

NSBA

BETTER BANDS FOR NEBRASKA

Nebraska State Bandmasters Association

2024 State Jazz Festival



Elkhorn South High School
Thursday-Friday, April 11th-12th, 2024

About the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association (NSBA) was founded as an unincorporated educational organization in 1962. The organization was founded for anyone interested in the improvement of school bands. The association's origin is attributable to the enthusiasm expressed by many bandmasters in the State of Nebraska for such a state group.

The Association is organized to promote the education of youth and the improvement of school bands by providing experiences and information to aid the teachers of wind and percussion instruments. Further, the corporation is dedicated to matters that establish a professional climate in the State of Nebraska, in order to attract and retain quality teachers.

NSBA Executive Board

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| Matthew Rom, President | Lori Falcone, Concert Band Chair |
| Michael Koch, President-Elect | Marques Eckhoff, Marching Band Chair |
| Dr. Karen Fannin, Immediate Past President | Dr. Wade Howles, Jazz Band Chair |
| Amber Bock, Secretary | Ashley Leader, Membership Chair |
| Chaz Fonda, Treasurer | Zac Konrad, Junior High/Middle School Chair |
| Samantha Hahn, Awards Chair | Jason Smith, Public Relations Chair |

NSBA Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the NSBA and its members to welcome all members and students. The NSBA and its members shall not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and protected U.S. veteran status (collectively referred to as "Protected Status") in its programs, events or activities. This policy prohibits all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment based on Protected Status. Through music education, the NSBA strives to create an environment that supports and respects individuals from all cultures and backgrounds. The NSBA encourages the membership to engage in active listening and learning to create and sustain an inclusive and equitable community.

Thank you to our 2024 NSBA Corporate Sponsors!

The Nebraska State Bandmasters Association would like to recognize the following sponsors for their continued support of the goals and mission of our organization. These sponsorships help NSBA provide opportunities like this to our members and their students. Sponsors for 2024 include:

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University of Nebraska - Lincoln Glenn Korff School of
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Percussion Source

NSBA State Jazz Festival Schedule

Thursday, April 11th

| | | |
|---------|---|-------------------------------|
| 4:30 pm | Pound Jazz Ensemble | Dr. Wade Howles, Director |
| 4:55 pm | Elkhorn Ridge Stormin' Jazz | Joshua R. F. Harris, Director |
| 5:20 pm | Gretna Aspen Creek Jazz Band | Amber Malone, Director |
| 5:45 pm | La Vista Jazz Band | Hanna Fisher, Director |
| 6:10 pm | ~~Dinner Break~~ | |
| 6:45 pm | Papillion Titan Jazz Band | Zac Konrad, Director |
| 7:10 pm | Westside Hot Jazz Band | Tim Rischling, Director |
| 7:35 pm | Elkhorn Valley View Pacific Blues Jazz Band | Nate Auman, Director |
| 8:00 pm | Elkhorn Grandview State of Mind | Chris Johnson, Director |
| 9:00 pm | Middle School Awards | |

Each band will enter a clinic session with a clinician immediately following their performance. Clinics will be held in room 109 and are open to the public. To avoid interference with performance recordings in the auditorium, please do not enter or exit a performance or clinic after it has begun.

We ask for your cooperation in following concert etiquette during the performances and clinics.

Thank you.

Special Thanks to:
NSBA Executive Board
Brian Nelsen and Jake Senff, Elkhorn South Co-Directors
Elkhorn South High School Band Parents and Volunteers

NSBA State Jazz Festival Schedule

Friday, April 12th

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| 9:30 am | Nebraska City Pioneers of Jazz | Emily Roth, Director |
| 9:55 am | Lincoln Christian Varsity Jazz | Emiley Bond, Director |
| 10:20 am | Elkhorn North Alphasones | Jackson Wolenhaus, Director |
| 10:45 am | Beatrice Varsity Jazz Band | Miranda Niemeier, Director |
| 11:10 am | Blair Jazz Band | Chaz Fonda, Director |
| 11:35 pm | ~~Lunch Break~~ | |
| 11:50 pm | Class 2A Awards | |
| 12:15 pm | Elkhorn North Big Band Wolves | Matt Rom, Director |
| 12:40 pm | Westview Jazz Combo | Doug Bogatz, Director |
| 1:05 pm | Northwest Jazz Band | Shawn Pfanstiel, Director |
| 1:30 pm | Elkhorn High Jantlers | Kyle Dreessen, Director |
| 1:55 pm | Waverly Viking Varsity Jazz | Brady Rohlf, Director |
| 2:20 pm | Gretna East Griffin Jazz Ensemble | Graham Leavell, Director |
| 2:35 pm | ~~Judges Break~~ | |
| 3:00 pm | Bellevue West Thundering Birds | Jason Pentico, Director |
| 3:25 pm | Gretna Jazz II | Alex Woodside, Director |
| 3:50 pm | Elkhorn South Blue Sage | Jake Senff, Director |
| 4:15 pm | Omaha Central 20th Street Jazz Band | Jeff Mount, Director |
| 4:40 pm | Westside Stage Band | Tommy Krueger, Director |
| 5:05 pm | ~~Class 3A Awards and Dinner Break~~ | |
| 5:45 pm | Columbus Jazz Band | Jeff Peabody, Director |
| 6:10 pm | Bellevue West Jazz Collective | Jason Pentico, Directors |
| 6:35 pm | Gretna Jazz I | Noah Hickman, Director |
| 7:00 pm | Elkhorn South Parkway Jazz | Brian Nelsen, Director |
| 7:25 pm | ~~Judges Break~~ | |
| 7:40 pm | Lincoln High Big Band | Seth Burke, Director |
| 8:05 pm | Omaha Central Capitol Hill Jazz | Chiyo Trauernicht, Director |
| 8:30 pm | Westside Concert Jazz Band | Tommy Krueger, Director |
| 9:30 pm | Class 4A, 5A, 2nd Bands, Soloist Awards, Sweepstakes Winner | |

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State Jazz Festival Clinicians/Adjudicators

Clarence Smith, Metropolitan Community College, Penn Valley



Clarence Smith is a Kansas City-based professional musician and music educator. He is coordinator/instructor of music at Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley campus, with specific expertise in jazz education, percussion, and jazz history. Smith is a frequent guest director of honors jazz ensembles and is in demand as a jazz/percussion clinician and adjudicator. He is director of the annual three-day 18th and Vine Jazz Festival and is the Manager for Kansas City Jazz Academy, a year-long youth jazz program sponsored by The American Jazz Museum.

As a drummer, Smith actively participates in the Kansas City music scene, performing in various genres, including jazz, classical, musical theatre, R&B, and other pop styles. He co-leads the JLove Band, a popular R&B/Jazz ensemble. A short list of national notables he's performed with include Bobby Watson, Bob James, Ahmad Alaadeen, Bill Watrous, Will Matthews, and Mike Vax, among others.

Before his appointment at MCC, Smith taught band in the Marshall, Mo., public schools and at the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts High School in the Kansas City, Mo. School district. His Paseo jazz bands won many regional and national jazz competitions and were invited to perform at the Smithsonian Institute and the Kennedy Center. Some of Smith's former students are among the new generation of acclaimed jazz musicians.

Smith is a past "High School Jazz Educator of the Year" given by Downbeat Magazine and is the first recipient of the Kansas City-based Ahmad Alaadeen Award for Excellence in Music Education. In 2020, he was chosen as an Outstanding Alumnus from his alma mater. In 2023, Smith received the NISOD Excellence Award, recognizing college educators' outstanding commitment to their students and colleagues.

He holds a BME in music education from Central Methodist University and a master's in arts education from Lesley University, Boston. He has earned additional graduate hours as a Music Fellow at Northwestern University.

Dr. Andrew Janak - University of Northern Colorado



Dr. Andrew Janak is the Instructor of Jazz Saxophone at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and an active saxophonist/composer/arranger/educator throughout the Midwest and Mountain West.

Andrew has shared the stage/recorded with jazz greats Randy Brecker, Jeff Hamilton, Phil Woods and Jimmy Heath. Recently he has worked with some of the Midwest's finest jazz musicians/groups such as Mitch Towne, Marcus Lewis, Peter Schlamb, Drew Zaremba Jazz Fellowship, Bob Lark's Alumni Band Band and the Tom Matta Big Band. Andrew has several creative projects specializing in original music such as the Andrew Janak Organ Trio and the Andrew Janak Octet. He also has performed/recorded with national acts such as the Temptations, Aloe Blacc, Johnny Mathis, Wayne Brady, Michael Feinstein and Justin Townes Earle.

Also a prolific composer, some of Andrew's compositions have been performed/recorded by groups around the United States including the UNL Jazz Orchestra with Victor Lewis, DePaul Jazz Ensemble with Randy Brecker, Bob Lark's Alumni Big Band and the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra. He was also a finalist for the ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Awards and received a Downbeat Outstanding Performance award for outstanding graduate college arrangement.

Dr. Janak is also an active scholar with research interests in jazz composition, jazz saxophone and jazz improvisation pedagogy. He has presented at the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers (ISJAC) Symposium, Regional North American Saxophone Alliance (NASA) Conference and the Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference. Andrew graduated with a bachelors degree in music education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a masters of music in jazz composition from DePaul University, and a DMA in jazz studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His sophomore album No Second Guessing will be released in early 2024. Andrew joined the faculty of the University of Northern Colorado in Fall 2021 where he teaches applied jazz saxophone, undergraduate improvisation and undergraduate/graduate jazz theory.

Shawn Bell – Omaha Performing Arts, Freelance Trombonist



Trombonist and educator Shawn Bell's omnivorous playing and writing have been called "soulful" and "captivatingly quirky." Bell holds degrees in Jazz studies from Western Michigan University and Northern Illinois University. His 2010 debut album *Things Yet Unknown* garnered significant critical praise. *JazzTimes* stated, "To find a young trombonist like Shawn with this level of command and virtuosity is amazing." Bell's 2020 release *Trio* features a departure from traditional Jazz formats. Instead, Shawn draws on material from R&B and Rock artists alongside original material that grooves rather than swings.

As an educator, Shawn operates Bell Tone Brass Studio and is a sought-after lesson provider and Jazz clinician throughout the Midwest. Additionally, he is the teaching artist for Omaha Performing Arts's Jazz Academy. This program provides in-school clinics, hosts a middle school honors ensemble, and sponsors music educator workshops for students and teachers throughout the Omaha metro area.

Shawn is a Conn/Selmer artist and performs on Bach trombones.

Ben Gervais – MidAmerica Nazarene University, Kansas City, MO



Ben Gervais is a percussion educator, arranger, and performer dedicated to the art of enhancing the percussion and jazz experience for students and teachers of all levels and ages.

He holds a Bachelor and Masters degree in music education from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

Additionally, he has a percussion performance degree and a certificate of higher education administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. He studied with Dr. Julia Gaines, Dr. Megan Arns, John Kizilarmut, and Doug Auwarter.

Ben has been a public and private school educator as a band director, jazz specialist and a percussion specialist. He has performed with jazz icons John Clayton, Byron Stripling, Mike Mainieri, and percussionist Casey Cangelosi.

He is currently a member of Percussive Arts Society and proudly endorses Sabian cymbals.

Dr. Paul Haar - University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Acclaimed saxophonist Paul Haar has contributed his notable talent to numerous projects in both the jazz and classical genres and is recognized “one of the rare saxophonists who is equally gifted as a classical and jazz musician.” (Gary Foster).

He has performed throughout the world including the United States, Canada, Europe, South America and Asia. He has given performances at such noted venues as Carnegie Hall, Spivey Hall, The Shanghai Conservatory, The Teatro da Paz (Brazil), the Tanglewood Institute and the Sichuan Conservatory of Music. Haar has commissioned and performed works by Stacy Garrop, Jack Cooper, David von Kampen, Leslie Hogan, Ben Boone, Kenneth Fuchs, Randal Snyder and has premiered works 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 the jazz idiom he has performed with such artists as Gary Foster, Dave Brubeck, James Moody, Bobby Shew, Jerry Bergonzi, The Manhattan Transfer, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Phil Woods, and has backed such personalities as Lou Rawls, The Chiffons, Tony Bennett, Michael Bubl , Glades Knight and the Temptations, Kristin Chenoweth.

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 on the Centaur Label (the Chamber Music of Jack Cooper.) In addition to his solo work, Dr. Haar is active in such groups as The Heartland Duo, The TCB Saxophone Quartet, Group Sax, and The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra.

As an educator, he has presented featured clinics and master classes The Sichuan Conservatory of Music, The Beijing Conservatory of Contemporary Music, 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, IAJE Teacher’s Training Institute, Tennessee Music Educators Association, Arizona Music Educators Association, Nebraska Music Educators Association, The Jazz Education Network international conference, The U.S. Navy Band Saxophone Symposium, and numerous regional and national conventions of the North American Saxophone Alliance.

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. He currently serves as the Associate Professor of Saxophone at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a proud affiliate-artist for Key Leaves Products, Conn-Selmer Instruments, and Drake Mouthpieces.