Dear NIU Jazz Camper,

On behalf of camp director Geof Bradfield and his staff, I am delighted to welcome you to this year’s NIU Jazz Camp. We all look forward to seeing you at Northern Illinois University on Sunday, July 8.

Sunday Registration
Camp registration is scheduled for 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. and is a two-step procedure this year. First, park in the lot immediately south of the Music Building and carry your luggage to the Gilbert Hall residence dorm, which is just across Gilbert Dr. There you will collect your room key and check into your room. After checking in at Gilbert, walk to the Concert Hall lobby of the Music Building. Bring your instrument and stop by the table to meet the camp staff and pick up your camp schedule, t-shirt, instrument locker information, and to sign up for optional private lessons.

(Note: For those campers who arrive close to 2:00 p.m., come directly to the Music Building to pick up camp materials and attend the camper orientation meeting at 2:15 p.m. You can check in with luggage at Gilbert Hall later in the afternoon.)

Instrument Lockers: Campers are assigned a locker in the Music Building for storage of instruments during the week. The combination and locker numbers will be handed out at registration.

Private Lessons
Campers may elect to take private music lessons during the week at an additional cost of $30 per half hour. You may sign up for the lessons at the registration table on Sunday or in the External Programs office (Room 132 Music Building) beginning on Monday morning; you will be asked to pay either by check written to NIU (preferred) or cash when you sign up. More details will be available at registration and the orientation meeting.

Camper Orientation Meeting: 2:15 p.m. - Meet camp director Geof Bradfield and his staff at a short camper orientation in the Concert Hall. This meeting is mandatory for campers, optional for parents.

Auditions: 2:30 p.m. - Auditions are scheduled to begin after orientation. Campers are welcome to prepare a piece for auditions, but this is not necessary. Sight-reading is part of the audition. Audition and evaluation results will be used to assign campers to classes and ensembles.

Drummers: Play swing, shuffle, funk, Latin, and ballad brush styles, and read an intermediate big band chart.

Winds: Sight-read an intermediate jazz arrangement, improvise on an F, B♭ blues, or B♭ rhythm changes, if comfortable, not required.

Pianists/Basses/Guitars: Sight-read written parts and chord symbols and play in swing, Latin, and ballad styles. Improvise F or B♭ blues and B♭ rhythm changes, if comfortable, not required.

After Auditions: When campers finish their auditions, they should go to the Recital Hall to participate in a jam session.

Note 1: All instrumentalists (except pianists and vibraphonists) are expected to bring their own instruments to camp. This includes drummers, guitarists, and bassists. Call (815) 753-1450 as soon as possible to let us know if you have concerns about this.

Drummers: Bring no more than a 5-piece drum set with three cymbals. Bring your throne and a rug or small piece of carpet. Guitarists and bassists: Bring your amp, patch cord(s), and an electrical extension cord as well as your instrument.

Note 2: Those players who listed a second instrument on the registration form are asked to bring both instruments to camp. Included are doubles, mutes, etc. All woodwind players should bring your doubles, and trumpet players should bring your flugels.

Jam Sessions and Other Free Time Options
We will have signup sheets in the Recital Hall lobby for the jam sessions scheduled for 3:15 – 4:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Campers are encouraged to prepare in advance for these sessions by going to our website where we have the jam session music in PDF format. You are also encouraged to find and listen to recordings of the tunes.

During the jam session, each soloist will perform a maximum of 2 solo choruses on the 32 bar form tunes and a maximum of 4 choruses on the blues and the other short form tunes.

Other daily options during the 3:15 – 4:45 p.m. period include board games and sports, in addition to private music lessons.
Health/Permission Form, Camp Rules/Info, and Balance of Payment Information
Enclosed with this letter is information about your final payment, a health/consent form, general information sheet, and rules for campers.

Parents: Complete the health/consent form and return with your balance of payment no later than June 15 (receipt deadline), to: Summer in the Arts at Northern, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Northern Illinois University, 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115. If you want to pay your balance by credit card and have not pre-arranged for automatic payment, you must provide this information on the balance of payment form. Note that the camp fee covers the cost of all materials and activities of the camp. I would like to remind parents whose children have been promised scholarship support that they are responsible for the unpaid balance of payment.

Website
You will find maps and directions, along with the jam session music, forms, and other paperwork, on our website at www.artscamps.niu.edu.

Rules
Enclosed are the camper rules. Campers, please read these carefully ahead of time, as they will be strictly enforced by counselors and instructors.

Visitors
If parents or other relatives want to pick up campers during the week for any reason, I must have a letter detailing the name of the person/s, as well as the date and times of pick-up and drop-off. You may mail this ahead of time or drop it off at registration. Be prepared to show identification at the time of pick-up.

Medicine
Our counselors are instructed not to provide campers with any medicines, not even routine over-the-counter products. If your child is likely to need any medications, please make sure these are included with his/her toiletries. For any serious medical problems, parents will be consulted by telephone as soon as possible, and the camper will be attended by a person with medical training. All medical bills are the responsibility of parents.

Talent Show
Campers are invited to participate in the jazz camp talent show on Thursday night. Bring your skits, imitations, tap shoes, and yes, your musical instruments. The time limit per performance is 3 minutes.

End-of-the-Week Concert
On Friday, July 13, parents and friends are invited to hear the camper combos and big bands perform in the Music Building. The groups begin performing at 3 p.m. and will continue until about 5 p.m. Campers will be assigned to a combo or big band after the Sunday auditions. To learn which group your son or daughter has been assigned to, during camp week, check our website under the camper packet/schedule section, call the office, or contact your son or daughter. Parents, remember to pick up a camp schedule on Sunday, as this will have the performance schedule.

Parents unable to attend the concert may meet their son/daughter at Gilbert Hall at about 5:15 p.m. Campers’ luggage will be secured in a room during the day at the residence hall for pick-up at the end of the concert.

Please contact me as soon as possible if you are unable to attend the camp, and feel free to call with any questions or concerns. My number is (815) 753-1450.

Sincerely,

Josh Anderson
Director, Summer in the Arts at Northern

Jazz enc: gen/rul/hea/payment

Checklist: What to bring to camp
✓ comfortable/sturdy walking shoes or sandals. Note: Flip flops are NOT allowed in classes and should be worn ONLY in the residence hall.
✓ umbrella or rain gear
✓ mosquito repellent
✓ sweatshirt
✓ alarm clock
✓ water bottle
✓ sheets and pillowcase (standard twin size)
✓ blanket, pillow, towels
✓ money for souvenirs, snacks, lessons
✓ dress during the week is casual yet appropriate; please, no short shorts!
✓ standard concert clothes for Friday’s performances
  men: button shirt, nice slacks, jacket and tie optional
  women: skirt or nice pants
  no shorts, no sneakers, no jeans
✓ headphones, mp3 player for jazz music listening (recommended, not required)