Dear PLU Jazz Students:

Welcome to all new and returning students of Pacific Lutheran University for the 2016-2017 academic year. I would like to encourage anyone interested in jazz performance to participate in the offerings we have here.

We look forward to another great year. The big news for the year is our tour of Spain and Portugal (along with the Wind Ensemble and University Orchestra) from May 29-June 12, 2017. Details of your involvement with the tour are in the audition information below. Before the tour, however, we have other significant performances as well. We will have our customary four on-campus concerts. In March, we will perform selections from the Duke Ellington Sacred Concerts with the University Chorale. In April, we will share a concert with Rogers High School’s jazz band. We will perform the annual KNKX (formerly KPLU) Christmas Jam show in December, a live radio and webcast performance going out to a half million listeners worldwide. With the reformation of the radio station, details (date, time, location, guest artist) are still in the works. It will probably be in downtown Tacoma on a weeknight in early December and shared with the University of Puget Sound jazz ensemble.

Jazz Combo Information

Jazz combo class will be different from past years in that it will require an audition. Since we are going back to one big band rather than two smaller bands this year, there will be a number of high-end, serious jazz players that will want an ensemble to play in. The new audition process will be used to screen who those serious players are and guarantee them a rich musical experience with like-minded musicians. Whether you are in the big band ensemble or not, no matter what your instrument 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 4, in MBR 322 to determine numbers of students, instrumentation, and to set up combo auditions. We will have our final performance “exam” at The Cave in the University Center on Tuesday evening, November 29, 2016, and May 2, 2017.

Private Studio Jazz Lessons for Rhythm Instruments

Private studio jazz lessons are available for guitar (Steve Howland), piano or jazz composition/arranging (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, 9/8, 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 4, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- **Trombones**: Sunday, September 4, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
- **Saxophones**: Sunday, September 4, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
  (Winds auditions are combined for jazz, wind ensemble, and orchestra)
- **Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums**: Wednesday, September 7, 2:00-3:15 p.m.
  (Rhythm section auditions are with the entire jazz band)

**SPECIAL NOTE TO DRUMMERS ON MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP**: You are now REQUIRED to come to a general percussion audition on **Friday, September 2, 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. Those who make it into the jazz ensemble will be expected to go along on our tour to Spain and Portugal in May. Any exceptions will be decided after the auditions and will be case-by-case. There is a tour fee; check with the music office.
Schedule of Jazz Events for 2016-2017 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, Wednesday, 9/7
Combo: Tuesday, 1:45-3:15, MBR 322, First Meeting, Tuesday, 9/6

September 21: The Jazz Sound Trio (PLU jazz faculty), Lagerquist Concert Hall, 8:00 p.m.
October 7: University Jazz Ensemble, Karen Hille Phillips Performing Arts Center (KHP), 8:00 p.m.
November 9: University Jazz Ensemble, KHP, 8:00 p.m.
November 29: PLU Combos "Final Exam" concert, The Cave, University Center, 5:30 p.m.
Early December: University Jazz Ensemble, KNKX annual Christmas Jam broadcast, weekday evening, details forthcoming.
March 15: University Jazz Ensemble, with University Chorale, KHP, 8:00 p.m.
April 19: University Jazz Ensemble, with guest Rogers High School jazz band, KHP, 8:00 p.m.
May 29-June 12: University Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and University Symphony Orchestra, International Tour to Spain and Portugal.

Looking forward to seeing you!

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