



# University of North Texas TWO O'CLOCK LAB BAND

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Rob Parton, Director

perform at the

15th Annual Jazz Education Network Conference

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January 6, 2024

2:00 pm

Inspirations/Celestin Ballroom (Level Three)

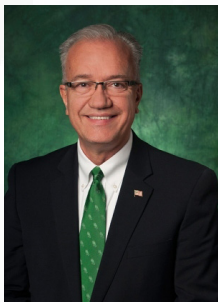
Hyatt Regency Hotel

601 Loyola Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70113



# DEAN'S MESSAGE



I am so pleased and honored to bring greetings once again from the University of North Texas College of Music to the 15th annual conference of the Jazz Education Network. As I'm sure you know, jazz enjoys such a very special place in the history and reputation of our university. With more than 77 years of distinguished teaching, creative work, scholarship, and service devoted to the diverse disciplines of Jazz Studies, we are charging into 2024 with our eyes fixed on honoring our distinguished past with an ever more ambitious and capacious future in mind.

As you will see in the pages of this program, we are thrilled to present our UNT Two O'Clock Lab Band under the expert leadership of Associate Professor and Chair of Jazz Studies Rob Parton. The JEN Conference is such a fabulous "family reunion" for the entire jazz community and certainly for your extended UNT jazz family!

Please accept my warm greetings and heartfelt best wishes for a successful and memorable JEN 2024!

Sincerely,

John W. Richmond, Ph.D.  
Professor and Dean of the College of Music  
University of North Texas

## **College of Music Division Chairs**

Molly A. Fillmore, Vocal Studies  
Steven Harlos, Keyboard Studies  
David Heetderks, Music History, Theory, and Ethnomusicology  
Joseph Klein, Composition Studies  
Kimberly Cole Luevano, Instrumental Studies  
Natalie Mannix, Assistant Chair, Instrumental Studies  
Robert Parton, Jazz Studies  
Sean Powell, Music Education  
Andrew Trachsel, Conducting and Ensembles

# PROGRAM

Al-Go-Rhythm (2019).....Richard DeRosa (b. 1955)  
Soloists: Jonathan Arcangel, Joshua Morris, Alex Parker

Blondie (2023).....Eric Weaver (b. 2001)  
Soloists: Eric Weaver, Jonathan Orellana

Be My Love (1950).....Sammy Cahn/Nicholas Brodsky  
(1913–1993)/(1905–1958)  
arr. Alan Baylock  
Soloist: Natalie Wagner

That (2004).....Neil Slater (b. 1931)  
Soloists: Jonathan Arcangel, Joshua Morris

On the Street Where You Live (1956).....Alan Jay Lerner/Frederick Loewe  
(1918–1986)/(1901–1988)  
arr. Joshua Cossette  
Vocalist: Eli Thiessen

My Foolish Heart (1949).....Victor Young/Ned Washington  
(1899–1956)/(1901–1976)  
arr. Laurence Hobgood  
arr. for Big Band Jack Lanhardt  
Soloists: Eli Thiessen, Alex Billingsley (flugelhorn)

Ice Nine (2009).....Steve Wiest (b. 1957)  
Soloists: Nabil Muquit, Jack Timmins



# PERSONNEL

## TWO O'CLOCK LAB BAND

Rob Parton, director

### Saxophones

Natalie Wagner (alto).....Edmonds, WA  
Choigoyoungjin Shin (alto).....Seongnam, South Korea  
Nabil Muquit (tenor).....Philadelphia, PA  
Jonathan Arcangel (tenor).....Cornwall, NY  
Aidan Sears (baritone).....Redondo Beach, CA

### Trumpets

Isidoro Ramos.....Galveston, TX  
Jonathan Orellana.....Chantilly, VA  
Alexander Billingsley.....Ashville, NC  
Joshua Jennings.....Queens, NY  
Joshua Morris.....Bethesda, MD

### Trombones

Alex Parke.....Williamsburg, VA  
Eric Weaver.....Macedonia, OH  
Jack Timmins.....Tampa, FL  
Drew Bryant (bass).....St. Charles, IL

### Rhythm

Eli Thiessen (voice).....Marshalltown, IA  
Alice Hu (piano).....Woodlands, TX  
Keita Onuma (guitar).....Yokosuka, Japan  
Paul Briggs (bass).....Cincinnati, OH  
Jacob Speth (drumset).....Camarillo, CA

The **Two O'Clock Lab Band** is among the premier collegiate big bands in the United States. It maintains a tradition of national and state recognitions, including twenty invited headline performances at the Wichita Jazz Festival, first place at the Longhorn Jazz Festival in Austin, Texas, invited performances at the Texas Music Educators Association state convention, the International Association of Jazz Education Conference, Jazz Education Network, and The Midwest Clinic. With a recording catalog of 20 critically acclaimed albums, the band has earned multiple *DownBeat* Student Award recognitions across four decades as the Best Graduate Level Jazz Ensemble in addition to innumerable individual student recognitions.

# MEET THE DIRECTOR



**Rob Parton** is Associate Professor of Jazz Trumpet and Chair of the Jazz Studies Division at the University of North Texas where he also directs the Two O'Clock Lab Band. Prior to joining the faculty at UNT, he held positions at Capital University, Roosevelt University, and Chicago State University. A dedicated jazz educator, he has directed All-State jazz ensembles in twelve states as well as serving as a clinician at universities and high schools throughout the

United States.

A versatile and in-demand trumpet player, Parton has been called on to perform or record the music of diverse composers from Karel Husa to Leonard Bernstein to Duke Ellington. He has performed with many of America's major orchestras including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Detroit Symphony Orchestra, to name a few. He has also performed as lead trumpet on numerous Broadway shows in the Midwest and with Grammy, Tony, and Academy Award-winning artists from Faith Hill to Natalie Cole to Tony Bennett. As a recording artist, he has performed on hundreds of recordings for national commercials and with various artists on Concord, Verity, Mark Records, Sea Breeze and Sony record labels.

While comfortable in various musical settings, be it jazz trio or brass quintet or as a soloist with larger ensembles, leading a professional big band is the area in which he has enjoyed the most acclaim. Founded in 1984, the Rob Parton Big Band has released eleven recordings, performed at the Midwest Clinic three times, at the International Trumpet Guild Conference, and at numerous jazz festivals featuring guest artists such as Lew Soloff, Conte Candoli, and Joe Williams. Dozens of the band's recordings and live videos can be found on YouTube.

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***Four hundred first program of the 2023–2024 season  
Photography and videography are prohibited***

# HISTORY OF UNT JAZZ

While jazz had been played before at this and other colleges, the Dance Band degree at North Texas State Teachers College was the first bachelor's degree of its kind to be offered in the United States. Because the degree focused on popular American music at a time when higher education in music dealt primarily with the European art music tradition, it quickly attracted national attention. The flagship ensemble One O'Clock Lab Band showed through its performances at competitions and on tours and recordings that our students were playing and arranging on a professional level.

This university became known as a place where aspiring jazz musicians could develop their talents with the help of a dedicated faculty and a steady stream of guest artists; meet peers who would challenge and inspire them; and prepare to launch their careers with a comprehensive skill set.

Gene Hall, Leon Breeden, and Neil Slater, the first three directors of the program, also directed the One O'Clock Lab Band. Its international reputation for excellence was earned through the hard work of generations of students who were coached to a professional standard; a yearly recording tradition that began in 1967 and has resulted in seven Grammy nominations; and a busy schedule of national and international tours.

By 2008, when Neil Slater's tenure ended, the program had firmly established its reputation for excellence. The Two O'Clock Lab band directed by Jim Riggs, the UNT Jazz Singers directed by Paris Rutherford, the small group program and the Zebras ensemble directed by Dan Haerle, and the guitar ensembles coached by Fred Hamilton had established traditions of their own. The addition of a master's degree improved our ability to graduate well-prepared educators.

Under the leadership of John Murphy from 2008 to 2019 and Rob Parton since then, the program has maintained its standards of excellence while adapting to a changing music profession. The faculty have worked steadily to revise the curriculum. Our doctoral degree has produced successful college educators. We've added options in jazz strings and commercial music. Most recently, the curriculum has been revised to include a certificate in African American Studies and to bring more of our students' work in core music classes into the jazz idiom. The student-led Jazz and Gender Equity Initiative embodies our dedication to diversity and inclusion.

Through all of these changes in leadership, faculty, and curriculum, one element has remained constant: our focus on students and their musical and professional growth. Our alumni community extends to every corner of the music profession. Alumni help our recent graduates establish themselves in new cities; they support the program as donors; and by their varied demonstrations of musical excellence they show our students that there is no limit to what they can achieve with a degree from UNT.

# JAZZ FACULTY

ROB PARTON: Chair, Division of Jazz Studies, Associate Professor of Jazz Trumpet – Lead Trumpet Emphasis, Director of the Two O’Clock Lab Band

JOSÉ M. APONTE: Principal Lecturer of Drumset and Latin Percussion, Director of the Afro-Cuban and Brazilian ensembles, Director of the Latin Jazz Lab Band

TONY BAKER: Professor, Trombone

JENNIFER BARNES: Professor of Vocal Jazz, Director of Vocal Jazz Studies, Director of Jazz Singers

ALAN BAYLOCK: Associate Professor, Director of the One O’Clock Lab Band, Coordinator of Lab Bands

RODNEY BOOTH: Senior Lecturer of Jazz Trumpet

QUINCY DAVIS: Associate Professor of Jazz Percussion

RICHARD DEROSA: Professor of Jazz Composition & Arranging, Director of the Three O’Clock Lab Band

PHILIP DIZACK: Assistant Professor of Jazz Trumpet

ROSANA ECKERT: Principal Lecturer of Vocal Jazz

NICK FINZER: Assistant Professor of Jazz Trombone

BRAD LEALI: Professor of Jazz Saxophone

DAVE MEDER: Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano

DAVY MOONEY: Assistant Professor of Jazz Guitar

LYNN SEATON: Regents Professor of Jazz Bass

KIMBERLY HANNON TEAL: Assistant Professor of Jazz History & Theory

SCOTT TIXIER: Assistant Professor of Jazz Strings, Director of Jazz Strings Lab

FEDERICO LLACH: Assistant Professor of Commercial Music, Commercial Music Coordinator

JESSICA MUÑIZ-COLLADO: Assistant Professor of Music Business

STOCKTON HELBING: Adjunct Instructor of Percussion, Jazz Drumset

NOEL JOHNSTON: Adjunct Instructor of Jazz Guitar

PAUL METZGER: Adjunct Instructor of Jazz Guitar

## **Staff**

CRAIG MARSHALL: Lab Bands Manager

MADISON RUSSELL: Administrative Coordinator

**Emeritus Faculty (\*deceased):** Leon Breedon\*, Dan Haerle, Fred Hamilton, John Murphy\*, James Riggs, Paris Rutherford\*, Jay Saunders, Neil Slater, Ed Soph and Mike Steinel

**Teaching Assistants:** Lily Alter, Ricardo Arana, Wesley Case, Anthony Casolari, Elijah Caver, Tito Charneco, Pete Clagett, Julie Coggiola, Joshua Cossette, Paul Covert, Ken Ebo, Bailey Ehrgott, Joshua Ferrell, Carter Floering, Andrew Getman, Jeongmin Ha, Ciara Hager, Parker Haley, Cameron Henderson, Tomás Jonsson, Mike Korson, Jack Lanhardt, Brian Lawrence, Mikayla Peterson, Luciano Quezada, Nigel Regan, Katelyn Robinson, Jason Schilling, Aakash Sridhar, Kahan Taraporevala, Kai Wagner, Natalie Wagner