

jazz



The Rich Tradition of Jazz at UNI

Jazz has been an integral part of the UNI School of Music for more than 60 years. The original band, formed and run by student musicians in the early 1950s, 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 small 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 and Thailand. The band has also been the recipient of three Outstanding Performance Awards (1999,

1995 and 1993) in the collegiate big band category of DownBeat magazine’s Annual Student Music Awards.

Jazz bands at UNI have been pioneers in innovative programming, maintaining a balance of classic Basie and Ellington works and contemporary original compositions, and 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.

School of Music
University of Northern Iowa



Division of Jazz Studies Curriculum and Degree Programs

Undergraduate UNI jazz students have the opportunity to take courses in instrumental jazz improvisation (three levels), jazz ensemble techniques, jazz history, jazz arranging (two levels) and jazz composition. Undergraduate Degree Programs in Jazz include the Bachelor of Arts in Music: Jazz Studies, Bachelor of 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: John Clayton, Donny McCaslin, Peter Apfelbaum, Kenny Wheeler, Rich Perry,

Maria Schneider, Benny Golson, Tim Hagans, Ryan Kisor, Bob Berg, Jimmy Heath, Dick Oatts, Terell Stafford, Bobby Shew, Matt Wilson, Donald Harrison, Steve Turre, Jerry Bergonzi, Jane Ira Bloom, Carl Fontana, James Williams, Conrad Herwig, Jiggs Whigham, David Liebman, Sunny Wilkinson, Hal Galper, Ray Anderson and Peter Erskine, among many others.

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

music.uni.edu
319-273-2024

University of Northern Iowa