August 13, 2014

Dear PLU Jazz Students:

Welcome to all new and returning students of Pacific Lutheran University for the 2014-2015 academic year. I would like to encourage anyone interested in jazz performance to participate in the offerings we have here.

Ensemble placement audition web page links: school start up information, audition schedule, and audition preference form.

We look forward to another great year. We will have our customary four on-campus concerts in the newly remodeled Karen Hille Phillips Performing Arts Center, formerly Eastvold Auditorium. We will perform the annual KPLU Christmas Jam show in December, a live radio and webcast performance going out to a half million listeners worldwide. Our guest artist will be Gail Pettis, a Seattle vocalist who has won international acclaim.

In the spring semester, we will participate in the second Seattle Jazz Experience at the Seattle Center, a new high school and college “festival.” It is contingent upon a recorded audition that we will submit in the fall. If it turns out that we are not accepted, we will replace that event with a regional concert tour. The SOAC dean and the vice-president of marketing are working on a PLU Jazz Night at Jazz Alley in Seattle sometime in the spring, showcasing the jazz band and the Jazz Sound Trio (PLU jazz faculty).

Jazz Combo Information

Whether you are in the big band ensemble or not, no matter what your instrument is, and no matter what your jazz experience is, there’s a place for you in one of our jazz combos! We will have an initial meeting at 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, in MBR 322 to determine numbers of students, instrumentation, and to set up combo personnel. We will have our final performance “exam” at The Cave in the University Center on Tuesday evening, December 2, 2013, and May 5, 2013.

Private Studio Jazz Lessons for Rhythm Instruments

Private studio jazz lessons are available for guitar (Steve Howland), piano (David Deacon-Joyner), bass (Clipper Anderson), and drums (Mark Ivester). There is a two-semester prerequisite of “classical” lessons for music majors with a concentration on these instruments. If you are not a music major, or if this is your secondary instrument, the prerequisite is not applicable. You must attend the music student orientation on
Thursday evening, 9/11, 7:00 in Lagerquist to arrange your lesson time with your instructor.

University Jazz Ensemble Audition Information

Auditions for the University Jazz Ensemble will be in Room 322 in the Mary Baker Russell Music Center as follows:

- Trumpets: Sunday, September 7, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- Trombones: Sunday, September 7, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- Saxophones: Sunday, September 7, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
  (Winds auditions are combined for jazz, wind ensemble, and orchestra)
- Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums: Monday, September 8, 2:00-3:15 p.m.
  (Rhythm section auditions are with the entire jazz band)

SPECIAL NOTE TO DRUMMERS ON MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP: You are REQUIRED to come to a general percussion audition on Friday, September 5, starting at 6:00 p.m. before you can audition for the jazz ensemble. This is highly recommended for non-scholarship drummers as well. You must do this even if you only intend to play in jazz band or combo.

Sign-up sheets will be available on a table outside Room 322 at your audition time. **There are no prepared materials for the jazz auditions.** Students will sight read a brief jazz excerpt and will be invited to demonstrate improvisation skills on a medium-tempo, twelve-bar blues in the key of F concert accompanied by me on piano.

NOTE: Your participation in jazz auditions indicates your 1-year commitment to play in the jazz ensemble and/or combos and your willingness to accept the assignment given you as a result of the auditions. There is a fee for the spring tour; check with the music office.
Schedule of Jazz Events for 2014-2015 Academic Year

The following is the schedule of concerts and other events for the University Jazz Ensemble and combos. Be certain that you can commit to these dates before you join any of the ensembles.

Class times:  UJE: MWF 1:55-3:15, Room 322, MBR
              1st Rehearsal, Monday, 9/8
              Combo: Tuesday, 1:45-3:15, MBR 322, First Meeting, Tuesday, 9/9

**Friday, October 3**: University Jazz Ensemble, KHP PAC, 8:00 p.m.
**Wednesday, November 19**: University Jazz Ensemble, KHP PAC, 8:00 p.m.
**Tuesday, December 2**: PLU Combos "Final Exam" concert, The Cave, University Center, 5:30 p.m.
**Thursday, December 11**: University Jazz Ensemble, KPLU annual Holiday Jazz Jam broadcast, guest artist Gail Pettis, Lagerquist Hall, Lagerquist Concert Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center, 10:00 a.m. rehearsal and sound check, Noon to 1:00 p.m. performance. (YOU WILL NEED TO GET OUT OF CLASSES DURING THIS TIME).
**March 12-15**: Spring Tour, (hopefully) including the Seattle Jazz Experience
**Wednesday, March 18**: University Jazz Ensemble, KHP PAC, 8:00 p.m.
**Wednesday, April 22**: University Jazz Ensemble, KHP PAC, 8:00 p.m.
**Tuesday, May 5**: PLU Combos "Final Exam" concert, The Cave, University Center, 5:30 p.m.
**TBA**: PLU Night at Jazz Alley
**Friday, May 22**: University Jazz Ensemble, Commencement Concert, with performances by other PLU music ensembles in Lagerquist Hall, Mary Baker Russell Music Center, 8:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you!

*David Deacon-Joyner*

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