

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! I hope you were able to get some rest over the summer and are ready for a productive year with your programs. First I want to thank everyone for their well-wishes and congratulations for our Fontainebleau Jazz Ensemble One being selected to perform at The Midwest Clinic in December. I'd also like to announce that we have been selected to perform at the Jazz Education Network (JEN) International Jazz Conference, which will be held in New Orleans, this year as well. So, if you can't make it to Chicago for Midwest in December you can catch us in New Orleans in January. It is truly an honor to perform at these prestigious conferences and we will do our very best to represent Louisiana to the highest standards.

This year's NEW audition materials are available on the LMEA website, including jazz scales sheets for each instrument, prepared etudes, and the play-along mp3 files for the etudes. Please be sure to visit the LMEA Jazz page on the website to explore it and share it with your students and other directors in your district. Set 3 (*scales and prepared selections music and play-along tracks*) is posted and available. Once again, we will be asking for feedback about the new materials so we can continue to improve this process and development for our state jazz auditions. Please be sure your students have the correct music and scales for the auditions.

For more information about the new audition materials and the audition recording process please refer to the LMEA website and click the link to the All-State Jazz information. Here is the url:  
<http://www.lmeamusic.org/all-state/jazz/> All of your questions should be able to be answered there, however, if you don't find your answer feel free to email me at [Ralph.Hicks@stpsb.org](mailto:Ralph.Hicks@stpsb.org).

We will again record the All-State Jazz Auditions by district. If you have students auditioning, be sure to check the LMEA website and reach out to your district director to find out when and where audition recordings will be made in your district. The deadline to upload all of your districts audition recordings is September 16. I would like to thank the members of Louisiana Association for Jazz Education for their assistance with the recordings. The recorded audition process has worked out fantastically and I am sure it will continue to benefit all of our students interested in jazz, orchestra, and concert bands.

The 2019 LMEA All State Jazz Ensemble will be led by Mr. Denis DiBlasio. Baritone saxophonist, flautist, educator, composer, arranger, Executive Director of the Maynard Ferguson Institute of Jazz at Rowan University, and head of Jazz and Composition programs at Rowan University, DiBlasio is an internationally known clinician, performer, and educator for the Yamaha Music Corporation of America. He is a published author of five texts on jazz improvisation and a recording artist for Encounter Records with nine CDs under his own name. Various articles, compositions and arrangements are with publishers Jamey Aebersold, Belwin, Hal Leonard, Kendor, Doug Beach, Roncorp, Vandoren, Kjos, Northeastern Music, Warner Brothers, Flute Talk, Saxophone Journal, and more. Keeping things simple, honest, and positive keeps his schedule extremely busy booking dates sometimes three years in advance. Relevance, attainability and fun make up the foundation of his friendly approach. "His inspirational connection with young musicians is what makes a DiBlasio clinic so special. It's what some people have termed 'Edutainment'. Why not?"