



## **Judges for Moorpark High School Jazz Festival**

### **Main Venue/Performing Arts Center**

#### **Andrea Baker Wilkerson**

Judge/Clinician

Now in her ninth year at Pasadena City College and her third as the Director of Jazz Studies, Andrea Baker Wilkerson is a critically acclaimed jazz performer and esteemed music educator. During her time at PCC, she has led PCC jazz bands to performances throughout the Southland including appearances at the Playboy Jazz Festival, the LA Jazz Institute and the Jazz Bakery. Under her direction they have completed 6 CD's, the latest of which was given highest praise from critic, Jack Bowers on All About Jazz, the foremost online jazz website. With a BME from the University of Tulsa and an MM from Pittsburg State University in Kansas,

Andrea, an accomplished bassist, guitarist and pianist has sung professionally since age fourteen, has been featured with such luminaries as Barney Kessel, Jack Sheldon, Ray Anthony, and Billy May. She is the last official singer with the great Stan Kenton Orchestra, having been recorded in concert with that band in 1977 and featured on a new release, Stan's Singers on Dynaflo Records. Musically acclaimed by such critics as Leonard Feather, John Barrett, Chuck Berg and Don Heckman, Andrea was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in 2005. In November of this year Andrea will be featured in concert with trumpet great, Walter White and the Tulsa Symphony. She loves teaching and the chance to give back to her students the joy she has found in America's classical music – jazz.

#### **Matt Harris**

Judge/Clinician

**Matt Harris** graduated from the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree and from the Eastman School of Music with a Master's Degree in Jazz Composition. Matt moved to Los Angeles after touring with jazz greats Maynard Ferguson and Buddy Rich. In addition to his devotion to jazz education, Matt's versatility as a writer, arranger and performer keep him very busy in the L.A. studio scene. His music can be heard on numerous jingles, film scores, CDs and live productions.

Matt has two CDs of original music, two published piano books, and more than 150 pieces of music published by Kendor Music, Walrus Music, Heritage JazzWorks and UNC Jazz Press. Matt has been commissioned to write music for bands from Australia, New Zealand and Japan, and many high schools and colleges throughout the country.

Matt is currently Director of Jazz Studies at California State University Northridge, directing the award winning Jazz "A" Band and teaching jazz arranging, improvisation, combos, jazz harmony, class piano, and private piano instruction. Matt often performs as a guest soloist and clinician at various Universities and High Schools. He has recently performed and conducted bands in New Zealand, Denmark and China. Matt's favorite pastime is swimming and bike riding with his wife Kim and his two daughters Madelyn and Emily.

## **James Mooy**

Judge/Clinician

James Mooy holds music and education degrees from UCLA (B.A. and M.A.). His trumpet performance studies have been with Jimmy Valves, Ron Thompson, Tony Plog, and Mario Guarneri. A Music Academy of the West alumnus, he has toured the U.S. and Japan as a professional trumpet player. James taught the band and orchestra program at R.A. Millikan High School in Long Beach for five years. During that time he freelanced regularly in the Los Angeles area and held a full-time position as a Disneyland musician.

Mr. Mooy currently conducts the Lunch Break Jazz Ensemble, and the Symphony Orchestra at Santa Barbara City College. Additional teaching duties include Music Appreciation and Music Technology. He has served as an adjudicator for numerous solo, chamber, wind ensemble, string ensemble, and jazz ensemble festivals. He has repeatedly served as conductor for honor bands, jazz ensembles and orchestras.

## **Gary Pratt**

Judge/Clinician

**Gary Pratt** has led a distinguished career as a music educator, performer, conductor, adjudicator and arranger, and is co-director of the famed California State University, Northridge Jazz Studies Program at California State University, Northridge.

Throughout his career as a professional Jazz Bassist, Mr. Pratt has performed and/or recorded with such legendary jazz artists as Louie Bellson, Lionel Hampton, Snooky Young, Conti Candoli, Pearl Bailey, Bobby Shew, Don Menza, Blue Mitchell, Pete Christlieb, Cat Anderson, and more recently with Bob Florence, Kim Richmond, Billy Mintz, Mary Bond Davis, Sandra Booker, Cathy Segal-Garcia, Brian Swartz, Matt Otto, Clay Jenkins, Rob Lockart, Matt Harris and many others.

His guest conducting engagements have included performances in both Europe and Japan, and his noted versatility as a music educator has made him a highly sought after clinician and guest conductor of jazz ensembles, orchestras and concert bands.

During his tenure as a member of the music faculty at California State University, Northridge, he has served as chairman of the CSU Northridge Wind Area and Director of Orchestras. In addition his private teaching schedule, Mr. Pratt teaches courses in jazz musicianship, directs the Studio and Lab Jazz Ensembles, jazz repertoire, jazz combos, and directs, composes and arranges for "NuVeau," CSU Northridge's avant-garde jazz ensemble.

Mr. Pratt is a past board member of the Jungendkulturzentrum Scheune, "Pink Pop" International Jazz Exchange Program, located in Ibbenburen, Germany - a program designed to "...bridge the communication gap through the exploration and study of jazz."

## **Dan Taguchi**

Judge/Clinician

DAN TAGUCHI is currently the Director of Instrumental Music at George Ellery Hale Middle School in Woodland Hills. From September of 1994 to June of 2009, Mr. Taguchi was a member of the faculty at the Hamilton Academy of Music, the largest performing arts magnet school in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

From 1996 to 2009, Mr. Taguchi served as Director of Jazz Studies at Hamilton. During that time, ensembles under his direction received numerous awards at local, state, and national festivals, including the Monterey Jazz Festival High School Jazz Band Competition, the Reno Jazz Festival, the Fullerton College Jazz Festival, and the Irvine High School Jazz Festival, and performed at a number of prestigious venues, including the Playboy Jazz Festival at the Hollywood Bowl, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Mr. Taguchi has served as a clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor at many schools and festivals. In 2002, he directed the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association's Junior High Jazz All Stars. In 2003, Mr. Taguchi served as manager for the SCSBOA High School Honor Jazz Band.

Mr. Taguchi has received a number of honors for his work as an educator. The Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Awards honored him with their first "Spotlight on Teachers" Award. In 2009, Mr. Taguchi was honored as K-JAZZ Educator of the Year by California State University Long Beach and K-JAZZ FM 88.1.

Mr. Taguchi is a woodwind specialist who has performed with a number of groups, including the UCLA and CSUN Jazz Ensembles. Mr. Taguchi resides in Winnetka, California, with his wife, Lily, and their ten year old daughter, Kiana.

## **Judges for Moorpark High School Jazz Festival** 2<sup>nd</sup> Venue/Educational Center

### **Kevin Garren**

Judge/Clinician

Ventura County native Kevin Garren first began to gain recognition as the Lead Alto Saxophonist with the Santa Barbara City College Jazz Band. As a sophomore in College, Kevin was selected to be a member of the 1999 College All-Star Band at Disneyworld. After Disney, Kevin was immediately picked up to go on tour with the Broadway Show, "Victor/Victoria". While on tour, he immersed himself in studies on Flute and Clarinet, and upon completing that tour, decided to take a job as a musician with Princess Cruise Lines. While cruising around the world, Kevin made the most of his free time by practicing several hours a day, honing in his craft for his return to the LA music scene.

Upon returning to LA in 2005, Kevin quickly began gaining recognition for his woodwind skills, particularly in the area of Jazz Improvisation. As a performer, Kevin has worked with some of the finest Jazz musicians in the world, including Michael Brecker, Patti Austin, Dan Higgins, Pete Christlieb, Eric Marienthal, James Moody, and in the Big Bands led by Bill Holman, Don Menza, Gordon Goodwin, Mike Barone, Les Hooper, Clare Fischer, Bill Watrous, Emil Richards, and Ron Jones.

Kevin devotes a great deal of his time to Music Education, giving workshops and master classes regularly, working as an Educational Associate with Nick Rail Music, and teaching private lessons.

## **Willie Murillo**

Judge/Clinician

Willie Murillo is a trumpet player whose work on and off the stage has entertained audiences for years. The Los Angeles native attended California State University at Fullerton, and has done everything from perform on national TV to teaching kids how to play music.

Willie is currently performing with The Brian Setzer Orchestra, on staff as a music composer for Mariner's Church in Newport Beach, and is also a music producer... most recently producing an album featuring Robin Mckelle.

He also continues working with young musicians. Willie started Varsity Publishing. A company developing scores specifically designed for High School Bands. He's also a jazz educator... tutoring young children in the art of the trumpet and promoting the desire to enjoy music.

It's no wonder why kids want to learn from Willie. He's played trumpet in numerous movies including "Elf", "Christmas with the Kranks", and "Stuart Little". Willie's also performed on television shows like "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "The Late Show with David Letterman".

His talents have also allowed him to play with and for some of the biggest names in music... from Tony Bennett and Quincy Jones to LeAnn Rimes and Bob Dylan.

Willie's trumpet playing has even been admired by world leaders... most recently playing for President George W. Bush.