Hello directors,

I would like to invite you and your students to attend our annual jazz festival at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Our guest artist/clinicians this year are Wessell Anderson, saxophonist formerly of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the Wynton Marsalis group and Tom Garling, trombonist and the former music director of the Maynard Ferguson Big Band. The festival weekend will culminate with a final concert on Sunday with high school honor jazz ensembles directed by our guest artists and UNCW faculty. This is our second year with the honor band format, so we hope you will participate and make this year’s UNCW JazzFest as successful as last year’s. Students will spend two and a half days of rehearsals, workshops, and performances with top industry professionals.

Selection to the UNCW Jazz Honor Bands is by nomination by the high school director’s and open to the standard jazz ensemble instrumentation: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, drums, piano and vibraphone.

There will be a brief audition for participants on Friday, March 27 for ensemble placement. Auditions will consist of some rudimentary skills, sight reading, and improvisation.

Cost for the participants is $50 per student. This fee will cover all performances and master classes for the weekend as well as a JazzFest t-shirt. Directors will accompany all JazzFest participants for the duration of the weekend. Meals and lodging are not provided: a list of area hotels will be sent to all directors with the applicable state rate for JazzFest participants.

The students and staff of the UNCW Department of Music are very excited about this year’s Jazz Honor Band Festival. We believe that it will be an enjoyable and musically rewarding weekend for all who attend. We look forward to having you and your students join us for this event.

For more information and downloadable documents, please visit www.uncw.edu/music.

Sincerely,

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