

Beavercreek Weekend of Jazz Background Information

WOJ Objectives and Description

The Beavercreek Weekend of Jazz, “*Where the Future of Jazz Meets the Legends of Jazz!*”, is an annual jazz festival organized and presented by the Beavercreek Music Parents Association and held the first weekend in March. The primary objective of the Weekend of Jazz is to expose the youth of Beavercreek, Ohio and surrounding communities to new and exciting forms of jazz music and provide them opportunities to learn about careers in music directly from professional jazz musicians.

Thursday evening opens the festival with performances by the jazz bands of the Beavercreek schools – Ankeney and Ferguson Middle Schools and Beavercreek High School (Jazz Ensembles 1 and 2). These performances are observed by an on-stage jazz professional, who offers constructive critiques of each performance and encouragement for the young musicians.

Each year two professional jazz ensembles are invited to perform during the festival. Every opportunity is seized to give children direct access to professional musicians, to ask them questions about their careers and to seek and receive advice and tutoring on their own performance skills. This year, Sylvan Street returns to WOJ for their second visit and performs in concert on Friday evening of the festival. The second headline act is the world renowned Buddy Rich Big Band, who will perform Saturday evening.

Finally, the Weekend of Jazz Saturday program, up until the evening performance by the headline act, provides performance opportunities for a number of middle, junior high, and high school jazz bands from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. We enlist the help of professional jazz musicians, clinicians, and educators to observe, evaluate, and critique these performances. Immediately following each school’s concert, a professional panel member conducts a 20 – 30 minute private clinic for each band, provides them feedback, and actively works with the band members to improve their performances. Over the years, it has become apparent that this opportunity to perform for and work with professional jazz musicians is one of the highlights of the weekend for our school jazz band members. All performances and clinics are conducted in the facilities of Beavercreek High School in Beavercreek, Ohio.

All middle, junior high, and high school jazz bands are eligible to perform, and no prior performance or competition experience is required to participate in the Weekend of Jazz. There are no classes or divisions of bands; all bands that choose to perform, do so on an open basis. All performing bands receive a plaque to commemorate their participation and to show our appreciation. Each registered band pays a \$125 entry fee to perform at Weekend of Jazz. This fee does not include admission to the jazz performances on Friday or Saturday evening.

While the students’ musical education is a primary goal of the Weekend of Jazz, we are also committed to educating the community at large. We purposefully invite professional musicians from many different styles of jazz to perform, with the express intent of introducing the audience to new musical experiences each year. Our surveys indicate, year after year, that audiences arrive at the auditorium with some reservations about the type of music they are to hear but leave excited and interested in a new area of jazz music.

It is also our firm belief that in conducting this festival, and the manner in which we conduct it, will lead to an increasing and more appreciative jazz music audience. As with any art form, jazz can only survive if there are sufficient patrons to support a vibrant and diverse community of performers. While this aspect of the Weekend of Jazz may not directly “enrich the future” of the

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arts in Ohio, the beneficiaries of this festival are much more likely to support the performing arts in all forms throughout their lives.

The Weekend of Jazz operates entirely with volunteers from the Beavercreek community. These volunteers not only help with the execution of the festival, but are integrally involved in all aspects of planning and organizing the festival. We have also solicited advice and support from the Beavercreek City Council and the mayor's office, as well as many business leaders in the Chamber of Commerce. While our impact on the community may be relatively small in terms of numbers of people attending the performances as a percentage of the total population, it has a deep and lasting effect. Every year we introduce new people to the joys of jazz music, and that is the very essence of the festival.

History

The first annual Weekend of Jazz festival was held in March 2001. The festival was the dream of Douglas McCullough, Director of Bands at Beavercreek High School. Doug made a commitment to the city's Board of Education and the citizens of Beavercreek to use the new BHS Alumni Auditorium to benefit the entire community. Hence, this annual event held the first weekend of each March, is entering its twelfth year and is getting stronger each year. In 2006 the Mayor of Beavercreek proclaimed the first weekend of each March to be Beavercreek Jazz Weekend.

The Weekend of Jazz promotes music education for middle school, and junior and senior high school students from all over Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Jazz bands and combos from schools in this region come together in Beavercreek, Ohio to perform in exhibition. A panel of professional jazz musicians and music educators critique each concert and the student bands have the opportunity to attend clinics for one-on-one advice and feedback from one of the panel members. While there is a certain element of informal competition among the student bands, the emphasis is always on music instruction and learning. The format of the festival is regularly praised by participating band directors. Information on how to join the great line-up of jazz bands at our next festival is found in the Director's Guide at www.weekendofjazz.org/directors.

Enjoyment of the WOJ festival extends far beyond the student bands and their families and friends. Friday and Saturday nights of each festival are dedicated to performances by top-name professional jazz groups. Great bands like the Count Basie Orchestra, the Jon Faddis Quartet, Royal Crown Revue, Maynard Ferguson, Stanley Clarke, the Woody Herman Orchestra, Tito Puente Jr. and his Orchestra, Sherrie Maricle and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, Spyro Gyra, Jon Secada, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra have performed at the festival over the years. We add to those impressive names this year's artists – Sylvan Street, www.sylvanstreetjazz.com, and Buddy Rich Big Band, www.buddyrich.com. Please check out their web sites to learn more about them and their respective styles of jazz music.

Every year we get positive comments from our guest performers about the large number of teenagers in the audience and the high level of excitement they demonstrate for jazz music. Frank Tiberi, leader of The Woody Herman Orchestra, was pleased to see "...young people excited about our music." The front rows of the auditorium are always packed with high school kids, and scattered all over the auditorium are family groups spanning several generations all enjoying wonderful music.

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Previous years professional performing artists have been:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Friday Night Performers</u>	<u>Saturday Night Performers</u>
2001	Rob Parton's JAZZTECH Big Band	Count Basie Orchestra
2002	Sherrie Maricle and Diva	Jon Faddis Quartet
2003	Jeff Hamilton Trio	The Woody Herman Orchestra
2004	Doc Gibbs and Picante	Royal Crown Revue
2005	John Fedchock NY Sextet	Spyro Gyra
2006	Don Vappie and the Creole Jazz Serenaders	Maynard Ferguson and his Big Bop Nouveau Band
2007	The Stanley Clarke Band	Rob Parton's JAZZTECH Big Band
2008	Jeff Coffin Mu'Tet	O'2L (cancelled due to blizzard)
2009	Sylvan Street	The Woody Herman Orchestra
2010	Five Play	Tito Puente, Jr. and his Orchestra
2011	Jon Secada	The Duke Ellington Orchestra
2012	Sylvan Street	Buddy Rich Big Band

WOJ 2012 Lineup

March 1st thru 3rd, 2012, the Beavercreek Music Parents Association (BMPA) in conjunction with Beavercreek High School (BHS) will be hosting the 12th annual Weekend of Jazz (WOJ). This not-for-profit community cultural event brings Beavercreek schools' jazz ensembles together with 15 -18 other area High School jazz bands and two professional headliner bands for a truly exciting jazz-filled weekend. Please visit our web site, www.WeekendOfJazz.org, for more information about this year's Weekend of Jazz. If you and your family have been missing out on the jazz fun, make a point to put the 2012 Weekend of Jazz on your calendar today!

This year's lineup is:

Thursday evening: Beavercreek Schools (Ankeney MS, Ferguson MS, BHS) – free concert

Friday evening: Sylvan Street – Adults \$30, Seniors \$20, Students \$20

Saturday: High School Jazz Band Day – free concert and Masters Classes

Saturday evening: Buddy Rich Big Band – Adults \$30, Seniors \$20, Students \$20

This is the best professional entertainment ticket value in the Miami Valley. Also for 2012, we are offering for a limited time, discounted tickets at \$5 off the regular price. For more information on Beavercreek's Weekend of Jazz visit our web site, www.WeekendOfJazz.org or contact:

Doug McCullough, BHS Director of Bands - doug.mccullough@beavercreek.k12.oh.us,

Jeff Weir, WOJ Event Director – director@weekendofjazz.org, or

Dan Archibald, WOJ Promoter – promoter@weekendofjazz.org.