



**COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA
SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**THE UNO GREAT PLAINS JAZZ FESTIVAL XLV
Eric Marienthal with Gooch and His Las Vegas Big Band
Sean Jones and the UNO Jazz Ensemble; UNO Faculty Jazz Combo**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Friday, February 24, 2017 (all activities at UNO)

8:00 A.M.-7:30 P.M. School performances and clinics in Strauss Performing Arts Center or Student Center

10:30 A.M. Performance by **UNO Faculty Jazz Combo**

12:30 P.M. Performance by **Metropolitan Area Youth Jazz Orchestra** with **Bob Long** and **Tony Hutchins**

4:30 P.M. Q & A with **Eric Marienthal**

8:00 P.M. **CONCERT: Eric Marienthal with Gooch and His Las Vegas Big Band; UNO Jazz Ensemble with Jim Widner, Arthur White and Dan Gailey; Friday Awards Ceremony**

Saturday, February 25, 2017 (all activities at Holland Performing Arts Center-13th and Douglas)

8:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. School performances and clinics

3:30 P.M. CLINIC presented by **Sean Jones**

4:30 P.M. **CONCERT: UNO Jazz Too with Eric Richards; Saturday Awards Ceremony**

8:00 P.M. **CONCERT: Metropolitan Area Youth Jazz Orchestra with Tito Carrillo; UNO Jazz Ensemble with Sean Jones**

FRIDAY UNO PERFORMANCE VENUES

Most middle schools, Jazz II's, and small high schools will perform in UNO's Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom. Most large high schools will perform in UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Students will be eligible to receive one of the UNO Great Plains Jazz Festival Scholarships. Renewable awards of up to \$1,000 annually will be presented to one to three students who are considering attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The announcement of the scholarship recipients will be made at the awards ceremonies.

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Performance venues: *4 piece drum set, vibes, bass and guitar amps, congas, piano, sound system

Clinic room: *4 piece drum set, bass and guitar amps, piano

Warm up room: chairs and music stands

*snare, bass, 2 toms, high hat stand, 2 cymbal stands, bass drum pedal, throne, and snare stand

You must bring your own cymbals!!

All Friday *Recital Hall Bands* and ALL Saturday bands **MUST** use the rhythm section equipment provided in the performance venue because the rhythm section will be miced by a professional sound engineer. Your cooperation is appreciated.

LOCATION

Friday activities will be in the Strauss Performing Arts Center and the Milo Bail Student Center on the UNO campus. Saturday activities will be held at the Holland Performing Arts Center in Downtown Omaha (13th & Douglas).

RATINGS

Ratings of Superior (I), Excellent (II), and Fair (III) will be awarded to each band participating in the competition.

COMMENTS ONLY

All Bands have the option of performing for comments only. Please note your preference on the application.

AWARDS

1. All groups receiving a rating of I or II will receive a Plaque
2. Individuals from each group will be eligible for:
Outstanding Soloist Certificates and Outstanding Musicianship Certificates

SCHEDULE

All participating ensembles will have 30 minutes to perform which includes set-up and tear down. UNO Band members will be available to assist you with set-up. Groups going over the limit will be stopped. All requests for special consideration in arranging the schedule will be honored to the degree that is possible. Should conflicts or problems arise, please contact Pete Madsen immediately at (402) 554-2297 or petermadsen@unomaha.edu.

CLINICS

Each band will receive a 30 minute clinic with a festival adjudicator immediately following their performance. General clinic sessions will also be presented by Eric Marienthal and Sean Jones.

ENTRY FEE

\$225 per performing ensemble.

HEADLINER CONCERT TICKETS

Eric Marienthal with Gooch and His Las Vegas Big Band will perform an evening concert at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, February 24. Tickets are \$15 general public/\$5 students & directors. Simply place your order on the registration form or purchase tickets at the door. **Sean Jones** and the UNO Jazz Ensemble will present an evening concert at 8:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 25 at the Holland Center's Scott Recital Hall. This is a private performance for UNO Great Plains Jazz Festival participants only. Tickets can NOT be purchased through the Holland Center and Ticket Omaha. The \$15 general public/\$5 students & directors tickets **MUST** be purchased through the festival registration form or at the door. Please contact 402-554-3427 if you have any questions about tickets for either concert.

PHOTOGRAPHER

This year's photographer will be Tim McCormick from Billings Photography (contact 402-333-5508 or jinnie@billingsphoto.biz). A picture will be taken immediately following your group's clinic or performance.

CONTACT: Pete Madsen 402-554-2297 petermadsen@unomaha.edu

WEB SITE: music.unomaha.edu/jazz-festival

UNO Jazz Festival 2017 Headliner Bios

Music and spirituality have always been fully intertwined in the artistic vision of trumpeter, composer, educator and activist **Sean Jones**. Singing and performing as a child with the church choir in his hometown of Warren, Ohio, Sean switched from the drums to the trumpet upon his first exposure to Miles Davis at the age of 10. Twenty-five years later, he still cites Miles' overall artistic vision and purity of sound as his greatest personal influence. But it was another immortal visionary who had a most profound impact when Sean was a 19-year old student at Youngstown State University – the magnificent John Coltrane through his masterpiece, *A Love Supreme* – “All at once, everything just came together for me. My past, my present, my future. I knew the course I needed to pursue.” Already exhibiting a superb control of the instrument through his private studies with master trumpeter and educator Esotto Pellegrini and his intensive listening to his other primary influences, Woody Shaw, Freddie Hubbard and Clifford Brown, the young trumpeter committed himself to artistic excellence and the pursuit of transcendence. Five years later, after receiving his Master's Degree from Rutgers University, Sean had a 6-month stint with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. This marked the beginning of a relationship with Wynton Marsalis, whose personal work ethic and ability to break barriers had already made a significant impact on the emerging artist. Wynton offered Sean a permanent position as lead trumpeter and Jones remained there until 2010. A highly respected and in-demand musician even while at Rutgers, Sean was prominently featured with a number of artists, recording and/or performing with many major figures, including Illinois Jacquet, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Nancy Wilson, Dianne Reeves, Gerald Wilson and Marcus Miller. The relationship with Miller led to another highly impacting experience when Sean was selected by Miller, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter for their Tribute to Miles tour in 2011. The trust and support of those giants led Sean to a decision to focus on performing with his own ensembles. Already touring and performing regularly with his own groups while at Lincoln Center, Sean also began his longtime relationship with Mack Avenue Records, for whom he has just released his seventh recording: *im.pro.vise* = never before seen. He's currently performing with the quartet on his latest CD, who have been working together since 2007 – with pianist Orrin Evans, bassist Luques Curtis and drummer Obed Calvaire. But Sean is also looking toward projects with new and larger ensembles, including orchestras. In addition, he's planning on more forays into the world of Western classical music, while working on solidifying his pedagogy and increasing his lecturing and writing activities. Heavily involved in education, Sean has recently joined the Berklee College of Music's distinguished faculty as the Chair of the Brass Department. He has also taught at Duquesne University in his adopted hometown of Pittsburgh and at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, while regularly offering master classes and clinics all around the world. In addition, Sean also serves as Artistic Director of both the Pittsburgh and Cleveland Jazz Orchestras and is working toward organizing the various Jazz orchestras all over the country. Sean is current Artist-in-Residence at San Francisco Performances and is a member of The SF JAZZ Collective. Clearly a passionately committed, heavily focused and deeply spiritual man, Sean relies upon his serious study of philosophy – especially that of 13th century theologian and mystic Meister Eckhardt; and Don Miguel Ruiz, whose vision is drawn from the ancient wisdom of the Toltec native people of Southern Mexico – to fuel the pursuit of his expansive and generous vision. Sean currently lives in Boston with his wife Stacey. For more information, visit www.sean-jones.com.

After graduating high school in Southern California in 1976, **Eric Marienthal** went on to study at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass. There he studied with the legendary saxophone professor, Joe Viola. By the time he left Berklee, Eric had achieved the highest proficiency rating given by the school. In 1995, Eric was awarded the Berklee Distinguished Alumnus Award for outstanding achievements in contemporary music. He has since gone on to perform in over 75 different countries, recorded 14 solo CD's and has played on hundreds of records, films, television shows and commercial jingles. Eric started his professional career in 1980 with famed New Orleans trumpeter Al Hirt. After returning to Los Angeles Eric became a member of the Chick Corea Elektric Band. He recorded 6 CD's with Chick Corea band and won 2 Grammy Awards. Eric went on to perform with artists such as Elton John, Barbara Streisand, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Dionne Warwick, Burt

Bacharach, Aaron Neville, Johnny Mathis, Dave Grusin, Lee Ritenour, George Duke, David Benoit, The Rippingtons, The Gordon Goodwin Big Phat Band, Patti Austin, Lou Rawls, David Lee Roth, The Yellowjackets, B.B. King, Ramsey Louis, Patti Labelle, Olivia Newton-John, and many others. Among Eric's 14 solo CD's, his latest is entitled "Bridges", on Peak Records. Eight of the songs that Eric has recorded have made it to the top 10 of the National Contemporary Jazz Radio Charts and three have made it to #1. Eric was voted as being one of the year's "Favorite Alto Sax Players" in Jazziz Magazine's Reader's Poll along with David Sanborn and Phil Woods. Eric has also written 3 instructional books, "Comprehensive Jazz Studies & Exercises", "The Ultimate Jazz Play Along" and "The Music Of Eric Marienthal" as well as 3 instructional videos, "Play Sax From Day One", "Modern Sax" and "Tricks Of The Trade", all published by Warner Bros. Publications which is now Alfred Publishing/Belwin Jazz. Every summer for the past 17 years Eric has put on an annual fundraising concert for High Hopes. High Hopes is a non-profit organization in Orange County, California that works with people who have suffered traumatic head injuries. With the help of many guest artists who have donated their time to perform, these concerts to date have raise well over \$1,500,000 for this charity. For more information visit ericmarienthal.com.

UNO Jazz Festival 2017 Adjudicator/Clinician Bios

Tito Carrillo joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign faculty in the Spring of 2006. He is a trumpeter, educator, bandleader, composer, and arranger, and since 1996 he has been a fixture in the Chicago jazz and Latin music scenes. The list of artists he has performed, recorded, and toured with is as varied as his skill set: Chicago heavyweights Willie Pickens, Bobby Broom, Patricia Barber, and Kurt Elling; big bands such as the Woody Herman Orchestra, Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Chicago Jazz Orchestra, and Smithsonian Masterworks Orchestra (directed by David Baker); jazz greats such as Toshiko Akiyoshi, Louis Hayes, Jon Faddis, and Vincent Herring; Salsa legends such as Andy Montaoez, Tony Vega, and Cheo Feliciano; Latin jazz giants Tito Puente and Paquito D'Rivera; and pop icons Quincy Jones and Phil Collins. Carrillo has played some of the most prestigious venues in the world, including Chicago's Symphony Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and London's Royal Albert Hall. His work has been heard at international jazz festivals in Chicago, Telluride, Montreux (Switzerland), North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague (Netherlands), and Pori, Finland. As an educator, he served on the faculties at both the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, as well as Northwestern University prior to his appointment at Illinois. He has also brought his talents as an educator and performer to Chicago's inner-city high schools through the Ravinia Festival's community outreach program, the Ravinia Jazz Mentors. Of Carrillo, the Chicago Tribune states "he has acquired a reputation as a fluid improviser, doubly-blessed with a warm lyric style and technique to burn." He continues to lead his own quintet in Chicago and throughout the Midwest, as well as being an active guest soloist and clinician at various secondary and collegiate jazz programs.

Dan Gailey saxophonist/composer/arranger, is the Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Music at the University of Kansas, where he directs Jazz Ensemble I and Jazz Combo I and produces the annual KU Jazz Festival. Dan is the recipient of the 1996 IAJE Gil Evans Fellowship, an annual award which identifies an emerging jazz composer from an international field of candidates. Under his direction, the KU Jazz Studies Program has been the recipient of 19 DownBeat Student Music Awards, including Jazz Ensemble I's award as Best College Big Band in the United States or Canada in 1997. Jazz Ensemble I has appeared under his direction at IAJE Conferences in New York City, Atlanta and Boston, the 1992 Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, and the 2008 Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. Dan holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Pacific Lutheran University and a Master of Music degree in Theory/Composition from the University of Northern Colorado. His compositions can be heard on numerous professional and college big band albums and are published exclusively through UNC Jazz Press. What Did You Dream?, his debut CD with the Dan Gailey Jazz Orchestra, was released in July 2010 on Origin/OA2 Records and features all original compositions. Dan has been active as a freelance saxophonist in Seattle, Denver and Kansas City, performing with Kevin

Mahogany, Eric Marienthal, Red Richards, Claude "Fiddler" Williams, and many others, and has appeared as a guest artist/clinician throughout the United States and Canada, and in Sweden. He is an original member of the UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival All-Star Big Band, and has been commissioned twice to write new compositions for the band. Dan has directed numerous festival honor groups, including all-state jazz ensembles in California, Colorado, Washington, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Minnesota, and the 1996 NBA National Honors Jazz Ensemble.

Michael "Gooch" Gurciullo has been associated with big bands ever since he was a kid in Omaha, NE. All through junior high and high school he played in the usual school programs, but also worked outside of those settings in professional big bands in the local area. Upon completion of high school, Gooch chose North Texas State University for his continuing education. He got to work with great jazz educators like Rich Matteson, Dan Haerle, and Jack Peterson. Outside of the university, Gooch studied privately with world famous trumpet virtuoso, Don "Jake" Jacoby. While attending N.T.S.U., Mike formed his own big band called, "The Arctic Muther's." It was comprised of some of the best young talents in the music program at the time. He also co-led a big band with Don Jacoby called, "The Swing of Things." While still in college, Mike did some touring with Guy Lombardo and His Royal Canadians under the direction of Art Mooney. Upon completion of N.T.S.U. Gooch gigged for a year as the featured soloist with the world-famous Glenn Miller Orchestra. After touring, he moved west to Monterey, California. While there, he free lanced from Monterey to San Francisco. He also founded The Monterey Jazz Orchestra, which played Monday nights at Clint Eastwood's Mission Ranch in Carmel. After several years in California, Gooch set forth for the Entertainment Capital of the World: Las Vegas. During his twelve years spent in Vegas, he worked most of the major showrooms and lounges with shows like The Rat Pack Is Back, Jump Jive & Wail, Don Menza Big Band, Lon Bronson All Star Band, and the Susan Anton Show to name a few. In 2004, Gooch also founded the Las Vegas Lab Band. He had the top-call players meet with him on Monday nights to bring some of the hottest big band jazz to the people of Las Vegas. He also carried the lead/jazz trumpet spot in the Wayne Newton Orchestra for over 5 years. He traveled exclusively with Mr. Newton all over the US, Canada, and the 2006 Australian Tour. In 2008, Gooch returned to his hometown of, Omaha, NE., where he married the "hometown sweetheart." Once again, he assembled, Gooch & His Las Vegas Big Band, (the midwest version). Gooch and his band found a home to play on Monday nights at The Ozone, inside Anthony's Steakhouse. They have been performing there for over eight years every Monday night. In 2010, they released their first CD entitled, "The Other Half Of Me." Gooch still works with many of the cats from Vegas in two shows called, "Drinkin', Singin', Swingin' " and "Sinatra Forever." In addition to Laughlin and Vegas, the shows tour throughout the U.S. In 2010, they capped a successful tour of Chile, South America, returning just days before a massive earthquake struck Chile. In 2015, Gooch released his second big band CD called, "Start of Something Big." He is also working on his follow up CD which will feature all original compositions. Currently, between his own shows and gigs, Gooch is on the jazz faculty at the Iowa Lakes Reggie Schive Jazz Camp and with the Jazz Goes To School program in Vail, Colorado. Gooch is also touring the country as a member of The Official Blues Brothers Review.

Mr. Tony Hutchins currently serves as the Director of Instrumental Jazz and Applied Low Brass at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. He is also currently bass trombonist with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Ouachita Baptist University and a Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has studied with Dr. Sim Flora, Dr. Irvin Wagner, Dr. Jay Wise, Dr. Wes Branstine, and Mr. Marvin Lawson. Mr. Hutchins served ten years with the United States Air Force Band, performing and soloing with the USAF Heartland of America Band, the USAF Band of the Pacific, and the USAF Band of the West. Mr. Hutchins has performed solo and ensemble concerts along with presenting master classes/clinics throughout the United States and in many countries around the world. He has held the position of bass trombonist with the Norman Philharmonic and has performed with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, and the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Hutchins

was also bass trombonist and soloist with the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, the Omaha Big Band, and the Oklahoma City Jazz Orchestra. In addition to being a founding member of the Resonant Projection Trombone Quartet, Mr. Hutchins has performed or recorded with artists such as Frank Mantooth, Sim Flora, Gordon Goodwin, Aretha Franklin, Marshall Gilkes, and Steve Turre, just to name a few.

Bob Long serves Director of Jazz Studies/Saxophone Studio at Missouri Western State University. Additional duties include teaching woodwind methods, jazz improvisation, overseeing the jazz combos, and assisting with the Golden Griffons Marching Band. He also directs the Missouri Western Jazz Ensemble, the university's top big band. Prior to Missouri Western Bob taught for twelve years in the West Des Moines Community School District where he was Coordinator of Jazz Studies for Valley High School. During his time at Valley High School the jazz program included five big bands, three for grades 10 through 12 and two at the freshman level, as well as three combos. Major appearances include a sister city exchange tour to Russia in 1994, performing at the 1996 IAJE Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, and performing at the 1999 Essentially Ellington Jazz Band Festival at Lincoln Center. The Jazz Orchestra was also an evening finalist seven out of eleven years in the Iowa Jazz Championships. While at Missouri Western, the MWSU Jazz Ensemble has performed at the Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival (2005, 2007), was invited to perform at the 2008 North Texas Jazz Festival, and was the featured collegiate jazz ensemble for the Missouri Music Educators Association Conference (2011, 2013). Bob received his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Arts degrees from Truman State University (formerly Northeast Missouri State University). From 1985 to 1988 he pursued further graduate studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, serving as a teaching assistant in saxophone and jazz, with his primary studies being with Professors Tim Timmons, Mike Parkinson and Gary Foster. His other teaching experiences include serving for one year as Instructor of Saxophone for Truman State University, and for five years serving as the Teaching Artist in Saxophone for Drake University. Performance credits include the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra, the Kansas City Symphony, the Des Moines Big Band, Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra, Des Moines Symphony, the Latin jazz group Ashanti as well as performing both the Jimmy Dorsey and Tommy Dorsey music books. He has also backed up a variety of performers such as Bobby Shew, Clark Terry, Dick Oatts, Peter Erskine, John Pizzarelli, Marilyn Maye, Lou Rawls as well as Manhattan Transfer, The Temptations, The Four Tops, and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Bob's professional affiliations include the Missouri Association for Jazz Education (Past President), the Missouri Bandmasters Association, the Iowa Bandmasters Association, Missouri Music Educators Association, NAFME, Phi Beta Mu, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Locally he serves on the Board of Directors for the Coleman Hawkins Jazz Society and is a member of the St. Joseph Symphony Board.

Dr. Eric Richards is the Director of Bands and Jazz Studies at Sheridan College where he serves as Music Director of the Sheridan Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and works with his faculty colleagues to develop program initiatives in recruiting, outreach, and curriculum development. From 2008 – 2015, Dr. Richards served as tenured Associate Professor of Composition and Jazz Studies in the Glenn Korff School of Music at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At UNL, he mentored undergraduate through doctoral students in applied composition (classical and jazz/vernacular styles), taught related courses such as Orchestration and Jazz Arranging, and directed the award-winning UNL Jazz Orchestra "2.0". He is the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Teaching Award in the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts. From 2004-2008, he served as Director of Instrumental Music at Midland University (Fremont, Neb.) where he directed the Concert Band, Brass Ensemble, Jazz Combo, High School Honor Band, Pep Band and taught all undergraduate music theory courses. Dr. Richards' work as a teacher is energized by his professional activity as a composer/arranger, conductor, and trombonist. A composer who defines himself as a "contemporary American eclectic", he has written music for groups ranging from rural high school marching bands to chamber music ensembles to nationally recognized big bands and symphony orchestras. Eric's music has been heard worldwide in performances and recordings by ensembles such as:

- National Symphony Orchestra
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
- Boston Pops Orchestra
- Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- New York Pops Orchestra
- Chiara String Quartet
- US Army Field Band and Jazz Ambassadors
- USAF Band and the Airmen of Note
- US Army Band (Pershing's Own)
- US Marine Band (The President's Own)
- University of North Texas Wind Ensemble
- Shanghai Conservatory of Music Jazz Ensemble

Performances in major concert venues across the United States, Europe, Asia and India include: Carnegie Hall (New York), St. Peter's Church (New York), the Midwest Clinic (Chicago) and the Montreux, Nice, North Sea, and Vienne Jazz Festivals. As a conductor and clinician, Eric has worked in a broad array of settings ranging from live concerts of jazz, concert, and chamber music to professional recording sessions. In May 2014, Dr. Richards conducted the Omaha Area Youth Symphony along with the Metropolitan Area Youth Jazz Orchestra in the premiere of his newly commissioned work for symphony orchestra and big band titled Duality. In 2013, he served as Guest Conductor/Composer-Arranger of the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Jazz Orchestra, an ensemble comprised of select undergraduate musicians from colleges and universities along the Eastern Seaboard. Eric led this group in performances of his music in New York City and Cumberland, Maryland. In March 2006, Eric was chosen as one of an international group of seven composers to present an original work for jazz orchestra at the 1st International Jazz Composition Symposium held at the University of South Florida. He has served as Guest Conductor for the North Dakota, Connecticut, and South Dakota All-State High School Jazz Ensembles. Recent engagements as a guest composer, conductor and teacher include residencies at Washington State University, the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Taipei Jazz Orchestra, Winona State University, and the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra of Denver, Colorado. In 2016, he will conduct the Kansas All-State High School Jazz Ensemble and in 2017 he will lead the Florida All-State High School Jazz Ensemble. As a trombonist, he has performed with numerous ensembles: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Jazz Ensemble, US Army Jazz Ambassadors, US Army Field Band, Omaha Jazz Orchestra, Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, the Washington DC-based Klezmer group Lox & Vodka, and numerous commercial and variety bands. As a conductor, he has shared the stage with artists such as Clay Jenkins, Ingrid Jensen, Christine Jensen, and Bill Watrous. From 1984 – 2004, Eric served as Composer/Arranger with the United States Army Field Band, the Army's premiere touring musical organization based near Washington DC. In this position, he created music for an array of media across multiple styles performed for audiences in the millions worldwide. He honorably retired as a decorated Senior Non-Commissioned Officer at the rank of Master Sergeant (E-8). Eric earned the Doctor of Musical Arts (Composition) degree from the University of Maryland at College Park where he studied with Mark Wilson and Robert Gibson. He holds the Master of Music (Composition) and Bachelor of Science (Music Education) degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh where he studied with Joseph Willcox Jenkins, John "Doc" Wilson, and Matty Shiner. Please feel free to visit his personal website at www.ericrichards.com.

Dr. Arthur White is the director of Jazz Studies and associate professor of music at the University of Missouri. Dr. White conducts the Concert Jazz Band, which has risen to national prominence since his arrival at MU in 2009. Additionally, he directs the Graduate Jazz Combo and Creative Improvisation Ensemble, and oversees the combo program. Dr. White also teaches courses in improvisation, pedagogy, arranging and composition, and administers the Undergraduate Jazz Certificate and Minor, and the new Master of Music in Jazz Performance

and Pedagogy. White is the producer, chief arranger, director, and a saxophone soloist on five critically acclaimed recordings by the MU Concert Jazz Band; the fifth, *Open Window*, was released in September 2014, and features the guest artistry of trumpet virtuoso Sean Jones and master saxophonist Jimmy Greene. MU jazz ensembles under Dr. White's direction have been selected to perform at the 2012 and 2014 international conferences for the Jazz Education Network, 2011 and 2012 conferences for the International Society for Improvised Music, and the 2012 Missouri Music Educators Association conference. White was selected as a 2011 Wakonse Teaching Fellow, and was nominated in 2014 for the Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Research Award. White has been selected as a research author for *Teaching Music through Performance in Jazz*, Vol. 2, which was published by GIA Publications in 2015. Prior to his appointment at MU, Dr. White was the director of jazz studies at Northeastern State University (OK). During his tenure at NSU, Dr. White produced five critically acclaimed CDs with the NSU Jazz Ensemble; two of those recordings were named as Blue Chip Award winners by Jazz Education Journal, signifying the recordings as among the 10 best in college jazz recordings. NSU named Dr. White as a Centurion, naming him as one of the 100 most influential people in the university's history. He was also named the 2007 Oklahoma Jazz Educator of the Year by the Oklahoma Jazz Educators Alliance. Ensembles under White's direction have recorded with a veritable Who's Who in modern jazz: Bobby Watson, Russell Malone, Henry Johnson, Scott Wendholt, Robin Eubanks, Mike Mainieri, Mike Metheny, Byron Stripling, Bob Sheppard, Sean Jones, and Jimmy Greene. White has also been fortunate to record CDs with legendary trombonist Fred Wesley, Chris Murrell (vocalist with Count Basie), and jazz legend Dewey Redman. White is planning his debut as a solo artist and band leader in the spring of 2015, featuring members of Kansas City's Mike Pagan Big Band and St. Louis's Dave Dickey Big Band, two ensembles of which White is a full-time member. White is also in demand as an arranger; he has written music for jazz luminaries James Carter, John Clayton, Mike Mainieri, Peter Erskine, Eric Person, Mulgrew Miller, Kevin Mahogany, Henry Johnson, Dewey Redman, Scott Wendholt, Bobby Watson, Bob Mintzer, Robin Eubanks, Kathy Kosins, Paul Hanson, Russell Malone, Bob Sheppard, Andy Narell, and Randy Brecker. Dr. White's arrangements are published through Second Floor Music, and distributed through ejazzlines.com. Recently, Dr. White has been an invited performer at conferences for the North American Saxophone Alliance, International Society for Improvised Music, Oklahoma and Missouri Music Educators Association, and Jazz Education Network. Dr. White has performed with numerous nationally acclaimed jazz and pop artists. High school and college jazz ensembles throughout the country have performed his arrangements and original compositions. White is also active as a clinician with high school and college bands, and as an adjudicator at jazz festivals, throughout the United States. Originally from Kansas, Dr. White received the Bachelor of Arts in Music from Emporia State University, the Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy from West Virginia University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is an EASTMAN saxophone artist, and the president-elect of the Missouri Association for Jazz Education.

Jim Widner, former bassist with Stan Kenton, Woody Herman and the Glenn Miller Orchestra directed by Buddy DeFranco, is a Professor and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. As leader of the Jim Widner Big Band, he is celebrating his 30th year of hosting big band jazz camps all across the United States. Jim is also the director and founder of the St. Louis Jazz Orchestra. A graduate of the University of Missouri, Jim also holds a MA degree from Memphis State University and has done postgraduate work at the University of North Texas. Jim has performed at the world famous Lionel Hampton and Montreaux (Switzerland) Jazz Festivals. His performance background includes concert dates with Clark Terry, Marilyn Maye, Lou Marini, Mulgrew Miller, Bucky Pizzarelli, Wycliff Gordon, Louie Bellson, Randy Brecker, Bill Watrous, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and an appearance before former President Bill Clinton. In 1999, students at the University of Missouri - Columbia renamed the music wing of the fine arts residential college, "Widner House" in honor of him. In 2006 the title of "Statesman" was conferred upon him by The Statesmen of Jazz. In 2008 he was a cover story feature in the March issue of *JazzEd* magazine and in 2009 he was a recipient

of Downbeat magazine's Achievement Award for his work in jazz education. In 2011 Jim was inducted into his hometown's Wall of Honor in Lebanon, MO. In 2013 he was the recipient of the Faculty Excellence Award from the College of Fine Arts and Communication, University of Missouri - St. Louis, and was once again featured in subsequent articles in Downbeat magazine " Student Becomes Teacher" and in JazzEd Magazine "The Art of The Big Band Jazz Camp". Jim is a Yamaha Performing Artist and a D'Addario artist. He was a founding member of the Jazz Education Network and served on its Board of Directors. The Jim Widner Big Band records on the Chase Music Group label and their critically acclaimed CD's include "Yesterdays and Today", " Body and Soul", " Live", "Flying High", " Out of This World", and their newest release "The Beat Goes On".

