

November 1, 2022

Dear Directors,

It's that time of year again! I would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 2023 Clark Terry Jazz Festival. This year's event takes place on March 11, 2023, and I have several things I am excited to share with you.

First, we are thrilled that the **Vanguard Jazz Orchestra (VJO)** will be our featured instrumental group at the event this year! The band will be on campus to perform the evening concert and will give separate section clinics (rhythm, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone) staggered throughout the day. We plan to record these and post them after the event, so if your group happens to be performing during that time slot, you won't miss out on the information that is presented. VJO is doing a special tour in 2023 to celebrate the centennial birthday of Thad Jones and they will be with us very close to his actual birthdate (March 28). To help celebrate Thad's legacy, we are encouraging all big band directors to *consider programming one of Thad's charts to perform at the festival!* In addition to the evening concert, alto saxophonist **Miguel Zenon** will be featured at the noon concert with the UNH 3 O'Clock Jazz Band!

Second, we are bringing back another feature from the festival's past – the evening vocal concert! This year we are welcoming UNH alum **Chris Humphrey**, who recently released a recording titled *The Voice of Clark Terry*. It features several tunes that Clark regularly performed, and it also contains lyrics written by our drum set teacher, Les Harris, Jr. Chris will also be one of our choir and solo vocal clinicians throughout the day. This concert will take place at 5:30PM, before the concert with the VJO, so you will have the opportunity to attend both events if you choose!

We regret to inform our Middle School participants that we have discontinued that division of the festival. This is due to increased demand among high schools and a decline in participation among middle schools (even before the pandemic). We will again be running a jam session in the Food Court of the MUB, so make sure to encourage your students to learn a tune or two to play with our faculty! In addition to the VJO's section clinics, there will also be an improvisation clinic offered with our UNH faculty in the afternoon.

We are really excited to welcome you back to Durham for this tremendous day of music! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lyndsay (clarkterryjazzfestival@gmail.com) or myself (nathan.jorgensen@unh.edu) and we would be happy to assist you.

I hope to hear you in March!

Sincerely,



Dr. Nathan Jorgensen
Director of Jazz Studies
University of New Hampshire