

The Past, The Present, and Where Are We Going?

Panel discussion led by Bob Long, 1A/2A All-State Jazz Director.

Guest panel: Larry Green, Steve Lawson, Dick Redman, and Bob Washut.

The panel consists of those educators that had a profound effect on me when I first started teaching in Iowa. We will discuss the evolution of jazz education in Iowa, what worked for them to develop a successful program, and where they think jazz education is headed, not only in Iowa, but across the nation.

You will find the biographies of our esteemed panel attached with this handout. Please take the time to read through what these gentlemen have accomplished over the last 3 to 4 decades.

Some topics of discussion that we will present:

1. Historical perspective of jazz in the Iowa schools:
2. What helps to motivates students:
3. What does the panel believe would help improve jazz education in Iowa:
4. What constitutes a “successful” program:
5. Where do you see jazz going in the next few years in Iowa (as well as nationally), especially in regard to state/federal funding of education:

These are but a few questions we have as we strive to improve and continue to share this beautiful American art form with our youth. We hope that this will give us the impetus to think ‘outside to box’ as to what we can do to preserve this valuable music in this era of declining school and arts funding.

BIOS

Each of these educators had a profound effect on shaping me as an educator after I moved to Iowa in 1988. I continually thank them for what they have selflessly shared with me over the years, whether it is teaching improvisation, rhythm section concepts, philosophy, or even why we do this.

Larry Green

Larry Green is currently The Jazz Education Network Office Manager, a consultant for Antigua Instruments, and independent consultant/clinician under WhipLash Consultants, his educational company focused on working with school groups 7-12 and their directors. He also remains very active in judging and convention presentations.

His previous music industry positions have been with Buffet Crampon, USA, West Music, Conn-Selmer, Inc., CGConn, United Musical Instruments, DeMoulin Uniforms, Creative Colorguard Wear, and Band Services of Iowa.

Having taught 22 years in instrumental music in Iowa, Larry continues to commit his energies to helping young students and educators through clinics and mentorship activities. His teaching employment included Seymour Community, Washington Community, Des Moines Roosevelt and West Des Valley High Schools.

In addition, Larry was the National Band Association Jazz Chair for 12 years, the Chair and Co-Chair of the International Association of Jazz Educators' Leadership Committee for 6 years, co-founder of the Iowa Jazz Championships, co-founder of ValleyFest, and his band programs have performed at MidWest International Band Clinic, National Band Conference, International Jazz Educators Conference, Iowa BandMasters Convention, Montreux International Jazz Festival, Orange and Citrus Bowl Parades, Cherry Blossom Parade, Festival of States Parade, and numerous MidWest regional events and concert tours.

Larry's educational degrees include: BS in Music Education, Kirksville State Teachers College, MA in Musical Composition, Northeast Missouri State University, and Post Graduate work in Music Theory at the University of Iowa.

Steve Lawson

Steve Lawson was born and raised in Lincoln Nebraska. He attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln receiving his Bachelors degree in music education in 1967 and finished his Masters degree at the University of Iowa in 1971.

Steve taught 5 –12 band in Carson Iowa for two years then spent the next 33 years in Harlan Iowa as the Middle School band director and also did the High School Jazz program. His marching bands were consistent winners in the Clarinda band jamborees. His concert bands got only division ones for 33 years. The jazz bands were also consistent winners. The H.S. jazz band finished in the trophy class at the Iowa Jazz Championships every year since its conception in 1976. They have finished in the top three since 1989 winning 1st place in 99 and 01.

Mr. Lawson held many offices in the state Iowa Bandmasters Association . He is past president and winner of the Karl King active award. He was interim president reactivating the Iowa chapter of IAJE and is a member of the Iowa Jazz Educators Hall Of Fame.

Since his retirement at the end of the 02 school year he has kept busy doing clinics, guest directing, judging, mentoring young band directors. He has worked as a professional jazz musician for over 50 years playing gigs on piano – bass- drums- trombone with many mid west dance bands as well as his own band Together. Steve was on the adjunct faculty at Iowa Western Community College Council Bluffs 2005 – 2010 and taught lessons part time at Shelby County Catholic School. He also has a studio and teaches private lessons. Steve finds his main passion in the Contemporary Christian group he has directed for 38 years called Faith Sound. This group is made up of 20 high school kids that do concerts in Churches all over the mid west on Sundays January through May and is a frequent performing group in Branson. The group has released 33 recordings.

Dick Redman

Mr. Dick Redman received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Central College and the Master of Arts in Music Education from Truman State University. Performing ensembles under his direction have received national and state awards including many Division I ratings at the IHSMA State Large Group and Jazz Band contests. The Pella Jazz I is the only high school jazz band to be selected for the finals of the Iowa Jazz Championships for eighteen consecutive years, placing first on fourteen occasions. The Marching Dutch color guard has received numerous Best of Class and Top Overall Color Guard awards at state and national contests. His students have been selected for the Iowa All-State Band, All-State Orchestra, All-State Jazz Band as well as the Miss Iowa Color Guard award. He also directs the Pella Municipal Band during the summer, serves as director of the Central Iowa Color Guard Camp, and is a member of the Pella Tulip Time Steering Committee. Currently Dick is the Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at William Penn University in Oskaloosa.

Mr. Redman is in constant demand as a concert band, jazz band, color guard and marching band adjudicator/clinician throughout the United States and Canada and has directed many Iowa district and conference honor bands. He has served as a clinician at the IBA and IMEA conventions, various summer camps throughout the Midwest and Arizona, as well as a consultant to the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps and the Celebration Iowa Singers and Jazz Band. Dick is also a National Board Certified Teacher, a recipient of the IBA Karl King Service Award (Active), the Pella Chamber of Commerce "Hall of Fame" Award for Education and selected to the Jazz Educators of Iowa Hall of Fame in 2010.

Mr. Redman has held many state offices including president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, president of the Jazz Educators of Iowa, chairman of the Iowa Jazz Championships, chairman of the IBA Marching Band and IBA Jazz Band Committees, president of the South Central Iowa Bandmasters Association, Advisory Council for Band Selection of the Mid-West Orchestra/Band Clinic, and is currently the magazine editor for the Iowa Bandmasters Association.

Robert Washut

Robert Washut is Professor of Music at the University of Northern Iowa, where he served as Director of Jazz Studies from 1980-2002. An accomplished jazz composer and arranger, Washut has received numerous commissions from collegiate and high school jazz ensembles, professional jazz artists, and symphony orchestras. Many of his works are published by Kendor Music (Delevan, NY), UNC Jazz Press (Greeley, CO), Walrus Music Publishing/ejazzlines (Saratoga Springs, NY), C.L. Barnhouse (Oskaloosa, IA), Heritage JazzWorks (Lorenz Corp - Dayton, OH), Sierra Music (Liberty Lake, WI) and Really Good Music (Eau Claire, WI). Washut also has served as a jazz composer-in-residence at numerous universities around the country.

During his 22 years as director of the award-winning UNI Jazz Band One, Washut recorded 11 CDs (two of which earned 5-star ratings from DownBeat magazine), toured Europe three times, consistently received "Outstanding Band" recognition at collegiate jazz festivals throughout the Midwest, and was awarded three "Outstanding Performance" citations in DownBeat's Annual Student Music Awards.

He is in demand as a clinician and adjudicator nationally, and has conducted all-state jazz bands in 15 states. He is also a jazz pianist who founded the locally popular Latin jazz band, Orquesta Alto Maiz, in 1986, with which he remained for 27 years. Washut recorded and released a jazz trio CD entitled Songbook (with Mark Urness and Kevin Hart) in 1999 and a duo CD (with Chris Merz) entitled Gemini in 2007. With Orquesta Alto Maiz, he recorded 10 CDs and performed nationally and internationally. Washut was inducted into the Des Moines CJC Hall of Fame in 2013 and the Iowa IAJE Hall of Fame in 2003. At UNI he was the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award in 2015 and the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity in 2014. He received the Outstanding Teaching Award in 1996.