

October 9, 2019

Dear Ohio Jazz Students,

We are pleased to announce the formation of the **Southwest Ohio Youth Jazz Orchestra**! The purpose of this ensemble is simple: to inspire the next generation of jazz musicians through education and performance while celebrating Ohio's contributions to Jazz heritage. As you may know, every major city in Ohio hosts a youth jazz orchestra. Prior to 2019, these ensembles have included the Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra, the Cincinnati Youth Jazz Orchestra, the Toledo Youth Jazz Orchestra, and the Cleveland Youth Jazz Orchestra. We are pleased and honored to host the inaugural Youth Jazz Orchestra to serve southwest Ohio! This group would not be possible without the partnership with Springboro Community Theatre.

This will be an audition only ensemble comprised of the strongest jazz musicians from southwest Ohio. We hope to include students from Springboro, Centerville, Beavercreek, Kettering, Miamisburg, Dayton, and the greater Miami Valley! Eventually, we hope to compete in the Essentially Ellington competition and record. In the short term, we will present two concerts and meet on Saturday mornings at the new Springboro Performing Arts Center. Audition information is below and can be submitted as mp3 file at southwestohiojazz@gmail.com

Attendance policy: Students are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Exceptions include illness and family emergencies.

Our director for the 2019-20 season will **Dr. Jimmy Leach from the University of Dayton**. As a Trumpeter and Vocalist, Dr. Leach brings a wealth of experience as an educator and performer. Past experience includes work at Harvard University and numerous Jazz Orchestras from across North America. To learn more about Dr. Leach, visit <http://www.jimmyleach.com/bio.htm>

Assisting with the group will **Mr. Bill Burns**. Mr. Burns teaches in Centerville City Schools and directs the Sinclair Community Jazz Ensemble. He has over 20 years of experience in jazz education and is a past-president of the Jazz Education Connection of Ohio. To learn more about him visit <http://www.billburnsjazz.com> Thank you for your help and support of Jazz Education! We look forward to hearing your students audition!

Sincerely,

Bill Burns

Community Liaison, Southwest Ohio Community Jazz Orchestra