

JAZZ NEWS FROM CENTRAL

DECEMBER 2006

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<http://www.cwu.edu/~music/ensembles/jazz>

See our new brochure here!

<http://www.cwu.edu/~music/ensembles/jazz/CWUjazzBrochure06.pdf>

MOAWAD INVITATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL IS BOOKED SOLID

January 19-20, 2007, will be very busy days in the CWU Music Department as we host 58 (yes that's fifty-eight) groups from around the Northwest at our jazz festival. So many groups wanted to participate that we added a second performing venue on Friday. We also began offering a combo division and were able to fill a full day of groups in a third venue on Friday. Of course we are thrilled with the number of participants but also realize that it ain't gonna work unless we are organized! So we will be...at least that is the plan. Ingrid Jensen and Jon Wikan are booked to be our guest artists and we are already at work shedding music for the event.

CWU VOCAL JAZZ IS GOING TO NYC IAJE!

Last summer we got the news that VJ1 was invited to perform at the International Association for Jazz Education Convention in NYC for this coming January. Vijay Singh and the group have been hard at working getting charts together written by a number of CWU alums, intended to showcase what the NW VJ thing is all about. Ingrid Jensen may perform with the group on the gig! Funding for the trip has come from a number of CWU sources as well as community members and fundraising events. If you're in NYC for the convention come and support your alma mater and/or fellow WA/NW music folks!

CWU JAZZ BAND BACKS DAVID "FATHEAD" NEWMAN

October 14th the Jazz Band 1 did a full concert backing up the legendary Fathead Newman (Ray Charles' sax player) at the new Seasons Performance Hall in Yakima. Lots of fun and great musical highs were had by all! Lots of stress too since this gig followed fall auditions by only 2 weeks. Good thing we didn't do audition schedules of Moawadian proportions!

MICHELE WEIR HONORED AS CWU DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Michele was in the Music Department in the early 80s and has gone on to accomplish a whole lotta stuff. She came back to campus during Homecoming to be honored as the Distinguished Alumni from the CWU College of Arts and Humanities. During her time on campus she coached the CWU VJ 1 and toured the new Music Building, which she remarked is quite a step up from Hertz Hall! Check out Michele's website and see why she richly deserved this honor. <http://www.micheleweir.com>

FALL COMBO WORKSHOP ARTISTS WERE A GAS, MAN!

November 14th we hosted the *EastWest Jazz Alliance*, headed up by Seattle jazz great Jay Thomas. This group included two killer players from Japan, Yoshiro Okazaki (trumpet) and Yujiro Nakamura (drums), very swingin' and musical cats! Also with the group was Phil Sparks (bass) and John Hansen (piano) and Jay played mostly saxophone. The group coached some of our combos, then did an evening concert, then the next morning did a clinic at Eburg HS. Thanks to *Jazz In The Valley* for help with funding this event!

NEW JAZZ DEGREE IN FULL SWING

The new "BA Music Jazz Specialization" degree is now in place. What fun it is to look in the CWU printed catalogue and see the degree listed along side all the others! While less than 10 students are currently majors, we plan for full implementation to be 20-25 students, which is the number the department approved. You can see the *Jazz Student Handbook* at the web address above and check out what we do.

JON WIKAN STOPPED BY

Jon Wikan (mid 90s alum drummer) was in town taking care of his rental house and stopped by to rehearse the band on some of the charts we'll do when he and Ingrid Jensen are here in January at the jazz festival. He also led a faculty/student group (featuring John Harbaugh, trumpet prof.) to open one of our jam sessions. What a great experience for the students! Man, he sounds good!

GAREY WILLIAMS AS COACH!

We've been having Garey Williams, CWU alum drummer and Sabian cymbal artist, over a bunch to coach our drummers on the finer points of ensemble playing. Garey was here October 6 and November 17. What a difference he's made! Thanks Garey!

LENNY PRICE TOURS WITH EARL KLUGH

Special Assistant in Jazz Studies at CWU Lenny Price continues to tour with Earl Klugh, and recently played concerts in Nigeria, Georgia and LA.