



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Dear Music Educator,

On behalf of The Sam Houston State University School of Music, I invite you to participate in the 9th Annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/events-and-special-events/jazz-festival/index.html>). The dates for this year's festival have been set for March 29 & 30, 2019.

As you may be aware, Mr. Bill Watrous, the gentleman and jazz legend for whom our festival has been named for the last 8-years, passed away unexpectedly on July 2, 2018 shortly after his 79th birthday. As you can imagine, the jazz world has been mourning his loss. To honor Bill Watrous' legacy for this year's 2019 SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival, we are honored to host the following renowned jazz trombonists who are graciously giving of their time and money: Vincent Gardner (Lead Trombonist of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis), Andre Hayward (Austin based jazz trombonist and educator), Jeff Martin (long-time 2nd Trombonist with the U.S. Airforce, Airmen of Note), and Sean Nelson (U.S. Coast Guard Band and Dixie Jazz Band, as well as an SHSU Alumist). From a personal standpoint, I am thrilled and grateful to have such world-class, amazing people share their expertise and generosity in this important endeavor.

In addition, the following distinguished artists and educators will serve as adjudicators and clinicians: Daniel DuFour (Acclaimed Austin-based drum set player and SHSU Alumni), Joe Eckert (Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies, Texas Christian University), Paul English (long-time Houston-based jazz pianist and educator), and Lynn Seaton (Professor of Jazz Bass, University of North Texas). We are thrilled to be entering our 9th year presenting a two-day festival format which includes adjudicated performances of participating groups, master classes by our guest artists, and our evening performances/awards ceremony featuring our special guests with the SHSU Jazz Ensemble. This year we are happy to announce the debut of additional hourly clinics featuring local and Houston-based professional musicians and educators. 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 (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/music/events-and-special-events/jazz-festival/index.html>), which must be accompanied by a check or online payment by February 1, 2019 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

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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 9th annual SHSU Bill Watrous Jazz Festival.

Sincerely,
Dr. Aric Schneller
Director of Jazz Studies
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