



Division of Performing Arts

Minot State University Division of Performing Arts
500 University Avenue West
Minot, ND 58707

September 13, 2023

Dear Jazz Educator,

The Minot State University Division of Performing Arts and the Minot Public Schools Band Program are proud to announce a new collaboration, combining the Magic City Jazz Festival and the MSU Honor Jazz Ensemble, formerly held in conjunction with the Northwest Festival of Music, into one two-day event. The 22nd Annual Magic City Jazz Festival will be held at Minot State University in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, Friday and Saturday, February 9-10, 2024. Separating the Honor Jazz Ensemble (HJE) from the Northwest Festival of Music weekend in November will give your students the opportunity to participate in both the jazz and classical honor ensembles without conflict. Additionally, we've worked hard to create a schedule that will allow those students who are selected by audition for the HJE to play both for the HJE and your school ensembles in the Magic City Jazz Festival without time conflicts over the two-day event.

We are very pleased to announce that the clinicians for this year's festival are trombonist, composer, and arranger **Paul Nelson** and Minot native and vocalist **Jasmine Spitzer**.

Paul Nelson is an active trombonist, composer, arranger, and music educator in the Los Angeles area. Currently, he leads the jazz band at Burbank High School and maintains a private studio of low brass musicians and aspiring music producers. Mr. Nelson leads his own creative project, 'Paul Nelson's Big Ol' Band,' a 17-piece orchestra featuring original music and arrangements.

Jasmine Spitzer has established herself as one of Central Ohio's most sought after vocalists in jazz, funk, and soul. She teaches a course about American Music History for Columbus City Schools and is a teaching artist for The Jazz Arts Group. Jasmine maintains a schedule of regular performances at various Columbus music establishments. She is working on her first album of original music, as well as a collaboration with Minot-raised guitarist Miles Anderson.

The festival format will be 20 to 30 minutes, including stage entrance/exit, an adjudicated performance with an off-stage clinic to follow. Written and recorded comments will be provided by the adjudicators. Recognition for achievement will be provided with certificates and scholarships. Last year we gave out 11 scholarships to International Music Camp, plus 4 solo awards that came with musical equipment.

Each day will conclude with a concert in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall featuring the Minot Public School jazz bands and our guest artists. Friday's concert featuring the Swing Band of Minot is at 7pm and will also include performances by student groups from Ramstad MS and Magic City Campus HS. Saturday's concert featuring the Honor Jazz Ensemble and the MSU Big Dam Band is at 3pm and will also include performances by student groups from Jim Hill MS and Central Campus HS. Awards will be presented at Saturday's concert.

Honor Jazz Ensemble application forms will be submitted **exclusively** online via the link found on the Magic City Jazz Festival website listed below. The application deadline is **Friday, November 17, 2023**. Recorded auditions will be submitted only by audio files uploaded with the application form. The cost per student audition is \$5.00.

Audition information is also located on the Magic City Jazz Festival website. Results will be posted on the website by noon on Wednesday, October 22, 2023. If selected to an ensemble, the participation cost is \$25.00 per student. Student audition and participation fees should be submitted by check payable to Minot State University, memo line: Division of Performing Arts. Honor Jazz Ensemble music will be mailed to directors as soon as the participants have been selected. To ensure the highest quality experience, students will be expected to arrive at the festival well-prepared on all chosen repertoire.

Festival Website: <https://www.minotstateu.edu/music/pages/magic-city-jazz-festival.shtml>.

New this year, the festival registration form for performing ensembles will be completed **online** at our website listed above. Please complete the registration form **by January 12, 2024**. The festival fee is \$175 with checks made payable to Minot Public Schools. A \$25 late fee will be assessed if your registration is received after midnight on January 12. If you are unsure of the pieces you will perform and your soloists, they may be changed before the festival. We will try to include everybody, but registration is "first come/ first served" until we are out of performance slots. More information will follow as it becomes available.

We are extremely excited for the potential of this newly collaborative event and look forward to making music together soon!

Sincerely,



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