Jazz Band One
South Africa
Concert Tour

May 14-25, 2023
CHRISTOPHER MERZ, DIRECTOR
with Mike Conrad, melodica
Performance Dates & Details

16 May
Tshwane University, Pretoria

17 May
UNISA, Pretoria

18 May
University of Pretoria

19 May
Howard College Theater, University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban (evening concert)

20 May
Denis Hurley Center, Durban

21 May
Location to be determined

22 May
Howard College Theater, University of KwaZulu Natal, Durban (evening concert)
Saxophones

Tyler Utter (as1), West Des Moines, Iowa
Simon White (as2), Nashua, New Hampshire
Johnny Hartleip (ts1), Cedar Falls, Iowa
Logan Neifert (ts2), Norwalk, Iowa
Luke McIlhon (bars), Clive, Iowa

Saxophone Section (l to r):
Simon White, Johnny Hartleip, Tyler Utter,
Logan Neifert, Luke McIlhon
Trumpe$t$  

James Mons (split lead), Iowa City, Iowa  
Trey Blaser (split lead), Forest City, Iowa  
Riley Jermier, Norwalk, Iowa  
Megan Bennett, Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Levi Dugger, Pella, Iowa  

Trumpet Section (l to r):  
Megan Bennett, Trey Blaser, Riley Jermier,  
James Mons, Levi Dugger
Trombones

Levi Temple (lead), Monticello, Iowa
Maggie Cremers, Iowa City, Iowa
Owen Weimer, Bettendorf, Iowa
Jacob Chaplin (bass), Des Moines, Iowa

Trombone Section (l to r):
Maggie Cremers, Levi Temple,
Owen Weimer, Jacob Chaplin
Rhythm

Jacob Giddens (guitar), Williamsport, Pennsylvania
Alayna Ringsby (piano), Story City, Iowa
Miles Rochford (bass), Slater, Iowa
Jackson Schou (drums), Bettendorf, Iowa

Rhythm Section (l to r):
Alayna Ringsby, Jackson Schou,
Miles Rochford, Jacob Giddens
Program

To be Selected From:

Bailout .................................................. Chris Walden
Con Alma ............................................. Dizzy Gillespie
                      arr. Michael Philip Mossman
Doodle Oodle ...................................... Billy Byers
Eye of the Hurricane ................................ Herbie Hancock
                      arr. Bob Mintzer
Hammer Head ....................................... Wayne Shorter
                      arr. Mike Conrad+
I Left My Heart in San Francisco ............ George Cory and Douglas Cross
                      arr. Quincy Jones
Ima ................................................... Anat Cohen
                      arr. Alex Annan
Logging Out ....................................... Paul Lichty (UNI 2006)
Mini Fridge .......................................... Levi Dugger *
Mocha Spice ........................................ Emily Remler
                      arr. John Wilson
A New Day’s Calling ................................ Simon White*
Ntyilo Ntyilo ....................................... Allan Salinga
                      arr. Mike Dessen
Out of the Swamp .................................. Mike Conrad+
Portrait of Louis Armstrong ...................... Duke Ellington
The Road Forward ................................... Simon White*
See You Around .................................... Levi Temple*
A Shade of Jade ..................................... Joe Henderson
                      arr. Alan Baylock
Shafi .................................................. Mary Lou Williams
The Source .......................................... Chris Potter
                      arr. Johnny Hartleip*
Speak No Evil ........................................ Wayne Shorter
                      arr. Christopher Merz+
Time After Time .................................... Sammy Kahn
                      arr. Levi Dugger*
Tip Toe .............................................. Thad Jones
The Unlikely Event ................................. Christopher Merz+
Unlimited Redemption ............................ Christopher Merz+
                      arr. Levi Temple*
Waltz You Swang for Me ........................... Thad Jones

* Denotes member of Jazz Band One
+ Denotes UNI Jazz faculty
Christopher Merz, Professor of Music, has served as Director of Jazz Studies and Director of the award-winning UNI Jazz Band One at the University of Northern Iowa since 2002. Under his direction, the band has traveled to Thailand as well as the east coast of the US, and has recorded 13 CDs featuring many original compositions and arrangements by student and faculty writers.

The 2006 recipient of the CHFA University Book and Supply Outstanding Teaching award, Merz was the 2016 recipient of the John L. Baker Faculty Development award, and was inducted into the Iowa Jazz Educators’ Hall of Fame in 2015. He is a Past President of Jazz Educators of Iowa (JEI), and the founder and director of the UNI Combo Camp, an annual event for high school jazz students and music educators, which takes place each June.

His recording credits include Steve McCraven, Darius Brubeck, John Rapson and Jon Snell, as well as his own projects; Counterculture, the Chris Merz/Bob Washut Duo, The X-tet, and Equilateral. His 1997 release with the X-tet, Mystery is My Story, prompted Dave Brubeck to write, “I am very pleased with this wonderful band. Naturally I would admire a group like yours that, to me, is a grand extension of what we were doing...when we were the ‘new thing’”.

Current projects include Colossus Central (an exciting new big band led by UNI alum Michael Conrad) and the quartet, Christopher’s Very Happy. Band., which performs Merz’s originals exclusively. CVH.B.’s debut cd, We Are Bathed in Sunlight, was recently released on RealTown! Records. An accomplished composer/arranger for large jazz ensembles, Merz has received commissions from university and high school big bands throughout the country, and is published through UNC Jazz Press and ejazzlines. He is also a highly sought after guest soloist, clinician and conductor at university and high school jazz festivals nationwide, and is endorsed by D’Addario and TM Custom tenor saxophones.
About the Faculty Artists

Mike Conrad is a composer, improviser, and teacher from Iowa. He has been recognized for his arranging and composing with four ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Awards and seven DownBeat Awards, as well as awards and commissions from the Contemporary Music Academy in Beijing, the Bundesjazzorchester of Germany, the West Point Army Jazz Knights, and many other organizations. Conrad’s music has been performed all over the world, including a 2017 concert by the Metropole Orkest in the Netherlands, a 2014 Carnegie Hall octet premiere, and a string quartet performance at the US Presidential Inauguration in 2013. Some recent career highlights include winning the SONIC Award from the International Society of Arrangers and Composers for his piece “Flyover,” collaborating on an hour-long recomposition of Beethoven’s 3rd Symphony with the incredibly creative Stegreif Orchester of Berlin, and releasing recordings with both the Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra and the Mike Conrad Trio.

Equally accomplished on both trombone and piano, Conrad truly loves collaborating with other musicians, and always brings his creativity and expressiveness to everything he does. In addition to his own projects as a leader, Conrad regularly performs regionally with several groups such as Chris Merz’s Quartet, the Bob Washut ‘Emeritett,’ and the Max Wellman Big Band, and has also collaborated with musicians like Louis Hayes, Alexa Tarantino, and Alex Sipiagin. Conrad is in high demand as a clinician and guest director for jazz bands, with recent experiences including a residency at the University of New Hampshire, and directing the 2023 4A Iowa All-State Jazz Band in 2023.

Dr. Conrad earned degrees from the University Northern Iowa (BM and BME), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and the University of Northern Colorado (DA). He is currently serving as Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies & Music Education at the University of Northern Iowa, where he directs Jazz Band Two and teaches courses/lessons in Jazz Improvisation, Jazz Pedagogy, Jazz Methods, Jazz Theory, Jazz Piano, Jazz Composition, and Jazz Arranging.
The University of Northern Iowa Jazz Band One has a long tradition of award-winning recordings with the "Local Color" CD being the 25th release in as many years. Jazz Band One was the winner of 1999 Down Beat Magazine Student Music Performance Award and also recognized in the International Association for Jazz Education Journal with Dr. Herb Wong's International Association for Jazz Education Blue Chip Jazz Award. In January 2000, Down Beat Magazine featured an article titled, "The Best Jazz CDs of the 90's." In the article, all CDs that received 5- and 4 1/2-star reviews in the 1990s were listed; UNI Jazz Band One was the only university big band to receive two 5-star reviews that year. The group has toured Europe and Asia several times playing at the North Sea Jazz Festival and Montreux Jazz Festival's.

Jazz has been an integral part of the University of Northern Iowa School of Music for almost 75 years. The original band, formed and run by student musicians in the early 1950's, eventually evolved into the 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."