NAU Jazz Festival 2016

Dear Jazz Educators,

Northern Arizona University Jazz Studies would like to invite you to the 54th annual NAU Jazz Festival to be held February 25-27, 2016.

NAU Jazz Festival is an ABODA sanctioned festival for middle school, high school, and community colleges. Our festival is a non-competitive setting, which creates a relaxed atmosphere and promotes education. Big bands and combos perform for three adjudicators to receive ratings and/or comments. Following the performances each group participates in a clinic with one of our esteemed adjudicator/clinicians. Directors will receive written comments as well as CD recordings of both their band’s performance and adjudicator comments.

In the past, the NAU Jazz Festival has featured the talents of many renowned guest artists such as Jim McNeely, Peter Erskine, John Abercrombie, Alan Broadbent, Maria Schneider, Bobby Shew, Ernie Watts, Randy Brecker, Brice Winston, and Jeremy Pelt.

This year’s festival will feature two fantastic guest artists: saxophonist Lucas Pino, and pianist Glenn Zaleski. Lucas and Glenn are highly in demand on the New York City jazz scene and internationally, both as performers and educators. Their experience and perspective as emerging artists from our current generation will certainly inspire all in attendance at the festival.

Tenor Saxophonist **Lucas Pino** works frequently as a sideman for artists including Gideon van Gelder, Richard Boukas, David Lopato, Bryan Carter, Rafal Sarnecki, Nick Finzer, and Jeremy Siskind. His past performance experience also includes Dave Brubeck, Curtis Fuller, Benny Golson, Jimmy Heath, Christian McBride, Carl Allen, Benny Green and David Sanborn. Lucas has traveled to play in Australia, Poland, Spain, Britain, The Netherlands, Brazil, Costa Rica, as well as throughout the United States and Canada. He has appeared at venues such as the Blue Note, Dizzy’s, The Jazz Standard, Yoshi’s, The Jazz Kitchen, The Rex, and Chicago Symphony Hall. As a leader, he has maintained a monthly residency at Smalls with the No Net Nonet since March 2013.

Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, Lucas grew up singing hymns in church, and in the choir at school. He started playing saxophone at age 10, and the first music he ever listened to was jazz. As a high school junior, Lucas won the Downbeat award for Best Instrumental Soloist in 2004. He attended the Brubeck Institute from 2005-2007, where he studied closely with Dave Brubeck. Lucas finished his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Jazz Performance at The New School in 2009. He attended Juilliard from 2009-2011, where he received a Master of Music.

Lucas’ major influences on the saxophone include Stan Getz, Lucky Thompson, John Coltrane, Michael Brecker, and Chris Cheek. Compositionally, he is heavily influenced by the sound of big band, and composers including Wayne Shorter, Maria Schneider, Walt Weiskopf, Thad Jones.
Glenn Zaleski is one of the most in-demand pianists on the New York City jazz scene. Originally from Boylston, MA, Glenn has made a name for himself playing with the likes of Ravi Coltrane, Lage Lund, and Ari Hoenig. His debut album, "My Ideal," was released in March of 2015 on Sunnyside Records and has been receiving critical acclaim: Downbeat Magazine named it "sublime", Jazz Times called it, "an engaging set by a talent worth watching," and the New York Times named the record a "strong statement," praising its "fluent but unhurried sense of phrase".

Glenn has also released two popular albums with the collective Stranahan/Zaleski/Rosato: "Limitless" (Capri, 2013), and "Anticipation" (Capri, 2011), as well as a duo record with his brother, saxophonist Mark Zaleski; "Duet Suite", 2010.

In 2011, Glenn was a semi-finalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition, as well as a finalist for the 2011 APA Cole Porter Fellowship in Jazz. He attended the Brubeck Institute Fellowship program in Stockton, CA from 2005-2007, and then finished his undergraduate studies at The New School in 2009. From 2009-2011, while working towards his graduate degree at NYU, Glenn was also on NYU faculty, teaching a variety of classes and private students.

Lucas Pino and Glenn Zaleski will give an open clinic on Friday, February 26th at 1:00 pm in Ardrey Memorial Auditorium. The clinic is free and open to the public. Our Guest Artist Concert will be Friday, February 26th at 8pm featuring Lucas and Glenn with NAU Jazz Ensemble One in Ardrey Memorial Auditorium. Tickets will be available through the NAU Central Ticket Office - 1-888-520-7214.

Your application form is on the page following this letter. Please submit your application and payment by the due date of Friday, February 22, 2016. In recent years we have had very full schedules with waiting lists for some days. Applications will be processed as they are received. Please return your application in a timely manner to ensure your band's participation in the festival.

We look forward to seeing you in February!

Chris Finet
Jazz Studies Coordinator
String Bass and Jazz Studies
Northern Arizona University School of Music