

# Missouri Association for Jazz Education *Fall Newsletter - 2008*

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Dear Jazz Educators,

**Missouri Association for Jazz Education** is the new name for our state jazz organization. Our new website address, [www.moaje.org](http://www.moaje.org), reflects our new name change. Our state organization has not changed in that we are still here to support jazz education in the state of Missouri and sponsor the All State Jazz Band at our state Missouri Music Educators Association conference each January.

Many of you have heard by now the news about the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) declaring bankruptcy in April of 2008. It stunned us all; however, it will not affect our state organization. We will now be able to lower our membership dues to only \$20 per year and we will keep all the money for our state organization instead of sending a large portion to the international unit. The good news is there is now a new national organization, The Jazz Education Network (JEN), put together by a group of well-known jazz educators who have education as their main focus. This organization will not have the same structure as the old one--it is not the plan to have state chapters. Mary Jo Papich, a Missouri native, is the president of this newly formed organization. You can check it out at [www.jazzednet.org](http://www.jazzednet.org).

Thank you all for the support you have shown to the state organization. If you have any questions regarding our organization, want to contribute ideas, suggestions, and articles for the upcoming newsletters, please feel free to contact me or any executive board member.

Sincerely,

*Lori*

Lori Hutton  
MAJE Secretary

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## **2008 All State Jazz Band Auditions**

Auditions will be held at Columbia Hickman High School on Saturday, December 6th. A student is eligible to audition for State Jazz Band if he/she makes their respective District Jazz Band and/or Alternates. The audition fee is \$10 per student per instrument per audition. Payment by cash or check will be accepted and checks can be made out to "MAJE". Purchase orders and/or future payment vouchers will not be accepted. The audition material can be found on our website at: [www.moaje.org](http://www.moaje.org). Remember supervision of students by a certified staff member of the school district is required for the entire day. For any questions regarding All State Jazz Band Auditions or All State Jazz Band, you may contact Stephen Sampsell, coordinator. His contact information is found on our website.

# 2009 All State Jazz Band Clinician



Pianist Michael Kocour was born and raised in the Chicago area. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois in 1985 and went on to a Master's degree in music theory at Northwestern. From 1991 to '94, he taught jazz and piano pedagogy at the University of Illinois, before returning to Northwestern as a jazz lecturer. At both schools, Kocour gained a reputation as a passionate and innovative teacher for music majors and non-majors alike.

Throughout his teaching career in Chicago, Kocour cultivated a career as an in-demand pianist, working with artists such as James Moody, Benny Golson, Ira Sullivan and Dizzy Gillespie. Kocour also performed around town as a Hammond B3 player, and maintained a regular trio called Monk's Dream with pianist Steve Million and drummer Robert Shy. Kocour's B3 playing was also featured on two recordings led by drummer Joel Spencer.

In 2004, Kocour left his familiar stomping grounds of Chicago to take over as director of Jazz Studies at the Herberger College of Fine Arts at Arizona State University. Within a year, his passion for teaching had been recognized with a Distinguished Teacher Award.

Kocour has also recently released his own recordings as a leader. *High Standards*, from 2005, features a collection of straight-ahead and tasteful performances by Kocour's trio. His most recent record, this year's *Speaking In Tongues*, features interpretations of songs by Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell.

-from NPR

# 2009 MMEA Jazz Performances

Congratulations to the following jazz groups who have been selected to perform at the 2009 MMEA Conference:

*UMKC Conservatory Concert Jazz Band*  
*Bobby Watson, Director*

*Fort Zumwalt North High School Jazz Band*  
*Rob Babel, Director*

## All-State Jazz Rehearsals at MMEA

You are welcome to sit in on the Jazz Rehearsals. All rehearsals are in the Auditorium which is the small building down the hill at the end of the circle drive. This is a great opportunity to meet the All-State Director and pick up a lot of ideas on rehearsal techniques and jazz pedagogy.

## Want to Join MAJE?

All Missouri music teachers are invited to join the Missouri Association for Jazz Education. MAJE exists to support the efforts of jazz educators in Missouri, and to promote jazz education in school music programs as well as the jazz community at large. Please visit our website [www.moaje.org](http://www.moaje.org) to learn more about our organization. If you would like to join, please send a check for \$20 made out to MAJE to Cathy Coonis, MAJE Treasurer, PO Box 189, Seymour, MO 65746.