

jazz



The Rich Tradition of Jazz at UNI

Jazz has been an integral part of the UNI School of Music since the 1950s. The original band, initially formed and run by student musicians, eventually evolved into the UNI Jazz Studies Program. This nationally-recognized program has grown to include several large and small jazz ensembles as well as a full curriculum of jazz studies courses. Comparing the UNI Jazz Studies program with other programs across the nation, Arts Midwest saluted the UNI program as “one of the best.”

UNI Jazz Bands and Combos

Jazz ensembles at UNI include three large jazz bands and many jazz combos. Admission to these ensembles, open to both majors and non-majors, is on an audition basis. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, UNI Jazz Band One, the School of Music’s top jazz performing group, is one of the premier collegiate jazz ensembles in the Midwest. Jazz Band One has appeared at festivals throughout the US and in Europe, and recently launched international tours to Cuba, Thailand and South Africa. The band has also been the recipient of three Outstanding Performance

Awards in the collegiate big band category of DownBeat magazine’s Annual Student Music Awards.

Jazz Bands at UNI perform repertoire across all eras and styles, from classic repertoire from the libraries of Ellington and Basie to original compositions and arrangements by students and faculty, consistently displaying depth and diversity of style. Several original compositions and arrangements have been commissioned by the band from composers such as Manry Albam, Jane Ira Bloom, Ed Sarath, Joey Sellers, Paul McKee and Rob Hudson.



Division of Jazz Studies Curriculum and Degree Programs

Undergraduate UNI jazz students have the opportunity to take courses in instrumental jazz improvisation (two levels), jazz methods, jazz history, jazz arranging (two levels) and jazz composition. Undergraduate degree programs in jazz include the Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies or Music Education (Jazz Specialization) and the Jazz Studies Minor, which is also open to non-music majors. The focus of the Master of Music degree program, in addition to cultivating a broadly-educated musician, is the development of a pedagogue who is capable

of teaching effectively all fundamental aspects of jazz performance applied to both the ensemble and individual, as well as composition and arranging for student jazz ensembles.

Recording Opportunities and Guest Artists

UNI's Jazz Band One has recorded albums annually for many years, two of which have received five-star reviews in DownBeat. Prominent guest artists who have appeared with Jazz Band One include: Mike Stern, Anat Cohen, Melissa Aldana, Carl Allen, Myra Melford, Dave Douglas, Dave Rivello, Donny McCaslin, Maria Schneider,

John Clayton, Peter Apfelbaum, Kenny Wheeler, Peter Erskine, Benny Golson, Ray Anderson, Matt Wilson, Bobby Shew, John Beasley, Jane Ira Bloom, Jerry Gergonzi, Dick Oatts, Terrell Stafford, Jimmy Heath, Dave Liebman, James Williams and Conrad Herwig, among many others.

Learn about our faculty at music.uni.edu/directory

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