

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had time to refresh, relax and unwind during the holidays. The second semester is in full swing with festivals and various performances just around the corner.

Many of you traveled to Chicago for the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in December and/or to New York for the IAJE Convention in January. If you were fortunate enough to attend, please consider sharing your experience/newly acquired knowledge with the membership. How can you do this? Write an article for this newsletter! I'm sure there have been times that you've read the newsletter and put it down thinking, there wasn't much for me to use in that publication. I've felt the same way, but after holding this presidential position I understand why the newsletters can be a little "underweight." It is VERY DIFFICULT to get people to contribute an article for publication.

If you are self-conscious about your writing skills/grammar, get in line – we all are worried about those communication skills. Fortunately, we have a WONDERFUL editor in Kurt Dietrich. He does an excellent job putting the newsletter together and is very kind in his commentary/corrections that are necessary. Another option is to run the article past someone in your English/business/communications department before submitting it.

Do I really have something to offer the membership? YES! Every one of us needs those reminders, helpful hints to keep our individual/group performances on track and improving. Remember that there are always new

New York Proves Perfect Locale for Stellar Conference

Steve Sveum
Sun Prairie High School
IAJE-WI President-Elect

If you were going to hold an international conference on jazz, where on the planet would you dream of convening? New York City of course!! This year's conference was stellar in many respects and made even better by its location. You know you are at the IAJE when you go to pick up some groceries at a small store across the street and check out behind Bill Watrous. From there I went to take my supplies to my room and ran into Nyala Wright and Victor Goines of Jazz at Lincoln Center who were immediately friendly and went through all of the exciting things happening there (including "Essentially Ellington - Australia!").

I think it is important to point out that Wisconsin was well represented at this year's international gathering. Cliff Gribble and the Milwaukee High School of the Arts Jazz Lab Combo were the early talk of the convention. I am sorry to say that I personally missed this performance but heard the "buzz" about this amazing group for the duration of the convention. Congratulations to Cliff and his students - you are great ambassadors for our state and the state of jazz in Wisconsin. Also representing Wisconsin were three of the five trumpets in the Eastman Jazz Ensemble with Wisconsin alumnus Fred Sturm at the helm. All three trumpet players were graduates of UW-Eau Claire and are pursuing their master's degrees at Eastman. The Eastman ensemble really swung while backing up a feature performance of the New York Voices. The next day the Eastman Jazz

Ensemble played an entire program of recently composed manuscripts, which showed a different side of Eastman's diverse musicianship. Fred says hi to all in Wisconsin and yes, he was wearing a Packer sweater at the conference!! Rounding out the Wisconsin connection, Geoff Keezer was featured with Christian McBride at the Iridium for the duration of the convention. Meanwhile, representatives from Shell Lake and Birch Creek were busy making plans and connections to enhance their camps for the upcoming summer. Add to this an article featured in the November 2000 IAJE journal by Marvin Stamm. In it he praised Tom Shoening's program at Washington Park High School in Racine and John Dorsey's program at Racine Horlick and Tim Bell and his program at UW-Parkside. Through these many fine efforts we have some significant international recognition going on!!!

I attended the unit Presidents' Meeting (in lieu of the recovering Karen Johnson) where we discussed several issues. Most interesting was the preview of the new IAJE web site, which will be up and running sometime this spring. Featured with this site will be links to related jazz sites and a unique question and answer feature. This feature will allow any of us to ask a question, via the web site, to any of the IAJE resource team members and have it answered to the questioner. If the question seems to apply to the masses, both the question and answer will be posted on the IAJE site. Supposedly, the site will also include a link to our Wisconsin IAJE site, but exactly how and when was

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directors/performers in our membership that are looking for additional guidance. Do all of you have students that only need to be told about things one time? If so, you are very fortunate, in the minority and not dealing with your average human. We all need reminders, hints, tricks, stories, experiences to draw from to use in teaching/rehearsing/performance and just keep things going.

If you've had the opportunity to perform with a well-known jazz artist, perhaps you could share your experience (good or bad) with us. Many of us are not in a situation to have those opportunities. Let us know what it was like. Jazz has been and is being passed on to us by performers and now educators; to keep this music alive we need to continue the process because it isn't all written down in one great guide or at a magical web site.

Perhaps you've found a chart that seemed impossible, but after working with it you discovered that is very playable and a great teaching piece. Share that chart with us and the steps you took to work through the chart. Do you use a variety of methods to teach kids improvisation? What are your guidelines for selecting music for a jazz festival? Have you been an adjudicator/clinician at one of the jazz festivals in Wisconsin? If so, what are the problems that you hear over and over again? How should directors

address and fix these situations? You're probably thinking "they've been told that over and over again" or "I always mention that in my verbal comments after a band's performance". Well, many times when you are speaking to the band the kids are thinking "did the judge like us or hate us?", "I'm glad that's over", "I played just terrible", "What room do we have to get to next?" Needless to say the focus isn't always there in the festival situation and many times the obvious isn't clear to everyone. Written comments: well, we all know about the time constraints of a festival.....it usually doesn't add up to legible writing. Think about it, share your ideas, comments with us.

I hope you will take some time to put together an article for the newsletter. We will be more than happy to "stock-pile" a few extra articles for future use. All of us have something to share that could help at least one other jazz performer or director. Send your article to me or Kurt Dietrich at Ripon College. The email and postal addresses for the executive board are listed on the back of the newsletter. Emailing the article as an attachment makes Kurt's life much easier, a hard copy in the mail as back-up is appreciated! Looking forward to an abundance of articles for the next newsletter.

Keep swinging!
Karen M. Johnson

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not yet clear. Another possible development was the discussion among our region of a regional convention/conference. The conference would include the states of Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. It looks as if it may be held somewhere in Indiana and will at first likely start as a leadership training session for the executive boards of the respective IAJE units. From there it may expand into a full day-long convention complete with clinics and performances. Keep an eye on that!!

That was how my 2001 convention began and I will spare you all the

details of the great concerts and clinics, but suffice it to say that it was a wonderful intersection of musicians and educators all passionate about the art of jazz. All in all it was a fabulous convention in a great city filled with wonderful concerts and informative clinics and "hang sessions". Next year the convention will be in California and the year after in Toronto. There has been discussion of having the convention in New York City every three years – so make your plans to attend now – even if only for a Friday/Saturday. You won't regret it!!

Fall Conference Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2000

WMEA Conference – Madison, WI

General Meeting Called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Karen Johnson

Agenda

- Reading of the previous meetings minutes and approval – (Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Busch).
- **Membership Report** (President, Karen Johnson) Current membership has increased from the previous year. 1999 = 130 members, 2000 = 180 members.
- **Advertising** (Board Member, Roberta Porfilio-Sawall) The membership was informed that the next advertising solicitation would be going out on November 1, 2000.
- **IAJE Conference Booth** (President, Karen Johnson) The request was made to the membership in attendance that they consider stopping by and sharing the opportunities of "manning" the booth as well as taking care of its tear down and shipment back to the National IAJE.
- **Website proposal and update:** (Vice Pres. Steve Wiest) Information was presented regarding the current website and possible development of a new website:
 1. Proposed that the WI Chapter of the IAJE build a new and effective WIAJE Website.
 2. V.P. Wiest would volunteer to build the site for free
 3. V.P. Wiest would volunteer the server at UWW to publish the site for free.
 4. In using the UWW server, there will be no special "[*go to UWW Homepage*](#)" links to take unfair advantage of the WIAJE location. All Wisconsin programs will be advertised.
 5. If enough membership information is gathered, V.P. Wiest believes that he can have the new site up and running in the near future.
 6. Once published, Mr. Wiest will maintain this site, update the Newsletter Archive, and add info at the suggestion of the Board for no charge.

Website Suggestions:

1. Please take some time to write in your suggestions for pages, links and content and email them to V.P. Wiest. He will also honor requests to see the current form as a Microsoft Word attachment [Windows] or RTF attachment [Mac].
- Mail your requests and suggestions to Steve Wiest at: wiests@mail.uww.edu
- **Fall Clinics** (Pres. Elect, Steve Sveum & Board Member, Roberta Porfilio-Sawall).
- Band Director – Roberta Porfilio-Sawall, New London, hosted John Harmon and 61 students at their clinic. It was viewed as a complete success.
- Pres. Elect, Steve Sveum would be hosting trombonist Steve Wiest on November 11, 2000. Mr. Wiest will be presenting a clinic on jazz transcriptions.
- Mr. Dave Mueller was hoping to develop a clinic in the Eau Claire area sometime in January 2001.
- It was decided that the clinic dates would be kept consistent as often as possible, hoping to present them in October and early November.
- **Vocal Jazz Update** (Dick Johnson) It is hoped that the vocal jazz education scene can be developed as was done years ago with instrumental jazz and the university jazz festival. It was suggested that a question and answer session be employed with techniques using Dan Bueritch at the Univ. of Idaho. The U. of Idaho Vocal Jazz currently has a 244 voice Vocal Jazz Choir – a nonselect group with two, three and sometimes four voices, which seems to be an offshoot of Gospel Choir. This was considered as a possible proposal for the 2001 conference “Teaching Your Choir To Swing.”
- **Clinician Directory** (Pres., Karen Johnson) No new members/ individuals to add to the list.
- **Old Business** (Pres., Karen Johnson) Karen asked that the membership lend assistance in the continuation of the articles “Charts That Work.” It is not always easy coming up with the amount of information needed to put this together and suggestions would be greatly appreciated.
- **New Business** (Secretary/Treasurer, Tom Busch) It was suggested that the current Secretary/Treasurer position be separated into two individual

elected positions. Discussion in earlier meetings centered around involving the current membership in a higher level of participation of organization and development of agenda and activities. During the nomination of new officers, separate nominations were received for Secretary and Treasurer.

- 2001 Proposals for the WMEA Conference must now be filled out and turned in as there will be no more January Planning Sessions. It was duly noted that this year’s convention offered no reading session and no Saturday session. Membership is

encouraged to send suggestions so the 2001 WMEA convention will have more offerings for Jazz Educators.

- **Nominations for new Officers** (Pres., Karen Johnson) Karen moved that the floor be open for nominations for officers to two year terms in the WI Chapter of the IAJE. They are as follows: President – Steve Sveum, President-Elect – Steve Wiest, Vice-President – Dan Marbes or Doug Terhune, Secretary – Roberta Porfilio-Sawall, Treasurer – Tom Busch.

Respectfully Submitted,
D. Thomas Busch, Secretary/ Treasurer

Call for Nominations

This is a call for nominations for the election of members to the executive board of the Wisconsin Chapter of the I.A.J.E. Several nominations were made at the annual meeting in Madison, with a few spots available to fill out the slate. It would be great to have two or three names for each position. *Nominations must be sent to Karen Johnson on or before March 15, 2001.* Please contact your nominee for approval/acceptance of the nomination before submitting their name.

President-Elect

Steve Wiest, UW-Whitewater _____

Vice President

Doug Terhune, Monona Grove _____

Dan Marbes, Mosinee

Treasurer

Tom Busch, Pulaski HS _____

Secretary

Roberta Porfilio-Sawall,
Washington MS – New London _____

Vocal Jazz Rep – Executive Board

Dick Johnson, SPASH _____

Executive Board Member

Steve Sveum, Sun Prairie HS, the current President-Elect, will move into the President’s position July 1, 2001.

Kurt Dietrich, Ripon College, completes his term as Past President June 30.

It is very important to have representation from all teaching levels on the executive board. Please consider serving as an officer/executive board member to provide the Wisconsin IAJE membership with opportunities and resources to promote/support jazz and jazz education.

Student Chapter Network

Matt McVeigh, vice president of UW-Eau Claire's Student IAJE Chapter, is interested in creating a network of Wisconsin's student chapters. He needs officers' names, advisors, a contact for each student chapter and asks that you contact him.

UW-Eau Claire's student chapter has great aspirations of developing activities to increase student involvement around the state.

Please send your names/addresses to Matt McVeigh at this email address: mveighm@uwec.edu or mail it to Matt McVeigh via Robert Baca or Ron Keezer, UW-Eau Claire Music Department. You may also call Matt at 715-855-4516.

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