



Department of Fine and Performing Arts

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

November 17, 2025

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 6th Annual MSU Honor Jazz Ensemble (HJE) to be held in conjunction with the Magic City Jazz Festival February 12-13, 2026 on the MSU Campus. The HJE is under the direction of Dr. Charles Young, Director of Jazz Studies at MSU. During the two-day festival students will also get the chance to learn from and share the stage with the Jazz Festival guest artist-clinicians, members of **Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band**. 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, details TBD.

Honor Jazz Ensemble application forms will be submitted **exclusively** online via the link found on the HJE website listed below. The application deadline is **Friday, December 12, 2025**. Recorded auditions will be submitted only by audio files uploaded with the application form. The cost per student audition is \$5.00.

For **saxophones, trombones, and trumpets** the audition requirements are the same as concert band audition requirements for Northwest Festival. 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. Specific information about audition requirements is available on the website listed below.

Audition results will be posted on the website by Wednesday, December 17, 2025. 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 emailed to directors as soon as the participants have been selected. Students will be expected to arrive at the festival well-prepared on all selections.

Applications, audition requirements, more information about our guest artist-clinicians, and updates about audition results and more can all be found on 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 flourish at the end.

Charles Young
Director of Jazz Studies
Minot State University
charles.young.1@minotstateu.edu