



# Sam Houston State University

*A Member of The Texas State University System*

## SCHOOL OF MUSIC

October 1, 2017

Dear Music Educator,

On behalf of The Sam Houston State University School of Music, I invite you to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival. The dates for this year's festival have been set for April 6 & 7, 2018. I am pleased to announce that joining Bill Watrous as our featured guest artist for this year's Jazz Festival is the legendary trumpeter and educator, Marvin Stamm. It goes without saying that Mr. Stamm is one of the greatest jazz trumpeters to have played the instrument with a rich legacy of historic performances and recordings. We are very fortunate and honored to have him with us as our featured guest with Bill Watrous.

We're now into our 8<sup>th</sup> 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, Marvin Stamm, and other guests. The invited adjudicators/clinicians for this year will be Anthony Caceres – one of the top-call jazz bassists in the Houston region, and former member with the Glenn Miller Orchestra; Rich DeRosa – internationally acclaimed jazz composer and arranger, and Professor of Jazz Arranging at the University of North Texas; Joseph Eckert – Director of Jazz Studies at Texas Christian University and former lead alto saxophonist with the Airmen of Note; Luis Marin – internationally acclaimed jazz pianist, and Director of Jazz Studies at the Conservatorio de Musica de Puerto Rico; and Woody Witt – Houston-based acclaimed saxophonist, educator and recording artist, booking agent for Cezanne's Premier Jazz Club in Houston, and Affiliate Artist in Jazz Saxophone at the University of Houston. 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 January 17, 2018 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 8<sup>th</sup> annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Aric Schneller  
Director of Jazz Studies  
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