



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

October 5, 2016

Dear Music Educator,

On behalf of The Sam Houston State University School of Music, I invite you to participate in the 7th Annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival. The dates for this year's festival have been set for March 31 & April 1, 2017. I am pleased to announce that joining Bill Watrous as our featured guest artist for this year's Jazz Festival is Michael Dease, and internationally acclaimed jazz trombonist/educator/clinician. It goes without saying that Mr. Dease is one of the rising stars on the scene today. In addition, Mr. Dease is an Assistant Professor of Jazz Trombone at Michigan State University. We are very fortunate and honored to have him with us as our featured guest with Bill Watrous.

We're now into our 7th year presenting a two-day festival format with adjudicated performances of participating groups, master classes by our guest artists, and our evening performances/awards ceremony featuring the SHSU Jazz Ensemble, Bill Watrous, Michael Dease, and other guests. The invited adjudicators/clinicians for this year will be Kris Berg – internationally acclaimed jazz arranger/composer for Belwin Jazz/Alfred Publishing; David Caffey – internationally recognized jazz educator/composer and former Director of Music at UNC's School of Music; David Craig – in demand as one of Houston's top jazz bassist; Andre Hayward – current member of the Clayton/Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and considered one of the finest jazz trombonists of his generation; Will Kennedy – internationally acclaimed drummer and long-time member of the Yellow Jackets; and Bob "Doc" Morgan – retired Director of Jazz studies at HSPVA and internationally recognized jazz educator/conductor/composer/clinician. I sincerely believe we are truly fortunate to have such accomplished musicians appearing at this year's Jazz Festival.

As in the past, the SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival is both an educational and competitive event. Bands perform for ratings/awards, for constructive comments from nationally known jazz educators, and for the educational benefits that result from hearing other groups perform. Since listening is such a vital part of music education, it is requested that students listen to the performances of at least two other bands. This will provide an audience for each band and an opportunity for members to hear live performances.

Enclosed is a registration form, which must be accompanied by a check or online payment by February 1, 2017 to reserve your band a spot at this year's Festival. Participation in the Jazz Festival is limited and availability will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you for your past support of this festival and I look forward to seeing you and your students at this year's 7th Annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival.

Sincerely,
Dr. Aric Schneller
Director of Jazz Studies
Email: schneller@shsu.edu

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution