



Open Letter to School Administrators and Parent Booster Organizations

This document has been prepared to inform school administrators and booster organizations of the benefits associated with ensembles participating in the Disney Jazz Celebration.

Disney Jazz Celebration is a positive and educationally meaningful festival experience for talented middle, junior high and high school vocal jazz and instrumental jazz ensembles. Directors can choose competitive and non-competitive adjudication options. Students are encouraged to meet other students and attend performances of other ensembles.

Performance venues have been carefully selected to provide an excellent experience for all participants. Experienced Disney Cast Members assist with all festival operations.

Specially selected national adjudicators will provide meaningful and positive feedback to all ensembles through written and recorded comments, as well as personalized clinics following each performance. The celebration will also include renowned jazz artists, and master classes. The festival will focus on jazz education, artist interaction and will feature exciting evening performances.

Due to the festival's focus towards music education, **MENC: The National Association for Music Education** officially endorses the *Disney Jazz Celebration*.

To celebrate the accomplishments of all of the performers, the *Disney Jazz Celebration* concludes with an exciting, and uniquely-Disney, awards ceremony at the *Disneyland*[®] Resort.

For additional information you may contact us at 866-304-8956, visit our website at www.DisneyJazzCelebration.com or email us at WDWDisneyJazzCelebration@Disney.com

We look forward to the opportunity of hosting your school's ensemble at the *Disney Jazz Celebration!*



Testimonials from Past Clinicians, Adjudicators and Performers

"The environment that Disney Youth Programs sponsored for learning, creating and exploring the many possibilities that this music has to offer was extraordinary. All of the adjudicators, clinicians and performers gave their all to those well deserving students and their teachers. I believe they really made a difference. The students and their teachers will remember each of the presenters as great artists who were willing to share talent, expertise and passion with them forever. I would like to congratulate all who were involved in this fabulous event for helping us move the jazz education agenda forward for all participants."

Dr. Willie L. Hill Jr., Director of Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts/Amherst

"The event was a tremendous success in every way. I'm sure it will become a lifelong memory for the students and directors who participated. Produced beautifully in true Disney style!"

**Joel Leach, Head of Music Industry Studies, Mike Curb Col. of Art, Media & Communication,
Cal. State Univ., Northridge**

"The entire event was first class."

Dr. Stephen Zegree, Bobby McFerrin Professor of Jazz, Western Michigan University

"I was honored to be a part of it, and to make new and renew old acquaintances. Very positive and supportive vibe on all fronts. It was great to see those kids so pumped up. "

**Dr. Ramon Ricker, Senior Associate Dean for Professional Studies,
Professor of Saxophone and Director of the Institute for Music Leadership,
Eastman School of Music**

"I'm sure you'll get nothing but rave reviews from the directors and students, and of course the word about the event will spread like wildfire. I was honored to be on such an esteemed, musical and fun team."

Michele Weir, Vocal Jazz Clinician, Member of the faculty of UCLA

"What a great thing this was for those students! Everybody that worked with them did so not only from great experience and ability but also from the heart. It was a joy to see and be part of."

**Larry Lapin, Professor of Jazz Studies and
Director of Studio Music and Jazz Vocal Program, University of Miami**



Testimonials from Past Clinicians, Adjudicators and Performers

"As I continue to reflect on our event, the memory and magnitude grows and grows! I feel extremely honored to have been chosen to be part of it all. It was very evident throughout the weekend that music binds us all in a very special and spiritual manner. Having the opportunity to be witness to this magic is something which keeps us all going."

**Jiggs Whigham, Conductor of the BBC Big Band in Great Britain,
Artistic Director of the Berlin Jazz Orchestra**

"It was a blessing to be involved in such a positive event. I am certain that the goals were accomplished and that the students left with a positive outlook on their next steps."

Kenneth Whalum III, Professional Saxophonist

"What a great weekend it was! Your hospitality, organization, world-class delivery and passion for music education really made it an event to remember. We were all raving at how well-planned and executed the weekend was. It's also great to see such wonderful response from the students in the celebration's first year."

Nathan Warner, Professional Jazz Trumpet Player

"The 2009 Disney Jazz Celebration had the perfect vibe for sharing, learning and performing. The teaching model Disney has is wonderful. It provides each student a great balance of hands on playing experience mixed with real world instruction."

Steve Fidyk, Conn-Selmer Artist, Temple University Jazz Faculty

"It was a wonderful inaugural event, and I was truly honored to be part of the debut. Thank you so much for your efforts to really put the students first and provide a great educational event for them. I'm sure there will be many lifelong memories for all of them."

Jennifer Barnes, Studio Vocalist and Clinician

"I had a fantastic time. The whole thing was indeed a success. I was especially pleased to get to know you kindred-spirits-of-jazz, and hope there will be many more such opportunities for our paths to cross. It was an honor to be a part of an event that will undoubtedly inspire some young folks to carry the jazz tradition on, very much in the way I was inspired by jazz events & veterans when I was in school."

Laura "Lolly" Allen, Professional Vibraphonist