

September, 2008

Dear Jazz Director;

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a special invitation to you and your jazz ensemble, vocal jazz ensemble, and/or combo to be a part of the University of Louisville Jazz Festival, Friday and/or Saturday, February 27-28, 2009. This invitation-only festival will be the culmination of a multiple-day celebration of jazz here on the University of Louisville campus. While we would prefer to schedule college big bands, combos, and vocal groups on Friday with high school and middle school instrumental and vocal ensembles on Saturday, if your schedule makes it possible to only attend on the alternate day, please feel free to enter your group.

Events during the rest of the week will include lectures, presentations, videos, performances by University and area jazz ensembles, combo performances, and other special events to celebrate America's indigenous music. The series of jazz events is a part of the University's diversity celebration and its observance of African American History month. We have a jam-packed schedule of events throughout the final days of the celebration that promises to be well rewarding for you and your group. Even if you do not wish to perform, please consider bringing your group to observe.

Among this year's guest performing artists will be jazz legend Lee Konitz (Feb 27) and flautist Jimmy Walker (Feb 28), who is a native of Kentucky. Please see our web site at jazz.louisville.edu for more information. Each participating ensemble will have a 25-30 minute performance clinic with our festival adjudication staff. Ensembles will receive citations for outstanding, excellent, and good performances. Outstanding performer awards will be presented to individuals as determined by the judging staff. In addition, each participating group will receive a CD recording of their performance. Scholarship awards to the Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Camp, which is held annually on the U of L campus, will be made to individual outstanding performers. Other activities on Friday and Saturday will include clinics by our guest artists, festival adjudicators, Jamey Aebersold, and U of L faculty as well as concerts featuring the University of Louisville Jazz Ensembles under the direction of John LaBarbera and Jerry Tolson and our featured artists.

The U of L Jazz Festival is also an excellent opportunity for students who are interested in attending the University to audition for music scholarships and activity awards and to tour the campus. If you have students who are interested in auditioning, please note that on the enclosed entry form. The University jazz program is a very active program with a renowned faculty. The U of L jazz faculty includes Mike Tracy, director of jazz studies, internationally known composer John LaBarbera, trumpeter Ansyn Banks, pianist Jim Connerley, saxophonist/vocalist Jerry Tolson, bassist Tyrone Wheeler, bassist/pianist Chris Fitzgerald, guitarist Craig Wagner, and percussionist Jason Tiemann. The U of L jazz program includes 2 big bands, 6 combos, a Latin jazz combo, and courses in jazz theory, improvisation, composition and arranging, jazz style and history, music technology, film scoring, music industry, and jazz pedagogy. We offer both bachelors and masters degrees in jazz studies.

A limited number of performance slots are available. To assure your spot, please fill out the enclosed entry form and return it with your registration fee (\$150 for jazz ensembles; \$100 for jazz combos and vocal groups) by January 26, 2009. Registration forms may also be downloaded from our web site, jazz.louisville.edu. Registrations will not be complete until the registration fee has been received. We look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you on February 27th or 28th.

Sincerely,

Jerry Tolson
Festival Director

Mike Tracy
Director, Jamey Aebersold Jazz Studies Program