would primarily be college jazz faculty who would donate their services, or at least work for a very modest fee. The clinics would take place regionally, with clinicians from schools relatively close together working in conjunction with one another. It is hoped that this can take place at several sites, but if a viable clinic can only be offered at one site, that would be good enough for the first time around. A variety of aspects of the clinics were discussed by those present, including many of the parameters mentioned above. Other concerns were price, location (college or university sites seem not to be a good idea), day of the week, cost, and other aspects of format. With many ideas to consider, it was decided that the officers would continue to work on the clinic idea, with the supposition that the first clinics would take place in the fall of 1999.

Another matter came up and inspired

even more enthusiastic involvement than even the clinic idea had. This was the matter of a website on the internet for WI-IAJE. Since Wayne Slowinski, who had generously been posting the WI-IAJE newsletter at his school's site, closed down his involvement in that project, WI-IAJE has had no exposure on the web. There was vociferous acclamation that in order to "join the twenty-first century" (as one member put it), it was necessary for the organization to have a presence on the web. There was a lengthy discussion with considerable feeling being expressed by many of those present. Many of the possible details of what might be involved were discussed. Finally, Bruce Hering made the motion that WI-IAJE use \$1000 of its financial reserves to make sure that a website get established.

After the meeting, Vice-President Tom Brown volunteered to take charge in this project. The officers have since discussed this at length through email and over the phone. Tom has presented the rest of the officers with possibilities and options. The executive board decided to have Tom construct the site and maintain it for the period of a year.

Members can see the timeliness of the web issue simply by taking a look at the

new issue of the *Jazz Educators Journal*, in which the cover story deals with the new IAJE website. It might be mentioned that wherever the WI-IAJE site ends up, there will be a link to the international IAJE site. In fact, at a demonstration site, Tom already made this connection.

By the time this discussion had ended, it was necessary to adjourn the meeting. Other items that were discussed briefly may be discussed in future newsletters.

A reflection on the meeting: While those who were at the meeting were very actively engaged in the business that came before the membership, there was a very disappointingly small number of members there. Numerous reasons might be offered as to why this was so. The meeting was at a new site, not on the main site of the state convention. The meeting time was not ideal. As always, there were competing events at the same time. Nonetheless, if the state unit is to remain vital, it is necessary for there to be more involvement of the rank and file members. If you have input about the clinic idea, the website, the newsletter or any other issues relevant to the organization, please contact any of the officers listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

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Notes



More Congratulations

In last spring's newsletter congratulations were passed along to a number of members and member groups for recognition that they had received in one arena or another. Overlooked in the announcement of Down Beat Student Music Awards was the **University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Jazz Ensemble I**, led by **Bob Baca**, which was a co-winner in the college and university big band category — a tremendous showing in a most competitive category.

Speaking of Eau-Claire, some of the reason that more people did not attend the IAJE meeting at the recent state convention may well have been due to the fact that at the same time, at the awards luncheon, **Ron Keezer**, of the UW-EC percussion and jazz faculty and long-time WI-IAJE board member, was receiving a Distinguished Service Award from the WSMA. Congrats, Ron! And speaking of Keezers, it should be mentioned that Ron's son **Geoff**, who grew up in Wisconsin jazz education and has long been one of the hot young pianists on the New York scene, is to be congratulated on the issue of his new album on Columbia, *Turn Up The Quiet*, which includes, among other stellar guests, Joshua Redman and Diana Krall. This album has not only been reviewed in the jazz press, but even made TIME magazine! (It should be mentioned that Geoff keeps up his IAJE membership, in Wisconsin.)

And speaking of jazz pianists, the dean of Wisconsin jazz pianists **John Harmon** has recently had released a beautiful and challenging album of solo piano performances of original works. This album, *Rite of Passage*, is on the Stellar Records label. Contact John by email at matrix@vbe.com for more information.

Please pass along news about other members and state groups.

Convention Planning

Advocates of jazz education and even other areas of instrumental music education felt a little shortchanged at this year's Wisconsin State Music Convention. This occurred despite the advocacy of several of IAJE's members at last year's planning meeting.

President-elect Karen Johnson will be in there plugging away for jazz again at this year's meeting. Get any ideas or proposals for jazz happenings for the 1999 convention to Karen, or better yet, attend yourself. More people should mean more representation.

This year's meeting is Saturday, Jan. 9, in Madison. Consult your latest *Wisconsin School Musician* or get in touch with Karen for further details.

Upcoming Jazz Events

- **UW-LaCrosse Jazz Fest XXIV**
with guest artists Byron Stripling, trumpet and vocalist Judi Donaghy.
Saturday January 30, 1999
Contact Greg Balfany, (608) 785-8410
- **UW-Green Bay Jazz Fest XXIX**
with guest artist Kenny Werner, piano.
Saturday, January 16, 1999.
Contact John Salerno, (920) 645-2555.
- **1999 UWSP Jazz Workshop**
with special guests The Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra featuring Lew Tabackin.
Friday, February 5, 1999.
Contact: David Hastings, Director of Jazz Studies, COFAC/UW-Stevens Point,
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