

Inspiring Your Students by Inspiring Yourself

Featuring

The Noteworthy Jazz Ensemble Conducted by Chip Gdalman

Quite possibly the only band of its kind in the country, Noteworthy Jazz Ensemble is an ensemble comprised of Chicago Public School music teachers, many of whom are also the jazz band directors at their schools. The idea to form a band came about as an outgrowth of the Jazz Institute of Chicago's Jazz Links Teachers Advisory Council. After suggesting that they could create an opportunity to "practice what they teach" the band grew quickly from an octet to a burgeoning big band. The ensemble members see the possibility for establishing Noteworthy as a model for music teachers across the country, especially as a tool to build awareness and advocacy for arts education. Clinician and Noteworthy Band Director, Chip Gdalman has also taught at the university level and is a working jazz saxophonist. In 2011, Mr. Gdalman was presented the Jazz Educator of the Year Award by the Jazz Institute of Chicago.

Noteworthy's Performance features a wide variety of jazz styles and compositions by Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Oliver Nelson, Chick Corea, Steely Dan, Sammy Nestico, to name a few.

Why is Noteworthy important?

First and foremost, we are musicians. Back in our student days, we were attracted to making music and playing our instruments. Sometimes, with all of our teaching responsibilities consuming all of our energy, we tend to forget why we got into music in the first place. It is important for us to reconnect with that experience of making music - not just conducting and/or teaching it.

We need to have the opportunity to connect with our fellow teachers. Too often, music educators are isolated in their buildings without the feedback from peers.

Our students, our fellow teachers, and our administrators need to view us as performing artists in addition to being wonderful teachers.

Incorporated in 1969, The Jazz Institute of Chicago has been an important partner in the creative community for almost forty years. In the early eighties, they were one of the first cultural arts organizations to partner with the Chicago Board of Education, creating and implementing a jazz curriculum and concert presentation program in Chicago Public Elementary and High Schools.
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