Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Wichita State University School of Music and the Wichita Jazz Festival, we are pleased to announce the 2016 Wichita Jazz Festival! This year’s festival features a diverse range of artists who epitomize the spirit of innovation in jazz through their music. Grammy winner Joe Lovano is one of the preeminent tenor saxophonists in jazz today. In addition to releasing a host of chart topping jazz albums as bandleader, Lovano has also performed with jazz legends throughout his career including Herbie Hancock, Dave Brubeck, and MacCoy Tyner, along with many others. Denton, Texas based Fundamental is a collectively-spirited band who draws musical inspiration from many sources ranging from Indian classical music to indie-rock. Fundamental’s newest album F. (2013) and first album Development (Armored Records, 2012) make wide use of complicated rhythmic structures, odd meters and extended improvisations while managing to maintain a sense of accessibility to the average listener.

For more information on the festival, please check out WichitaJazzFestival.com.

The festival runs from Sunday, April 10th through Saturday, April 16th. We are extending an invitation to you and your ensembles to perform at the annual WSU Jazz Invitational, our annual educational component of the festival, which takes place Friday, April 15th.

Friday’s Band Invitational provides an opportunity for your band to perform for top jazz professionals, and to receive both comments and live interaction with the adjudicators. Our adjudicators this year will include some of our guest artist performers, as well as regional jazz personalities. We are happy to welcome back WSU’s own Professors Scott Strecker and Mark Foley, and several other guests TBA, including WJF guest artists. Additionally, we are happy to be able to feature the traditional format of WSU’s past Invitational: each band and vocal group will receive a 30-minute time slot that will allow you to perform on stage and receive a score. Then, each band or combo will move to a room where they will work directly with one of our clinicians. Each band will also receive written comments on their performances, as well as a CD recording of their performances.

The other days of the festival will also feature events that you won’t want to miss—if you’re local, you’ll definitely want to encourage your students to attend the concerts and outreach/educational opportunities that will be offered.

Early registration is $175 per ensemble, and you must include a stage plot and registration form. All early registrations must be postmarked by March 20th, 2016.
Late registrations ($200) will be accepted until April 1st, 2016 according to the availability of performance slots, so sign up early! No registrations will be accepted after April 1st. Registration forms are included in this packet, but can also be downloaded on the WSU School of Music website. Please note that we no longer accept credit card information sent via mail—please do not send this information in with your registration. Instead, please use the credit card registration online via the WSU Jazz Studies website. Visit www.wichita.edu/jazz, then click on the WJF/WSU Jazz Invitational link. The link for credit card entry will be on that page.

Please send in via:

Email: (sethcarrithers@gmail.com) Fax: (316-978-3625)

Mail: Dr. Mark Foley
116 Wiedemann Hall
Wichita State University
Wichita, KS, 67260

For further information or questions concerning the 2016 Jazz Invitational at Wichita State University, please contact Director of Jazz Studies Dr. Mark Foley, or GTAs Dalton Williams or Seth Carrithers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Foley
Professor John Goering
Professor William Flynn
Dr. Geoffrey Deibel
Dalton Williams, GTA
Seth Carrithers, GTA