

MENC Northwest Division Conference 2009



Spokane, Washington Session Descriptions



Jazz

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The 2009 MENC Northwest Division Conference has more than 160 sessions with participants from 30 states and Canada. While only one or two areas of interest are indicated in the program, many sessions overlap. This list will indicate some of the sessions that are of particular interest to the listed area.

Jazz

Friday, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

Instrumental

If Only They Could Play "By Ear" - Imagine the Possibilities!

Presenter: Molly Weaver, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV

Experience the music teaching and learning benefits of playing "by ear" as well as "by eye." "By ear" proficiencies improve musical memory and can lead your students to improved performance of all elements of music. Discover the means to promote and strengthen creative musicianship in your program.

Friday, 1 PM-2 PM

General Interest

What's New in Music Technology 2009: A report from NAMM

Presenter: Mike Klinger, Synthesis Midi Workshop, Carson WA

Mike Klinger, just returning from the recent 2009 NAMM convention, shows and demonstrates the latest advances in music technology.

Jazz

The Right Drumset Style for the Right Gig – Find the Correct Sound for Your Ensemble.

Presenter: Thom Hasenpflug, Idaho State University, Pocatello ID

This workshop is designed to help directors determine how to best elicit the appropriate feel in timekeeping/groove from their drummer, based on ensemble requirements and level. Specific topics include different beats for different style situations what to do with all those fills, swingin and how to drive the band, technical development in this regard, reading the chart, equipment and more.

Jazz

Major, Minor and Blues: Low Impact Improvisation

Presenter: Gregory Yasinitsky, Washington State University, Pullman WA

Students may improvise using notes from the key centers found in the music that they are playing. This approach has a low learning curve so students who try this are successful right away.

Performing Group: Honor Middle School Jazz Band, Spokane WA, Rob Tapper, Conductor

Friday, 2:15 PM-3:15 PM

Jazz

Developing the Rhythm Section Bassist

Presenter: Kathleen McKeage, University of Wyoming, Laramie WY

Young bass players can often cover the part but have difficulty taking their playing to a higher level. This clinic, intended for both electric and upright bassists, covers basic technique, writing/improvising bass lines and offers strategies for getting young bassists comfortable soloing. This clinic is especially useful for band or string teachers interested in helping orchestral bassists transition to jazz band.

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Friday, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Band

Steps toward Great Saxophone Sections

Presenter: Vanessa Sielert, University of Idaho, Moscow ID

Did you ever wonder how to make your concert band saxophone section truly sound like a concert band saxophone section and your jazz band saxophone section truly sound like a jazz band saxophone section? Is it the equipment or the approach, or is it both? This session will address all of the aspects that will make your saxophonists sound great in every setting.

Jazz

Blow Man Blow! Ten Keys to Developing Vocal Improvisers

Presenter: Frank Eychaner, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood CO

This session will include a combination of methods, resources, philosophy and pedagogy to help on your journey toward becoming a great teacher and performer of "scat." Resources will include free charts, lists of arrangers, recordings, discography, bibliography and various handouts describing basic and advanced improvisation skills, concepts and techniques. The balance of the session is fun, hands-on introduction to scatting.

Performing Group: Meadowdale High School Impressions, Lynnwood WA, Jeff Horenstein, Conductor

Saturday, 12:15 PM-1:15 PM

CMENC, Jazz

So I Have a Jazz Band...Now What?

Presenter: Chris Bruya, Central Washington University, Ellensburg WA

A session intended for music educators who are less experienced with jazz ensemble curriculum and teaching methods. Rehearsal set up, equipment, literature, listening and more will be covered with lists of resources and other materials distributed.

Jazz

Teaching Children to Play Jazz on the Soprano Recorder

Presenter: Jim Tinter, Westlake City Schools, Westlake OH

Tens of thousands of children play the soprano recorder. By way of a live demonstration and a dynamic multi-media presentation, including audio and video clips of children playing jazz, discover techniques and materials to help children learn to play jazz and improvise successfully.

Jazz

Dynamic Duo: Combine Your Jazz Band and Jazz Choir

Presenter: Frank DeMiero, Sound Music Publications, Lynnwood WA

Give your jazz band and jazz choir students the exciting experience of joining forces. Directors will discover new materials, methods and techniques. Clinicians will address the challenges of blend and balance and how to maintain the musical integrity of both groups.

Performing Group: Eastern Washington University Jazz Choir, Cheney WA, Kristina Ploeger, Conductor
Eastern Washington University Jazz Band, Cheney WA, Rob Tapper, Conductor

Saturday, 3:15 PM-4:15 PM

General Interest

Unleash the Influence of Empowerment through Student Leadership Training, Pt. 2

Presenter: Neal Schnoor, University of Nebraska, Kearney NE

Unleash the power of student leadership and open the door to highly rewarding rehearsals while touching students' lives in truly meaningful ways. This session presents an overview of a leadership model taught to thousands of students at band and choral clinics. Directors attest to truly transforming effects in both rehearsals and students' personal lives.

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Saturday, 3:15 PM-4:15 PM (Continued)

Jazz

Starting a Jazz Combo Program

Presenter: Vern Sielert, University of Idaho, Moscow ID

The vast majority of the jazz “canon” has historically been small groups of 3-7 members, yet we primarily focus on the large ensemble jazz experience for our students. This session will focus on how to develop and maintain a small group jazz component within your program, and how this will benefit your students. Topics to be covered include instrumentation, format - the “rules of the road” in small group playing, repertoire, learning by ear, leadsheet/arrangement/recording resources.