

Greetings from Morningside!

Once again, I am thrilled to welcome you and your jazz ensembles to the **51st Morningside Jazz Festival** to be held Tuesday through Friday, February 6–9, 2024 in beautiful Eugene C. Eppley Memorial Auditorium on the campus of Morningside University.

1A – Tuesday, February 6

2A – Thursday, February 8

3A – Wednesday, February 7

4A – Friday, February 9

Many of you have long made a tradition of bringing bands to the festival; we welcome you back along with others who are attending for the first time. The festival is sanctioned by the IHSMA for bands from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota and is competitive; we also happily welcome groups ‘for comments only.’ Our goal is to provide a positive and educational experience. Each ensemble will receive a ~25-minute clinic from one of our esteemed guests.

I am delighted to welcome a group of clinicians and adjudicators who are at the forefront of jazz performance and pedagogy. The 2024 clinicians are [Karyn Quinn](#) (bass, UW-La Crosse, professor emeritus) and [Henry Hey](#) (piano, NYC, Sioux City native). The adjudication panel will feature **Dr. Brian Hanegan** (Augustana University), **Dr. David Bohnert** (Wayne State College), **Dr. Tim Farrell** (University of Nebraska-Kearney), **Jeff Schoening** (Treynor, retired music educator), **Michael Genslinger** (Wayne State College), **Dr. Darin Wadley** (University of South Dakota), **Tiffany Nelson** (Humboldt, music educator), and **Ron Stary** (Brookings, SD, music educator).

You will undoubtedly receive great feedback from this group.

Several of the guests will also be featured with my college band, M Avenue Jazz, during mini concerts each day – timing is noted on the daily schedules. A short awards ceremony will conclude each day where the top three bands in each class will be awarded a trophy and one student-musician from each class will receive a framed ‘Outstanding Soloist/Musician Award.’ Directors will be able to leave with adjudication packets and any solo/musician awards. Recorded comments and clean performance recordings will be shared via Google Drive.

More info will follow to include a full schedule and logistics. Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions. We are looking forward to welcoming you to Morningside University, hearing your bands, and celebrating the start of another 50 years of jazz!

Jazz and jazz education are alive and well in Siouxland. See you in February!

Dr. Erik Mahon

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