October 5, 2009

Dear Director,

The thirty-seventh annual Central Michigan University/Phi Mu Alpha Jazz Weekend will be held Thursday and Friday, February 11 and 12, 2010 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 XXXVII brings together outstanding guest artists, clinicians, and over 1,100 college, high school and junior high school students comprising dozens of big bands and jazz combos.

Twenty tickets to the feature performance on Friday, February 12 at 8 p.m. in Plachta Auditorium are included with your registration fee of $240, the same as a year ago. Additional student tickets can be purchased for $7, adult tickets are $10. We continue to hold the line on prices, in order to help bands attend this important event.

Trumpeter Nicholas Payton is our featured guest artist this year. Since making his recording debut in 1994 with From This Moment, the great young New Orleans trumpeter has been lauded as a significant, top-tier voice in jazz. Although he started out as a “young lion of jazz,” Payton is heralded as one of the new-generation guardians of the hard bop flame. Learn more about Nicholas at http://www.nicholaspayton.com/index.html

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 15, 2009. 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,

[Signatures]

Robert Hinson
Jazz Weekend Coordinator

Rob Smith
Instructor of Jazz Studies

David Gillingham
Faculty Advisor

2 enclosures