**Special early auditions for UL Jazz Ensemble, Fall 2017**

As many have heard, the UL Jazz Ensemble has an early gig this fall. We open on Saturday, Sept. 30 at ACA (downtown Lafayette) with New York Voices! Back in 2014, this was a sell-out concert for us, and one of the finest jazz shows ever heard in Lafayette. NYV are multiple Grammy-winners, 4 of the best jazz artists in the business, and it will be a treat to partner with them once again. Great arrangements, incredible musicians. (Find their performances at Newyorkvoices.com and all over *The YouTubes.)*

 What a way to open the season, but a real challenge, too: We need 6-8 charts, each polished to the best level, and all before the end of week 6. Back in spring I announced that we would take special steps to have an early start-up and to insure instant success: a.) Eleven returning members have already been offered spots for the 2017-18 year (3 Saxes, 2 Tpts, 2 Tbns, and the rhythm section are already locked in). b.) Vacancies (2 saxes, 3 Tpts, 3 Tbns) need to be filled early. c.) Music will be available before school starts back (folders or PDF copies). d.) We’ll have early readings and rehearsals before classes begin.

 Unfortunately, I’m about a month behind with these plans. My father’s passing meant several trips to NJ; and the search for Dr. Melley’s replacement was another unexpected summer project. With the dust beginning to settle, it’s time to start hearing auditions—I ask for your understanding and assistance with this.

 **Anyone interested interested in Jazz Ensemble should arrange an audition ASAP.**

 1. Please indicate your interest with a message to Dr. Hochkeppel ASAP (Hochkeppel@louisiana.edu 337-257-9051). Let’s set up a date to hear your audition soon, and let’s get this done by 8/1 if possible. Book your audition date right away!

 2. You bring 1 prepared piece of your own. Some good options are a jazz etude, a showy number from a JE chart, play-along with a back-track, etc. Improv is optional, but can add to your score. Those unfamiliar with jazz can play a legit selection, but real style points come from showing the jazz idiom. Level of difficulty is also considered in the “preparation” category, so strut your stuff—be competitive! Win yourself a spot. I’ll also ask you some of the usual scales. Modes & Jazz Scales are optional.

 3. When we book your audition appointment, I will send you a PDF of a JE charts to prepare, and you’ll each get that just 3 days before you play for me. That way, each player will have the same 72 hrs. of prep time to level things out. (Sometimes we have to do charts on short notice, so this is a practical test.) Jazz Sight-reading will also be scored, so practice your reading every day (Swing, Latin, Funk styles).

I’d like to post a preliminary roster by 8/8 so that we can try to come together for an early reading: looking at Friday, 8/11 in the evening. Also looking at a 2nd session on Sat., 8/19—think of these as our JE mini-camp. Since some may be traveling or too far away, it’s possible that sections will be preliminary, remain open, or that challenges may have to take place during band camp right before classes. But anything we can do before the semester is critical. At our 1st class (Tuesday, 8/22) we want the band to be solid and working at full-speed. Also please book a SPECIAL REHEARSAL on Wed. 8/24, 7-9pm, using the 1st Wind Ensemble sectional spot.

I’ve already been in touch with NYV folks, but no charts just yet, I’ll let band members know when folders or charts are ready. Meanwhile, here are other facts and details:

***Fall JE rehearsals, Tues. & Thurs. 3:30-5:00, ANG 158*** *AMUS 170 (Fr/Soph) or 370 (Jr/Sr)*

 *1 credit & $200 JE scholarship. Spring rehearsals are Tues. 3:30-5:00 & Fri., 2:00-3:30.*

We expect 3 fall performances:

A: Sat., Sept. 30, with New York Voices at Acadiana Center for the Arts.

B: Sat., Nov 4, Showcase of Marching Bands: Noon JE Concert on the South Concourse.

C: Campus concert in late November.