



Greetings, Directors!

The Beta Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia at the University of Northern Iowa is proud to present the 64th annual Tallcorn Jazz Festival and 68th annual Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz Concert. The Festival will occur on **Thursday**, February 14th and **Friday**, February 15th, 2019 at the University of Northern Iowa.

We are excited to offer a truly world-class selection of adjudicators and clinicians at this year's festival. It is our goal to emphasize education and to provide all students with an opportunity for musical growth at this year's festival. After your band performs, they will receive a twenty-five minute clinic with nationally recognized jazz pedagogues. In addition, directors will receive score sheets and recorded comments to share with their bands. Also, our SDIJ guest artist, Carl Allen, will present a free clinic on at noon on both days of the festival. This year we will be running both centers both days, with class **2A & 3A** commencing on **Thursday**, and **1A & 4A** on **Friday**. We strongly encourage all directors and students to attend as it is sure to be a great educational and musical opportunity!

As in previous years, we will be providing back-line equipment for the festival. "Back-line equipment" includes: bass amps, guitar amps, drums (without cymbals and cymbal stands), and pianos for all warm-up, performance, and clinic rooms. One set of vibes will be provided for each performance center, as well as each warm-up room; if your band requires two sets of vibes you must bring your own additional set. Although we provide much of the back- line equipment, each band will be responsible for bringing



its own cymbals and cymbal stands (this includes ni-nat) as well as any auxiliary percussion (if necessary). It is important that each band brings only its own cymbals, cymbal stands, and auxiliary percussion and uses the backline equipment provided to ensure the festival runs smoothly, and so that no band has a competitive advantage over another. This will be strictly enforced at the festival.

This year, we have decided to revamp our registration process, which will be found using this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/jU9Zl27zb3pUAmag1> As you can see in the form, we have changed the cutoff dates for registration, now December 1st, 2018, and payment reception, now December 15th, 2018. We have changed these dates for two reasons. Firstly, to better match other jazz festivals in the area, so fewer dates are floating around, and secondly, to ensure that we can provide an accurate schedule to participating schools in a more timely manner. Entries submitted after December 1st will receive last pick for performance time, and payment received after December 15th must include a fifty dollar administrative surcharge.

After sending out our improvement survey in the spring, we noted that a good majority of schools would not mind paying a little extra to have a third judge at each center, as well as the clinician. Because of this you will see an increase of twenty-five dollars for bands participating in the scored category of the festival.

As many of you know, copyright has become quite the touchy subject, and we fear that the realm of big band is next to face its harsh scrutiny. To combat this, we are requiring that all original scores be shown at registration. If the original score is not



presented, that piece cannot be played.

The final change we would like to announce this year is that we will not be sending out a recap of the placement and scores of every band following the festival. Instead of announcing every band as we have in the past, this year we will only announce the top three. This festival is intended to be an educational and fun weekend, and we do not believe that the full recap is necessary to help achieve this. In addition, we have taken a look at other festivals around the state, and noticed that we are one of the few that still provide this information. If you have any questions or concerns with this matter, please contact Chris Merz: [Chris.Merz@uni.edu](mailto:Chris.Merz@uni.edu) directly.

In conclusion, it is no shock to say that last year's festival had its fair share of problems, but the Tallcorn committee is always striving to make the process a smooth and rewarding experience for you and your students. The Tallcorn committee, as well as Mr. Chris Merz, are always willing to hear your questions, grievances, and recipes to better the festival for all. So please, feel free to contact us!

Best,

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Jason Andriano, Tallcorn Coordinator

Isaac Smith, Tallcorn Assistant Coordinator