



The 49th Annual Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Festival

Dr. Reginald Lewis, Director of Jazz Studies

February 2-3, 2024

Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall

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Festival Schedule

Friday, February 2

9:40	Chillicothe Junior HS
10:55	Centennial HS I
11:20	Centennial HS II
11:45	Jacksonville HS
12:10	Paxton Buckley Loda HS
1:00	Illinois Wesleyan University Jazz Ensemble
2:25	ROWVA
2:50	Mossville Junior HS
3:15	Normal West HS Jazz Cats
3:40	Bloomington Junior HS
4:05	Normal West HS II
4:30	Illinois Valley Central HS
4:55	Illinois Valley Central HS
5:20	Illinois Valley Central HS
6:00	Adjudicator's Performance

Saturday, February 3

9:40	Bureau Valley HS
10:05	Monticello HS
10:30	Dwight Township HS
10:55	Tri Valley HS
11:30	Adjudicator's Performance
1:00	Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Ensemble

Dr. Reginald Lewis, Director of Jazz Studies



Dr. Reginald Lewis is the current Director of Jazz at Illinois Wesleyan University. Dr. Lewis graduated from Jackson State University with his Bachelor of Music Degree, Master of Music Degree from the University of Manitoba in Canada, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign. Reginald is also the current president of AAJC (African American Jazz Caucus).

Born and raised in Camden, New Jersey, Dr. Reginald Lewis was given an alto saxophone, from his grandfather, A Philadelphia Jazz Legend, Robert “Bootsie” Barnes when he was in the 10th grade at the age of sixteen.

Dr. Lewis has been featured in the Universal Studios biopic of James Brown “Get on Up” as a saxophonist in Little Richards band. He has also performed at the TD Bank Winnipeg Jazz Festival in 2015 with Q5, led by Quincy Davis. He also performed with Super Duty Tough Work and The Thelonious Monk Tribute Band led by Jared Beckstead. Dr. Lewis also held a weekly gig at “The Yellow Scarf”, hosted by Cassandra Wilson in Jackson, Mississippi. Dr. Lewis can be heard on Jon Gordons’ album “Stranger Than Fiction” as well as Nasir Dickersons’ “Let It Shine” and Hip Hop artist Mir Fontanes’ debut album “Camden”.

Dr. Lewis is also a member of “Simply This”, who released album an entitled “Stepping Up” in 2021. Reginald has also given masterclasses at Ohio State University, Anderson University and Furman University with “Simply This”. Reginald recently performed at the Further Jazz Festival in Normal, IL. He has also guest conducted the HBCU All Star Jazz Band at the Midwest Clinic held in Chicago, IL in December of 2022. As of 2023 and 2024 Dr. Lewis has made his way up to Chicago and is a member of the Clif Wallace Big Band that plays regularly at Andy's Jazz Club.

Ron Bridgewater



Ron Bridgewater began his profession career in 1972 with a State Department tour of Japan, Europe, the Soviet Union, and the United States in the Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra. After three years with the band and several recordings, Mr. Bridgewater appeared as a regular member of ensembles led by jazz greats such as Max Roach, McCoy Tyner, and Horace Silver. Along with his brother, trumpeter Cecil Bridgewater, Ron led a group known as the Bridgewater Brothers which recorded two albums and toured the United States and Japan. He also toured with Cotton Club legend Cab Calloway.

Mr. Bridgewater was also frequently on call for Broadway musicals *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Sophisticated Ladies*, and *Lena Horne - The Lady and Her Music*, for which he was assistant musical director. For more than twenty years, Bridgewater was a mainstay on the New York music scene, where he taught in Billy Taylor's *Jazzmobile Workshop* and freelanced, appearing in groups led by Reggie Workman, Michael Carvin, Cecil McBee and Frank Foster.

Mr. Bridgewater is currently an Associate Professor of Jazz Saxophone at the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign.

John Campbell



John Campbell was a jazz pianist, born July 7, 1955 in Bloomington, IL. As a child, he studied piano privately. He then attended University High School (Normal), class of 1973, and briefly Illinois State University (Normal), which he attended in Normal, Illinois. There he became almost as famous for his vibes as his piano playing. He then moved to Chicago in mid-70s, and then to New York in 1980s. John has recorded with many jazz musicians, including Buddy DeFranco and Terry Gibbs, Stan Getz and Eddie Harris.

He also worked with Charles McPherson and Clark Terry. In the late 80s, he was also a pianist for Mel Torme. John has been a soloist in *Live at Maybeck Recital Hall Vol. 29* (Concord Jazz 1993), and in various trios such as *After Hours* (1988) with Todd Coolman and Gerry Gibbs and *Workin' Out* (1st Cross Jazz 2001) with Jay Anderson and Billy Drummond. John currently resides in Bloomington, IL.

Dr. Emma Taylor



Emma Taylor is a bassist, vocalist, and educator based in Central Illinois where she currently serves as Professor of Bass at Millikin University and adjunct faculty at Richland Community College. After graduating from Millikin University with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Business and Commercial Music, Emma received her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Emma has played with renowned musicians such as Carl Allen, Jim Snidero, Derrick Gardner, Jim Pugh, Gary Smulyan, Tito Carrillo, Adrian Terrazas-Gonzalez, Joel Spencer, and Chip McNeill. In addition to performing throughout the United States, Emma has also toured in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Mexico—most recently completing a two week-long residency performing and teaching classes in Brazil at the Federal University of Uberlândia.

Emma is also a member of Simply This Quintet, a collaborative ensemble that performs original compositions by members of the band. Simply This regularly tours and presents masterclasses at universities and music conferences, recently performing at Furman University and Anderson University in South Carolina, The Ohio State University, and Millikin University. Emma has also been invited to perform at national conferences including Jazz Education Network, Midwest Band and Orchestra Association, North American Saxophone Alliance, and International Society of Bassists Convention. She is a member of the Women in Jazz Organization.

Website: EmmaMTaylor.com

Clif Wallace



A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Clif Wallace claims home to more than a few locations between the Midwest, South and East Coast regions. This may, in part, explain his versatility as not only a drummer, but also as a composer, band leader and DJ.

His versatility and love for music has afforded him the opportunity to play in many jazz clubs, festival stages, and theatres. Clif leads a host of bands blending new and original compositions with hip arrangements of music that

he pairs with nostalgic events in his personal life. Recently, Clif Wallace has toured with Saxophonist and Clarinetist Victor Goines, and Vocalist Tammy McCann. Having also performed with a host of great artists such as Ken Cheney, Pharez Whitted, Rob Dixon, The Chicago Jazz Orchestra, Rodney Whitaker, Bola cala Conde, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Diego Rivera, Gary Bartz, Robert Irving, III, Black Ensemble Theater, Marquis Hill, Dan Trudell, John Brown and Orbert Davis and many more.

In 2018, Clif assembled an ensemble of his peers of which whom he considers to be some of Chicago's best in music performance of any texture. Appropriately named the Clif Wallace Big Band, this ensemble performs a repertoire of music that caters to tastes of virtually anyone that chooses to listen. Residing in Chicago, Illinois, Clif Wallace has become one of the city's most in demand drummers for many genres of the musical platform.



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