

MO-IAJE

2006 Summer Newsletter



Dear Members and Friends,

Summer greetings to you! Hopefully, you have found some time to relax and rejuvenate your minds and bodies during the summer.

There are many great things happening in Missouri with IAJE. For the past several years, we have counted on the website to provide you with information about auditions, clinicians, festivals, workshops, and camps. In addition to the website, the Missouri Unit would like to bring back the official MOIAJE Newsletter. We will make the newsletter available to you electronically, accessible through the website. We feel that the newsletter will help get information and news to you in a “warmer” manner than the website.

The Missouri Unit is always looking for your input on matters as they pertain to elections, clinicians, awards, and audition materials. In addition, I would wholeheartedly welcome your thoughts, news, articles, and other announcements for this newsletter. We will compile your submissions and upload a newsletter every season – that’s four per year! Please feel welcome to visit our site and participate in officer nominations, Jess Cole Award nominations, article submissions, or anything you’d like to see added to the newsletters and/or website.

This summer edition of the MOIAJE Newsletter contains some noteworthy news to look forward to. It will also offer a brief glance at the past few years, and some of the changes that have taken place. With outstanding membership input and the vision of our past and present officers, our unit has made advancements in membership, education, and communication.

Thank you for the support you have shown to the state organization. If you are not a member, you can easily become one by visiting the IAJE website at www.iaje.org.

Sincerely,

Jeff

Jeff Melsha
Secretary/Webmaster, MOIAJE

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2006-07 State Jazz Band Auditions

We are only a couple of months away from the District and State Jazz Auditions. Your District Coordinators and Jazz Vice Presidents will be communicating specific dates and times with you. The list of materials and requirements can be found on the website, including the links to copies of the audition excerpts of the MOIAJE commissioned chart to be premiered by the 2007 Missouri All State Jazz Ensemble. We are pleased that Rick Stitzel has been commissioned to write this year's chart. Many educators remember having to purchase the commission which wasn't available until very late. We have now posted the audition section of the commission on our website which is really good news for all of us – THANK YOU Rick Stitzel!

Another word of thanks to past presidents Terry Martinez and John Hahn for guiding us all through the audition changes during the past four years. We all knew that there would be some uncomfortable times during these changes, but we are very close to getting most of the little issues worked out. Our mission was to raise the level of improvisation and fulfill the need for new compositions in jazz. I have received phone calls from other states and from a director in Germany who have asked if they could borrow our format and use this system for their auditions!

Should you need assistance with auditions or need another set of the Dave Aaberg etudes, you may contact your district jazz vice president, or email me at jamelsha@sbcglobal.net

Meet the 2007 State Jazz Band Director

ANTONIO J. GARCÍA is a performer, composer/arranger, producer, clinician, educator, and author in both instrumental and vocal genres. An Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he directs the Jazz Orchestra I and instructs various jazz courses, he is a past nominee for CASE U.S. Professor of the Year and the recipient of the Illinois Music Educators Association's 2001 Distinguished Service Award. García has performed as trombonist, bass trombonist, or pianist with 70 major artists including Ella Fitzgerald (50 concerts), Phil Collins (30-concert U.S./European tour), and Mel Tormé (20 concerts) and at such venues as Carnegie Hall, Royal Festival Hall, and the Montreux, Nice, North Sea, Pori (Finland), New Orleans, and Chicago Jazz Festivals. A Bach/Selmer clinician/soloist and avid scat-singer, he has received grants from Meet The Composer, the Thelonious Monk Institute, The Commission Project, the Council for Basic Education, The Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, and others. He is Associate Jazz Editor for the International Trombone Association *Journal*, Past Editor of the International Association for Jazz Education *Jazz Education Journal*, Past President of IAJE-IL, Board member of The Midwest Clinic and previously of the Illinois Coalition for Music Education, and is Co-Editor/Contributing Author of *Teaching Jazz: A Course of Study*. His articles have been widely published; and his compositions have been published by Kjos, Kendor, Doug Beach, Walrus, UNC Jazz Press, Three-Two Music, and his own company. Visit his web site at <www.garciamusic.com>.



2007 MMEA Jazz Performances

Congratulations to the following groups who have been selected to perform at the 2007 MMEA Conference:

Lindbergh High School – Bob Spiegelman, Director
Webster University – Mike Parkinson and Jim Martin, Directors
The Gateway City Big Band – Stan Minor, Director

State Constitution and By-laws

The Missouri Unit Constitution and By-laws are in need of some amendments! Many of these changes are due to the official name change of the organization several years ago. I remember belonging to **NAJE**, the *National Association of Jazz Educators*, which later became IAJE, the *International Association of Jazz Educators*. Now we need to amend our organization to the *International Association for Jazz Education*. Other changes have been handed down to the state units from the United States Section of IAJE. The most obvious change was the addition of a Vice President position on the executive board.

In order to amend our constitution and by-laws, we will need 2/3 vote from the membership who return a vote ballot. If you are a member of IAJE in Missouri, you will receive a Constitutional amendment ballot in the mail the first week of August. I am asking that you return the ballot by September 9th.

You may view the current MOIAJE Constitution and By-laws on the website. **Proposed amendments are in red!**

Selecting Quality Literature for Your Band

Choosing the right materials for your band can be difficult and challenging. Whenever I have the chance, I ask my colleagues about arrangements and difficulty levels. Here is your chance to check out Mike Parkinson's **Basie, Ballads, Bebop, and Blues**. Dr. Parkinson refers to this as his "labor of love". I call it very helpful. He has researched hundreds of tunes in various styles and levels of difficulty. You can find his research on the MOIAJE website under "Suggested Works".

Finally...

I can't claim to be a good newsletter writer, so I am asking for your help. If there are things you would like to see in newsletter form, or on the MOIAJE website, please let me know. If there are any members who would like to take over a newsletter, or offer submissions to the cause, I would welcome that.

Our deadline for the fall newsletter will be October 1.

Jeff Melsha
MOIAJE Secretary