

November 29th, 2022

Dear Colleague:

My name is Tommy Krueger, and I have the privilege of serving as the Jazz Chair for the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association. I am writing with an update on the 2022 NSBA State Jazz Festival.

We are excited to be able to host the 2022 NSBA State Jazz Festival in person once again this year! The NSBA State Jazz Festival will take place on **Friday, April 8th and Saturday, April 9th 2022**. This year's festival will be held at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney, NE, and will be hosted by Kearney High School.

The competition portion of the event for all High School classes will run on Friday, April 8th. The competition portion of the event for all Middle School Bands will run on Saturday, April 9th. Any band is able to register to participate as a festival band on either Friday, April 8th or Saturday, April 9th, and receive a divisional rating without entering into the competition. It is our goal is to keep all bands in each class on the same day, however we will do our best to accommodate your needs when possible. Note: Some schedule readjustments may be necessary. All performances limited to 25-minutes followed by a 25-minute clinic (clinic will not be on stage).

The Entry Fee to participate in the State Jazz Festival is $175. Only director(s) that are members of NSBA are eligible to participate in the State Jazz Festival. Please complete one entry for each ensemble you plan to register. Registration is due by **February 4th, 2022.** I sincerely hope that you are able to join us for this fun and educational event. To register your band for this Festival, please follow this link:

[**https://nsbma.formstack.com/forms/2022statejazzfestival**](https://nsbma.formstack.com/forms/2022statejazzfestival)

We have an outstanding lineup of clinicians and judges for this year’s festival! They are:

**Clinicians/Judges:**

Greg Simon, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Darren Pettit, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Paul Haar, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dana Landry, University of Northern Colorado

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, recommendations or requests.

Sincerely,

Tommy Krueger

NSBA Jazz Chair

nsba.jazz@gmail.com

402-304-7590

**Festival Details**

* Date: April 8th and 9th, 2022
* Location: Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney, NE
* How to Register: [**https://nsbma.formstack.com/forms/2021statejazzfestival**](https://nsbma.formstack.com/forms/2021statejazzfestival) OR visit www.NSBMA.org and click on the link that says “Jazz” at the top of the page.
* Entry Fee for Participating Groups: $175 (mailed separately – online payment not accepted at this time)

**2022 State Jazz Festival Clinicians**

**Dr. Darren Pettit** is the Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He received his bachelor of music degree in saxophone performance from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1995, where he was awarded the Presser Scholarship and the Dean's Award from the College of Fine Arts.

He then received a full scholarship to the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music where he completed a master of music degree in saxophone performance. He then received his D.M.A in Jazz Studies/Composition at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he studied with Dr. Eric Richards. Dr. Pettit’s duties at UNO include directing the Jazz Combo I, coordinating both dual enrollment and music theory for the School of Music, teaching Music Fundamentals, Music Core Curriculum I & II, Jazz Arranging, Orchestration, Pedagogy of Music Theory, and Analysis for Performers.

In 2003 Dr. Pettit co-founded both the Omaha Jazz Workshop and the Metropolitan Area Youth Jazz Orchestra. The Jazz Workshop has since become the UNO Jazz camp featuring the Jim Widner Big Band. Dr. Pettit has premiered original compositions at the Daidogei Festival in Shizouka, Japan, the Beijing Contemporary Music Academy, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Regional Conference, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Mercer University in Georgia, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln & Omaha.

He has toured extensively throughout the United States as the music director for Yesterday and Today and Rave On, and has performed with the Jim Widner Big Band, the Omaha big Band, the Las Vegas Lab Band with Mike Gurcuillo, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony, the Omaha Community Playhouse, Randy Brecker, Diane Schuur, Debbie Boone, Delbert McClinton, the Temptations, David Foster, Michael Buble, Frankie Valli, and many others.

Dr. Pettit is a D’Addario Artist/Clinician.

**Dr. Greg Simon** is Assistant Professor of Composition (Concert/Jazz/Commercial) in the Glenn Korff School of Music. He oversees the Flyover New Music Series and is the director of the UNL Jazz Orchestra, as well as teaching courses in composition, orchestration, jazz arranging/improvisation, and special topics in musicology. During the summer, Dr. Simon serves on the composition artist-faculty at the Brevard Music Center.

Dr. Simon’s works have been performed by ensembles and performers around the country, including Alarm Will Sound, the Fifth House Ensemble, the Playground Ensemble of Denver, and the California All-State Symphonic Band. He has presented work at conferences for the American Band College, the College Band Directors’ National Association, the World Saxophone Congress, and the North American Saxophone Alliance, as well as being featured in radio and digital broadcasts from Pendulum New Music and WFMT. Dr. Simon won second prize in the Moscow Conservatory's 2020 New Classics Competition, and first prize in the National Association of Composers/USA (NACUSA) 37th Annual Young Composer's Competition; other awards and honors include the Brehm Prize in Choral Composition from the University of Michigan, the POLYPHONOS national commission from the Esoterics, and first prize in the TorQ Percussion Quartet’s first annual Composition Competition, with further recognition from Phantom Brass, the Pacific Chorale, and CBDNA, among others. Dr. Simon was the recipient of the 2018 Nebraska Music Teachers' Association Commission and the 2015 Young Composer-in-Residence for the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. His music is published by Hal Leonard; and recordings are available from the Blue Griffin, Equilibrium, Open G, Fifth House, SMS Classical, and Terpsichore labels, as well as in the Naxos of America catalogue.

As a jazz trumpeter, Dr. Simon studied with Bill Lucas, Ellen Rowe, and Brad Goode. He’s performed with the Marcus Lewis Big Band, the Shawn Bell Quartet, the Rhythm Society Orchestra, the Jodi-Renee Band, and many others, at venues ranging from The Jewell jazz club in Omaha to Brooklyn's Shapeshifter Lab; and played in the bands of The Temptations, Hannah Huston, and Andrew Dost of fun. As part of his ongoing efforts to bridge the classical and jazz worlds, he’s premiered and presented works for improvising musicians by a variety of composers, including Stephen Rush, Hunter Ewen, Michael Theodore, and himself. Currently, Dr. Simon plays trumpet/flugelhorn alongside his colleagues in the UNL Faculty Jazz Ensemble, and is an active freelancer in the Lincoln and Omaha jazz communities. He also stays busy as a jazz pedagogue, having worked with the Detroit Symphony Civic Jazz Orchestra and given clinics at the Westside Jazz Festival and the University of Michigan Jazz Festival. Currently, he is working on a series of compositions for mixed jazz/concert ensemble with electronics.

Prior to his appointment at UNL, Dr. Simon taught at Concordia University Ann Arbor, the Metropolitan State University of Denver, and the University of Colorado.

More information is available at [www.gregsimonmusic.com](http://www.gregsimonmusic.com).

**Dana Landry** is Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado, where he directs UNC Jazz Lab Band I and teaches jazz piano. He also serves as the Artistic Director of the UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival and Director of UNC Jazz Press. Prior to joining the faculty at UNC, Landry was the Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University.

Under Landry’s leadership, UNC Jazz Lab Band I has been recognized by DownBeat Magazine seven of the last nine years, most recently in 2013 as “Best College Big Band.” Lab I was selected to perform at the Jazz Education Network Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in January of 2013 and toured the country of Romania during the summer of 2010. They have been invited to China in May of 2014 for a two-week tour, which will take them to five different cities where they will perform at some of the country’s major music venues.

Landry has performed with Milt Jackson, Bob Brookmeyer, Bela Fleck, Dick Oatts, Ingrid Jensen, Jeff Coffin, Eddie Daniels, Don Aliquo, Rufus Reid, Clay Jenkins, Bob Mintzer, Slide Hampton, Branford Marsalis, and others. He has appeared throughout the U.S. and in Europe and Australia, and can be heard frequently in a quartet with Steve Kovalcheck, Erik Applegate, and Jim White. Dana also co-leads the Colorado Jazz Orchestra and performs frequently with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in both masterworks and pops concerts.

His first release as a leader, *Journey Home,* was nominated for a Grammy Award. The CD, which features vibist Gary Burton, received critical acclaim and reached #20 on the Jazz Week radio airplay chart. A CD tribute to Memphis musicians, titled *Memphis Skyline* and featuring bassist Erik Applegate and drummer Jim White, will be released in 2014. Landry can also be heard on a number of recordings as a sideman, the most recent being *Stand Up Eight,* which is the debut album for Steve Owen released by OA2 Records.

Landry spearheaded the implementation of the Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Arts degree programs in Jazz Studies at UNC. He also wrote the curriculum for the Bachelor of Music in Business, which will see its first graduate in the spring of 2014.

Acclaimed saxophonist **Paul Haar** has contributed his notable talent to numerous projects in both the jazz and classical genres and is recognized as being one of the most versatile saxophonists today. As an active classical musician he has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and South America performing in such noted venues as Carnegie Hall, Spivey Hall, The Shanghai Conservatory, The Theatro da Paz (Brazil) and the Tanglewood Institute. As a soloist he has commissioned and performed featured works by Jack Cooper, Jessie Krebs, Leslie Hogan, Ben Boone, Kenneth Fuchs, Randal Snyder and has been a featured artist with wind ensembles from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Tennessee, Pacific Lutheran University and The University of South Carolina. In addition to his solo performances he has performed with such ensembles as The Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship Orchestra, The Arapahoe Philharmonic, The Austin Symphony, The Asheville Symphony, Lincoln Symphony and the Omaha Symphony.

In the jazz idiom he has performed with such artists as Gary Foster, Dave Brubeck, James Moody, The Manhattan Transfer, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Phil Woods, and has backed such personalities as Lou Rawls, The Chiffons, Tony Bennett, Michael Buble, Glades Knight and the Temptations. He has recorded on the Sea Breeze label as a member of the Boulevard Big Band (with saxophonist Eric Marienthal and vocalist Kevin Mahogany), the Osland Saxophone Quartet and the Centaur Label ( the Chamber Music of Jack Cooper) In addition to his solo work, Mr. Haar is active in such groups as The Southwest Horns Jazz-Saxophone ensemble, The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra as well has his own duo and quartet. He will release his first featured recording, Central Standard Time in the Summer of 2008.

Actively involved as an educator, he has presented featured clinics and master classes The Shanghai Conservatory, The Carlos Gomes Music Conservatory (Brazil) at The 31st and 32nd Annual International Association for Jazz Education Conferences, The 59th Annual Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, Tennessee Music Educators Association, IAJE Teacher’s Training Institute, Arizona Music Educators Association, Nebraska Music Educators Association, the Tennessee Music Educator’s Association, The Jazz Education Network international conference and numerous regional and national convention of the North American Saxophone alliance He has contributed articles to such publications as the Tennessee Musician, The Instrumentalist, Jazz Times Magazine, Jazz Times Jazz Education Editions (2003, 2004, 2005) the Saxophone Journal (where he was a featured columnist for nearly ten years) and as a product reviewer for Jazz Times Magazine. In 2018 he launched THE SAXOPHONIST Magazine (www.thesaxphonist.org). This unique saxophone-centered publication is viewed in over 40 countries around the world.

A native of Fremont, Nebraska, Dr. Haar received the B.M. and M.M. from The University of Kansas, and received a D.M.A. in Saxophone Performance with an Emphasis in Jazz Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Haar is a D’Addario Performing Artist. He currently serves as the Associate Professor of Saxophone.