

NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAZZ EDUCATORS

Arkansas Unit

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*This is the first newsletter to be sent to the membership of the Arkansas Unit of the NAJE. I am excited about the potential of serving as President of the Arkansas Unit but have as a first concern the small membership existing in the state. Because of this, the Newsletter is being sent to as many potential members as can be located.*

*The dues structure (\$12 per year) gives you twelve months of membership regardless of when you join. If you have not joined, please do so by using the enclosed materials - if you are currently a member, please see that one of your colleagues becomes a member of NAJE.*

*Student memberships are only \$5 with a \$1 rebate going to organized chapters of twelve or more members. If you would like the guide-lines for forming a student chapter, please let me know. If you know of a music store, company, or individual who wishes to become an associate member, it is \$50.*

*We need the support of everyone who cares about jazz education. Please do your share by increasing our membership now! If I can help in any way, please contact me.*

SOME IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- November 18 - Concert by the University of Central Arkansas Jazz Ensembles - contact A. C. "Buddy" Himes in Conway for details
- November 21 - Concert by the UALR Jazz Ensemble at the Recital Hall - contact Ronald Boswell for details
- November 23 - Concert by the Arkansas State University Jazz Ensembles at Reng Center Ballroom - contact Dr. Thomas G. Williams in Jonesboro for details
- January 20-23 - Fourth Annual National Convention of the National Association of Jazz Educators - Holiday Inn Surfside in Daytona Beach, Florida
- March 2 - Clinic by Louis Bellson at Arkansas State University in the afternoon followed by a concert that evening by the Jonesboro Jazz Society Big Band with Louis Bellson at Wilson Auditorium
- March 2 - Concert by the Arkansas State University Jazz Ensembles featuring Louis Bellson at West Memphis, Arkansas - contact Phil Burns at West Memphis High School for details
- March 23 - Concert by the Arkansas State University Jazz Ensembles at Wilson Auditorium - 8:00 p.m.
- April 14 - Tentative date for the Henderson State University Jazz Ensembles Spring Concert - contact Earl Hesse at Arkadelphia for details
- May 7 - Henderson State University High School Jazz Festival - this fourth annual festival will be held in the Arkansas Hall Auditorium on the HSU campus in Arkadelphia - contact Earl Hesse for details

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Earl Hesse, director of jazz ensembles at Henderson State University and coordinator for the Middle Western States of the NAJE, presented a concert on November 4. Lab Band II, led by Wes Branstine, performed Nemesis - Clark; The Walls of Jericho - Newsom; Look for the Silver Lining - Nestico; and Little Suite - Lowden. Lab Band I directed by Earl played Give it One - Ferguson-Downey; Send in the Clowns - Sondheim-Barduhn; Love for Sale - Rich; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight - Mays; Big Swing Face - Rich; and Final Analysis - Ellis.

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Buddy Himes at the University of Central Arkansas is in the process of organizing a student chapter of the NAJE and hopes to have about fifteen charter members. In addition to regular jazz ensemble rehearsals, a seminar in jazz studies meets for one hour each week for non-credit. In the seminar, improvisation, arranging, jazz styles, and history of jazz are among the topics being studied.

Arkansas State University has an organized student chapter with eighteen charter members. A five or six hour "jazz-day" to be held at a local shopping center and featuring jazz talent in the Jonesboro area is a Spring project with details yet to be finalized. Charter members and high schools attended are: Rick Richardson,

Jonesboro; Kent Claxton, Mountain Grove, Missouri; Kevin Brocksmith, Paragould; Brenda Luna, West Plains, Missouri; Jim Helman, Jonesboro; Raphael Saliba, Blytheville; David Dees, Little Rock Hall; Stephanie Morgan, West Plains, Missouri; Paul Elledge, Columbus, Ohio; Brian Wilkerson, Jonesboro; Shelton Alsup, Mountain Grove, Missouri; Carlos Summers, North Little Rock; John Barttelt, Hardy; Jereil Smith, West Plains, Missouri; Greg Smith, West Memphis; Bruce Keeling, Carlisle; Stephen Alsup, Mountain Grove, Missouri; and Kim Shipley, West Plains, Missouri.

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Pat Lewis, pianist-composer and NAJE member from Springdale, is on the Stan Kenton Clinics staff and a consultant for the National Piano Foundation. She is a specialist in teaching beginning jazz/rock and Creative Music as well as pedagogy for piano teachers. She will be happy to work with individuals or schools in setting up clinics in these areas. Contact her at 150 Rogers Circle Drive in Springdale.

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It is hoped that another Newsletter will be ready for mailing around the first of March. Any NAJE members having news, concerts, festivals, etc. to be listed in that newsletter should send all information to Tom Williams at the address listed on page one.