

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break and that you are ready for a great school year for all of your programs. It's time to start thinking about All-State auditions and the LMEA Conference in November. There are important announcements in the article about the 2018 All-State jazz auditions and conductor so please read all of the information below.

This year's NEW audition materials are available on the 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 2 (*scales and prepared selections music and play-along tracks*) is posted and available. After completing this year's auditions, we will again ask 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 audition recordings will be made in your district. The deadline to receive all audition recordings is September 17. 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.

We are truly blessed this year to announce that the 2018 LMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble will be led by Ronald Carter, the former director of the world-renowned Northern Illinois University (NIU) Jazz Ensemble and former Director of Jazz Studies is continuing to educate students in jazz education and performance on university, high school and performing arts schools and campuses across the country, South America and Canada.

As an educator, Carter has presented workshops as guest conductor, artist, clinician, or adjudicator at regional, national, and international conferences, and directed all-state jazz bands in Illinois, Indiana, Rhode Island, Missouri, Texas, Wisconsin, Colorado, Iowa, Maine, Kentucky, Vermont, Arizona, Kansas, Arkansas, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Washington, Oregon and Massachusetts. Carter conducted the Florida State University Tri-State All-Star Jazz band in 2017. Carter who worked 18 years in the East St. Louis School District as the former director of the Lincoln Senior High School Jazz Band, also performed professionally in the St. Louis metropolitan area as a freelance musician on saxophone, clarinet, flute, and as a vocalist. He co-directed the group Infiniti and performed with the legendary George Hudson Orchestra. Carter has also performed professionally with Clark Terry, Jimmy Heath, Lena Horne, Lou Rawls,

The Jimmy Dorsey Band, Wallace Roney, The Temptations, The Dells, Oliver Lake, Hamiett Bluiett, Leon Thomas, Art Davis, Fareed Haque, Joseph Bowie, Frank Mantooth, Terrell Stafford, Orbert Davis, Carl Allen, Rodney Whitaker, and many others.

An abbreviated list of his honors and awards includes Downbeat Magazine's Jazz Educators Hall of Fame, The Woody Herman Music Award (Birch Creek Music Center), The 1991 Milken National Distinguished Educator Award, Southern Illinois University Excellence in Teaching Award, and the St. Louis American Newspaper's Excellence in Teaching Award and Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees Professorship. Recently accepted appointment as Felton J. Capel Distinguished Professor of Performing and Fine Arts UNC – Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC.

Carter's projects include former International Consultant for the Essentially Ellington Jazz Competition sponsored by Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York; former Lead Artist for the Jazz At Lincoln Center Band Director's Academy; Co-Author for Alfred Publications "Swingin' On The Bars", and co-author of GIA Music Publications "Teaching Music Through Performance in Jazz – Book I & II as well as a contributing author to the Beginning Jazz Ensemble Textbook.

Carter is currently an artist for **Conn-Selmer Inc.** and **D'Addario Woodwinds –(Rico Reeds)**