



Department of Fine and Performing Arts

Department of Fine and Performing Arts
500 University Avenue West
Minot, ND 58707

September 25, 2024

Dear Jazz Educator,

The Minot State University Department of Fine and Performing Arts is pleased to invite you and your students to participate in the 5th Annual MSU Honor Jazz Ensemble (HJE) to be held in conjunction with the Magic City Jazz Festival February 13-14, 2025 on the MSU Campus. The HJE is under the direction of Dr. Charles Young, Director of Jazz Studies at MSU and during the two-day festival students will also get the chance to work directly with the Jazz Festival guest artist-clinicians, two excellent educators, composers, arrangers, and performers: bassist **Kris Berg** and saxophonist **Peter Mathistad**.

The Honor Jazz Ensemble will co-headline a Friday evening concert with the Swing Band of Minot. Additionally, all participants of the HJE and the festival band attendees will be invited to join in a post-festival jam session led by our guest artist-clinicians. The jam session will be held directly following the concert with more details about the venue forthcoming.

Honor Jazz Ensemble application forms will be submitted **exclusively** online via the link found on the HJE website listed below. The application deadline is **Thursday, October 31, 2024**. Recorded auditions will be submitted only by audio files uploaded with the application form. The cost per student audition is \$5.00.

We are striving to improve the entire process of the Honor Jazz Ensemble, from the audition process to the final concert. To encourage as many interested students as possible to audition, the audition repertoire has been simplified. For saxophones, trombones, and trumpets the audition requirements will exactly align with the concert band audition requirements for Northwest Festival. In fact, if students have already submitted audition materials for Northwest, they will be able to have those materials considered for the HJE with no need to submit additional recordings. They will simply make a note on their HJE application.

Rhythm section players, or those auditioning on a second instrument will still need to submit recordings, though requirements have similarly been simplified compared to past years. Specific information about audition requirements is available on the website listed below.

Audition results will be posted on the website by noon on Friday, November 8, 2024. If selected to the ensemble, the participation cost is \$25.00 per student. Student audition and participation fees should be submitted by check payable to Minot State University, memo line: Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Honor Jazz Ensemble music will be mailed to directors as soon as the participants have been selected. To ensure the highest quality experience, students will be expected to arrive at the festival well-prepared on all chosen repertoire.

Applications, audition requirements, more information about our guest artist-clinicians, and updates about audition results and more can all be found at the Honor Jazz Ensemble website:

<https://www.minotstateu.edu/music/pages/magic-city-jazz-festival.shtml>

We are extremely excited about this year's event and look forward to you and your students' participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Young', with a stylized, flowing script.

Charles Young
Director of Jazz Studies
Minot State University
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