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June 1, 2024

Welcome to the Twenty-second UNI Jazz Combo Camp!

We have over 50 participants this year. We are looking forward to what should be a great week of learning and improvising together. Jazz has been a part of the UNI campus for over 70 years, and we are very happy you chose to be a part of it. We hope you have a great time and learn a lot.

This is a very intensive week of study of jazz music. You will be in classes, rehearsals, concerts and jam sessions 10 hours a day for the next four days, with some time off for eating and sleeping. We ask a lot of you during that time, and hope that you take full advantage of the fine faculty we have assembled.

This year's faculty includes Dr. Anthony Williams (trombone), Luke Sanders (guitar), Dr. Michael Conrad (piano), Dave Rezek (trumpet), Dave Altemeier (bass), Josh Hakanson (drums) and myself (saxophone). I am sure you will find that they are all world-class both as players and as educators. Your counselors are all music students as well, so feel free to ask them questions.

A few words about the jam sessions—historically, jam sessions served as a kind of “laboratory” where players would meet in an informal atmosphere to try out new ideas as well as to measure their level of skill against those around them. Some incredible learning has come out of these informal musical exchanges, as players get to hear each other stretch out. We encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from players close to your own age. Remember that we were all beginners once, and we all continue to be students of the music!



Chris Merz, Director  
UNI Combo Camp