August 1, 2015

Dear Director,

The 43rd annual Central Michigan University/Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Weekend will be held Thursday and Friday, February 4 and 5, 2016 on the CMU campus. You and your students are invited to participate in two days of exciting musical performances in an educational and entertaining atmosphere. Jazz Weekend XLIII brings together outstanding guest artists, clinicians, and over 1,200 college, high school and junior high school students comprising dozens of big bands and jazz combos.

Tickets for your student performers to the feature performance on Friday, February 5 at 8 p.m. in Plachta Auditorium are included with your Big Band registration fee of $250, and additional student tickets can be purchased for $7, along with adult tickets at $10.

Walter White, the great jazz and lead trumpet player, together with his rhythm section, will be our guest clinician and soloist for Jazz Weekend 2016. Walter’s expressive trumpet-playing has led him to collaborate with many of the top names in music including: Bob James, Dave Holland, the Mingus Big Band, the Woody Herman Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Gunther Schuller, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, The Jaco Pastorius Big Band, and Arturo Sandoval. Read more about Walter here: walterwhite.com

Festival concerts will once again feature a wide variety of CMU Jazz Ensembles, including Jazzbone, Jazz Central, Jazz Lab I, and more. Top clinicians and adjudicators from around the Midwest will provide commentary and suggestions throughout the day as High School and Junior High School groups perform for ratings and awards.

Please fill out the enclosed application(s) and return immediately to ensure your students’ place in this year’s festival, as they are processed on a “first-come, first served” basis. Additional forms may be obtained using the web site address below. Applications (including payment) must be postmarked by December 11, 2015. Schools that intend to participate in the combo sessions are especially encouraged to respond early, as performance opportunities are limited. For more information and forms, visit our web site at www.mus.cmich.edu

We look forward to seeing you in February!

Sincerely,

John Jacobson
Director of Music Events
School of Music
Central Michigan University