

The Jazz at Towson Small Jazz Ensembles Competition

- ***Application submission due Wednesday, March 7, 2012***
- ***Final Competition Concert Thursday, March 29, 2012 8:15pm***

Purpose:

To provide Jazz at Towson students an opportunity to conceive, prepare and perform a set of music reflective of their influences and development while being evaluated by recognized specialists in the area of the jazz and improvised music.

Description:

The Jazz at Towson Small Jazz Ensembles Competition is open to all students of the Department of Music at Towson University. Limited to ensembles of two to five members, each group will perform a set of music no more than 20 minutes in length before a live audience and panel of three judges. A maximum of four groups will be selected to perform on the final competition concert. Judges will evaluate each group based upon the criteria below.

Eligibility:

Undergraduate and Graduate students currently enrolled as full-time students in the Department of Music at Towson University.

- Individuals are allowed to participate in only one ensemble as a group representative or group member.

Requirements:

Each group must apply (using the application form) by the published deadline to be considered for the competition. The official application form will be submitted to the coordinator of the Jazz program no later than **Wednesday, March 7, 2011**. The coordinator will determine that all requirements have been met and inform the representative of each group that the application has been accepted.

Criteria:

Each performance will be evaluated upon the following elements:

- 1) Presentation
 - a. Professional presence
 - b. Communication to the audience is cordial and appropriate
 - c. Program is thoughtful and unified
- 2) Originality
 - a. Approach to the performance reflects the individuality of the performers and the group
 - b. Each performance shows evidence of considerations of instrumentation and musical possibilities of the ensemble
- 3) Interaction
 - a. Performances display that the members work together and communicate musically
- 4) Improvisation
 - a. Improvisation is featured in each performance
 - b. Improvisations show evidence of a developing mature style

- 5) Arrangements
 - a. The performance exhibits consideration of the possibilities for the given ensemble
- 6) Integration of stylistic influences
 - a. Performances display evidence of a developing integration of stylistic influences as reflected through the choice of material and arrangements
- 7) Technique
 - a. Individuals perform accurately and convincingly
 - b. Groups execute all aspects of the performance at the highest level of musical proficiency

Award:

The panel of judges will determine 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners at the completion of the final competition concert. One \$1000 scholarship award will be awarded to the 1st place winner and \$500 scholarship award will be awarded to the 2nd place winner.

Judges:

Three (3) judges will evaluate the performances. This panel will be appointed by the coordinator of the Jazz/Commercial program at Towson University and will feature local jazz artists. Judges will be allowed to provide comments (either verbal or written) to the participants in a private setting after the awards are presented. The Judge's identities will not be revealed until the end of the competition.

Pre-screening:

The group representative will submit the completed application form and a cd with a maximum of 10 minutes of music to the coordinator of the Jazz/Commercial music program no later than **Wednesday, March 7**. This recording must include at least one of the pieces to be performed if the group is selected for the final competition.

- Submissions must be left in Dave Ballou's mailbox in the department of music office.
- Group representatives will be notified on **Monday, March 12** via email if they have been selected.
- cd must be clearly marked with the group representative's name and the selections on the cd.

Upon acceptance of the completed application, the full-time faculty of the Jazz/Commercial music program will review each application. If necessary, additional information and/or live auditions may be requested in order to select applicants for the final competition concert. The full time jazz faculty will set the performance schedule for the final competition concert and limit the number of groups to no more than four ensembles.