

NSBA STATE JAZZ FESTIVAL 2018 JUDGES

KRIS BERG is one of the top-selling jazz composer/arrangers in the world. Kris Berg has been enhancing the programs and recordings of jazz ensembles from professionals to middle schools for years. While very popular in the United States, you can find groups from Japan to Germany to England who have enjoyed playing his charts. A composer/arranger for Belwin Jazz, a Division of Alfred Publishing, he has written charts for many artists including Kurt Elling, Chris Vadala, Wayne Bergeron, and Delfeayo Marsalis, honors bands, colleges, and public school programs across the country. His popular series of “chicken” funk tunes have sold tens of thousands of charts. Kris is the author of the popular bass method book *BASS LINES IN MINUTES*, and also has big band charts published with Warner Brothers Music, Doug Beach Music, Bakers Jazz and More, Walrus Music and Kris Berg Jazz.

Kris’ newest project as composer/band leader is available now. “Time Management” – The Metroplexity Big Band, is the impressive follow-up to their popular and critically acclaimed CD “This Time/Last Year”. Featuring the best musicians north Texas has to offer. The CD also features special guests Phil Woods, Wayne Bergeron, Clay Jenkins Denis DeBlasio and Andy Timmons.

Kris has been the Director of Jazz Studies at Collin College near Dallas for 20 years. Collin jazz ensembles have performed multiple times at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. The band has also appeared in Nassau, Bahamas as well as at festivals all over the United States.

Kris earned his Master’s and Bachelor’s of Music in Jazz Studies at the University of North Texas where he directed jazz ensembles and taught big band arranging.

An award winning bassist, Kris has appeared or recorded with the likes of Wayne Bergeron, Phil Woods, Jeff Clayton, Kurt Elling, Randy Brecker, Peter Erskine, Bob Mintzer, Delfeayo Marsalis, Bobby Shew, Jimmy Heath, Doc Severinsen, Clark Terry, John Fedchock, Gregg Bissonette, Marvin Stamm, Denis Diblasio, Frank Mantooth, and many others. Currently active as an artist/clinician for Yamaha Corporation of America, he has appeared at jazz festivals and camps throughout the United States and is also endorsed by Acoustic Image Amplifiers and Bag End Loudspeakers. Recently Kris Berg & the Metroplexity Big Band were featured performers at the Jazz education Network (JEN) conference. As a dedicated educator, Kris is consistently active directing honors bands both in Texas and abroad.

DR. DOUGLAS SNAPP founded the JazzMN arts organization in 1988 with a mission to “promote, preserve and perpetuate America’s indigenous art music, jazz.” Under Snapp’s guidance, the JazzMN Orchestra has established itself as one of the premier jazz orchestras of the Midwest, featuring world-class guest artists and enriching the community through educational outreach programs.

In addition to his role as Artistic Director of JazzMN, Dr. Snapp is the Director of Jazz Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He has served as president of the Minnesota chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE), and served on the steering committee that formed the Jazz Education Network (JEN).

Dr. Snapp received his doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado, where he served as Assistant Director of Jazz Studies. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of North Texas, where he had the privilege to perform in the prestigious One o’ Clock Lab Band and UNT Jazz Singers.

Mr. Snapp has had the privilege to share the stage with over 50 nationally recognized jazz artists such as Dave Brubeck, Arturo Sndoval, Phil Woods, Dave Weckl and Mike Stern. He also played principal trumpet in the Mankato Symphony from 1992-2012. Dr. Snapp continues to perform regularly as a guest artist and clinician throughout the region.

Dr. PAUL HAAR is an acclaimed saxophonist who has contributed his talent to numerous projects in both the jazz and classical genres and is recognized as being one of the most versatile saxophonists on the scene today. In the jazz idiom, he has performed with such artists as Dave Brubeck, Peter Erskine, Phil Woods and has backed such personalities as Lou Rawls, Tony Bennett, and the Temptations. He has been a featured artist on four continents, including featured performances at the Montreaux International Jazz Festival at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He has recorded on the Sea Breeze label and is active in such groups as the Southwest Horns Jazz-Saxophone Ensemble, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, as well as the UNL Faculty Jazz Ensemble.

Paul has presented featured clinics and master classes at the 31st and 32nd Annual International Association for Jazz Education Conferences, the 59th Annual Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, and has contributed articles to such publications as *The Instrumentalist*, *Jazz Times*, *Jazz Education* and the *Saxophone Journal* where he is a featured columnist. Paul is currently the Associate Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.