

Upcoming Events

Jazz Lab Band | Tuesday, March 11 | 7:30 p.m. | Dvorak

Jazz Combos & Lab Band | Tuesday, April 15 | 7:30 p.m. | Dvorak

Jazz Ensemble | Thursday, April 24 | 7:30 p.m. | The Theatre

Your support is appreciated. Thank you for supporting the program by attending tonight's concert. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the people who support the jazz program through donations and scholarship endowments. We recognize our donors who have made contributions since January 1, 2024.

Rosemary Buck
Marilyn Coles
Marilyn Gerdt
Peter Hesterman
Jonathan McKenzie
Douglas and Joann Meyer
Charles Titus
Michael and Barbara Watts
Anne Wheeler
Paul and Donna Wieck
Tom Wold and Sally Foote

Individuals interested in making a donation are invited to contact Shellie Gregorich, Chair of the Music Department, at 217/581-5946 or slgregorich@eiu.edu.

Purpose of the Jazz Studies Program at Eastern Illinois University

- To promote jazz as a significant, indigenous American art form
- To provide an environment for learning and developing the skills necessary to perform, compose, and teach in the professional world
- To provide support for jazz studies programs in the public schools throughout the region



presents the

EIU Jazz Ensemble

in concert

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

6:00 p.m.

The Theatre

Charleston, Illinois

and

Thursday, March 6, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Union United Methodist Church

Belleville, Illinois

PROGRAM

Program to be selected from the following:

Blues for Kapp	Marty Paich
Nice 'n' Easy	Alan and Marilyn Bergman arranged by Mark Taylor
Like Someone in Love	Johnny Burke and Jimmy Van Heusen arranged by Vern Sielert
The EIU Jazz Ensemble featuring Aaron Eckert, trombone	
Alone Together	Arthur Schwartz and Howard Dietz arranged by Tom Kubis
A Time for Love	Johnny Mandel and Paul Webster arranged by Sammy Nestico
Blues for Miles	Freddie Hubbard arranged by Paul Johnston
There Is No Greater Love	Isham Jones arranged by Aaron Eckert
The EIU Jazz Ensemble Featuring Dr. Thomas Birkner, vocal	
Watch What Happens	Michel Legrand
You Make Me Feel So Young	Max Gordon and Josef Myrow Arranged by Quincy Jones

EIU JAZZ ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

Sam Fagaly, director

<i>Saxophones</i>	<i>Trumpets</i>	<i>Trombones</i>	<i>Rhythm Section</i>
Kyle Rennie	Brian George	Ross Oller	Seth Harshman, <i>guitar</i>
Megan Greenberg	Ryan Cooper	John Wengerski	Jake Reeley, <i>piano</i>
Noah Captain	Eli Hetzel	Hudson David	Race Brighton, <i>bass</i>
Logan Webster	Luke Ferris	Tanner Woods, <i>bass</i>	Jeremy Norris, <i>drums</i>
MJ Jarrell			

TONIGHT'S GUEST ARTISTS

Thomas Birkner serves on the faculty of Southwestern Illinois College where he leads the Jazz Band and teaches Jazz Improvisation, Applied Trumpet, and American Popular Music. Birkner holds degrees from Eastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois. He has been recognized as an outstanding soloist by the International Trumpet Guild and has performed with a range of musicians including Louie Bellson, Clark Terry, Joe Williams, and Nancy Wilson; with international performances in Sweden, Italy, and Denmark. Formerly Director of Instrumental Music at Belleville West High School, performances under his direction include Ontario, Canada, Germany, and the White House in Washington, D.C. Prior teaching assignments include the University of Illinois, Parkland College, and South High School in Terre Haute, Indiana. Active as a clinician and conductor, he has served on the faculty of the Summer Jazz Camp at Eastern Illinois University for over thirty-five years.

Aaron Eckert, originally from Belleville, IL, is a trombonist with the U.S. Army Blues, the premier jazz ensemble of the Army. He has performed with artists such as Jon Faddis, Jeff Hamilton, Chuck Israels, Conrad Herwig, and Scott Wendholt. With the Army Blues, Aaron has performed across the capital region, including the White House, Capitol Building, and Kennedy Center. In addition to the Blues, Aaron performs regularly in the D.C. area in a wide variety of musical settings. Before moving to D.C., Eckert served as the Low Brass Instructor at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, OR. He now serves on the faculty at George Mason University. Aaron completed his master's degree with a Performer's Certificate at the Eastman School of Music, with degrees in Jazz and Contemporary Media Performance (trombone) and Performance and Literature (euphonium). While at Eastman, Eckert was awarded 1st prize in the Rich Matteson Jazz Euphonium Competition and 2nd prize (as a member of the Carillon Tuba Quartet) in the ensemble competition at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference. Eckert holds bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Jazz Studies from Eastern Illinois University.

THE EIU JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The EIU Jazz Ensemble is directed by Sam Fagaly. The group has received numerous awards including Outstanding Ensemble and Solo Performance citations at the Notre Dame and Elmhurst College jazz festivals as well as from Downbeat magazine. They have been featured at the International Association for Jazz Education and Illinois Music Educators Association conferences and have performed with legendary jazz artists Mel Torme, Dizzy Gillespie, Diane Schuur, and Joe Williams among others. The Jazz Ensemble's latest album is entitled *Body and Soul*.