



HANDY NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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W.C. HANDY MUSIC CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS!

Florence, AL... The **W.C. Handy Music Camp** for middle school, high school, college level and adult musicians will take place June 13 through 16 at the Department of Music and Theatre on the University of North Alabama campus.

The purpose of the camp is to provide intense instruction in jazz theory, history, and performance in both small combo and big band settings. The faculty for the camp has performance and teaching experience in all aspects of music and provides a unique learning opportunity for the students. Included in the faculty is **Camp Director Ken Watters**, an acclaimed trumpet player - this is Ken's second year as the W.C. Handy Music Camp Director. He has appeared on more than 25 Cd's and has performed with a wide variety of artists from Frank Sinatra and Herbie Mann to Carlos Santana, Wyclef Jean, and Gnarls Barkley. Ken studied at the University of North Texas, Manhattan School of Music and is the recipient of 2 DOWNBEAT AWARDS. Currently, he is the co-leader of the jazz sextet Watters-Felts Project, as well as a top-call freelance live and studio player across the region. Trombone instructor **Howard Lamb** has served on the faculty of the W.C. Handy Music Camp for over 10 years, and has been a regular performer at the Festival for more than 12 years. He is the leader of the Memphis Jazz Orchestra and is the University of Memphis instructor of Jazz Trombone. **Jim Cavender** is a writer, producer, teaches guitar and bass, and directs two jazz combo classes at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He has performed with Percy Sledge, Bo Diddley and toured in Cuba, Columbia and Sweden. Presently, he performs solo and in various bands in the Huntsville area. Saxophonist **Gary Wheat** is a graduate of the University of Alabama Jazz Studies program; he is a performer and educator of jazz, folk, rock, and concert music, and has established himself as one of the area's premier saxophonists. In addition to his freelance work, he has been a member of the Tuscaloosa Horns since 1999, and has shared the stage with numerous internationally-acclaimed jazz and R&B artists. Originally from Montgomery, AL, bassist **Robert Dickson** received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alabama and a Master of Music from the University of New Orleans. He performed in the New Orleans area and relocated to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005. In addition to his background in jazz and performing with jazz greats, Mr. Dickson attended the Brevard Music Camp as an orchestral bassist. **Jerry Rains** is a pianist (and a native of North Carolina); he has taught commercial music, music theory and other music courses at Northeast Mississippi Community College for the past 20 years. Mr. Rains has written many arrangements for jazz and marching bands and has performed with Bill Waltrous and Stevie Wonder as well as several

other high profile artists.

A seasoned performer on both drums and vibraphone, **Chuck Redd** is currently the Artist-In-Residence at The Smithsonian Jazz Cafe' in Washington, D.C. Mr. Redd has been featured on more than 65 recordings and began performing internationally when he joined the Charlie Byrd Trio in 1980 at the age of 21; to his credit are 13 extensive European tours and five tours of Japan. The estimable **Hosts** of the W.C. Handy Music Camp on the UNA campus are **Dr. Lloyd Jones** and **Dr. Edd Jones**. As Director of Bands at the University of North Alabama for 11 years, **Dr. Lloyd Jones** is also well known for directing the UNA Studio Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, "Pride of Dixie" Marching Band, Wins Symphony and Symphonic Band. Dr. Jones is an active saxophonist and clinician/adjudicator throughout the southeast. **Dr. Edd Jones** is Director of Bands Emeritus at the University of North Alabama as well as an active arranger and performer with his groups The Little Big Band and The Edd Jones Orchestra. Dr. Jones is also a highly sought after clinician/adjudicator throughout the southeast.

The music camp is made possible in part by a grant from the Florence Kiwanis Club. The University of North Alabama Music Department is the host of the camp.

The total cost of the music camp is \$200, which includes a registration fee, camp tuition and music fee. If two or more children per family would like to attend the cost is lowered to \$150 per person.

Color photos are available upon request by contacting Melanie Orseske at (256)443-9201 or email WCHandyMusicFest@aol.com. For Registration Forms and information on the W.C. Handy Music Camp contact the Music Preservation Society at (256)766-7642 or Ken Watters, Camp Director at (256)603-5059.

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