

Announcing the 51st Annual EIU Jazz Festival February 12 & 13, 2010

November 9, 2009

Dear Jazz Ensemble Director:

It is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the 51st Annual Eastern Illinois University Jazz Festival to be held on the February 12 & 13, 2009. The festival will begin Friday, February 12 at 7:30 with a concert by the EIU Jazz Ensemble featuring this year's special guest artist, trumpeter Scott Wendholt. High school and junior high competition takes place during the day on Saturday, February 13.

As in past years, our festival allows for both competitive and noncompetitive groups. The format allows each group a twenty-five-minute time slot. This includes setup, and allows for up to three selections to be performed. One of the judges will then be available for a short on-stage clinic during any remaining time. The fee is \$150 per group. Competitive bands receive a division rating on the point system. The top three groups in each classification (see application) receive awards at the conclusion of the festival. Depending upon enrollment, an additional class or classes may be created for second big bands.

The high school combo classification will follow the same format as the big bands (time requirements, number of judges, etc.) however, a special combo rating sheet will be used. All combos will be grouped into one classification regardless of school size. Competing combos should have between four and nine members.

We believe strongly in the educational aspects of jazz festivals. The EIU Jazz festival offers clinics for trumpet, trombone, saxophone, and rhythm section that participants may attend. These clinics are presented by recognized professionals who also serve as festival judges. We present individual performer awards to many students each year in an effort to encourage their involvement with jazz. Several scholarships to the EIU Summer Jazz Camp will also be awarded.

Finally, enclosed you will find an application form. They will not be accepted after Friday, January 8, 2010. We hope you will join us in February.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sam Fagaly
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Director of Jazz Studies
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