

Under the direction of Dean McNeill (<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/profile/DMcNeill>) the UofS **Jazz Ensemble** has toured western Canada, northern USA, and Quebec, and has commissioned and premiered many new works for the contemporary large jazz ensemble idiom. This ensemble has released 5 CDs in their 'Bumper Crop' series and has performed in venues such as Edmonton's acclaimed Winspear concert hall (i.e. as a featured ensemble at the *Cantando* music festival).

Past featured guest artists have included Dr. Craig Brenan (MacEwan University), Mark DeJong, Gordon Foote (University of Toronto), Greg Gatien (Brandon University), Dan Haerle (University of North Texas), Wycliffe Gordon, Steve Haines (Miles Davis Institute, Greensborough), Mike Herriott, Kristin Korb, Jens Lindemann (U.C.L.A.), Joe Lulloff (North Western University), Brian O'Kane (Humber), Billy Proutin, David Renter, Dave Robbins, Campbell Ryga (Juno Award Winner), Rob Sommerville, Brad Turner (Juno Award Winner), Paul Tyanan (St. FX University), Ross Ulmer, Mike Vax, Andre' White (McGill University), and Bret Zvacek (Crane School of Music, SUNY-Potsdam). The ensemble has also worked in clinics with the likes of Jon Ballantyne (Juno award winner), David Braid (Juno award winner), Hugh Fraser (Juno Award winner), and Slide Hampton (Grammy award winner), plus many of the above guest artists.

There are **positions available** in this 20-piece large jazz ensemble for trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, saxes (i.e. soprano, alto tenor, bari), french horn, guitar, piano, bass, drums, and vocals.

Repertoire includes a broad cross-selection of jazz standards (i.e. traditional and contemporary arrangements) and original compositions. This ensemble is open to both **music** and **non-music majors** currently attending the UofS.

Auditions are low pressure and only take about 5 minutes each. Auditions consist of a conversation, sight-reading, and (optional) improvising (e.g. over a Bb Blues). Students can also play an excerpt of a prepared piece (any musical style) at the audition. Audition sign up sheets are posted on Dean McNeill's office door (Education Building room 1054). Auditions take place on the first 2 days of classes each semester.

Jazz Ensemble 1 **rehearses** Mondays from 5:00PM-6:30 PM & Wednesdays from 5:00-6:00 PM.

100% of the proceeds from UofS Jazz Ensemble's *Bumper Crop* CDs benefit this ensemble directly. These CDs include: 1) ***Bumper Crop*** (released in 2001), 2) ***Bumper Crop II-Outstanding in their Fields*** (2003), 3) ***Bumper Crop III-Prairie Rhythms*** (2005), 4) ***Bumper Crop IV-Perceptions*** (2007), and ***Bumper Crop V-Water Colors*** (2010).

Bumper Crop IV features UofS student composer Paul Suchan and guest artist Drummer/Dancer Joseph Ashong as well as many students within the ensemble. ***Bumper Crop III*** features all-Canadian talent (performers and arrangers alike), two guest artists (i.e. UofS Sessional instructor Mark DeJong-Saxophone and Saskatchewan based musician Ross Ulmer-Trombone), and, original compositions by ensemble director Dean McNeill.

Annual UofS Jazz Ensemble activities/performances often include:

- 1) *Louis Pub* (UofS Campus) concert
- 2) *UofS Wind Orchestra/Jazz Ensemble* joint concert
- 3) Interprovincial tours and school concerts
- 4) *Bassment* jazz club concerts
- 5) Semester-end jazz concerts (e.g. Quance Theatre)
- 6) Big Band Dance (jazz ensemble fundraiser)
- 7) (optional) Performance by the *UofS Summer Jazz Ensemble* at the Sask-Tel Jazz Festival (late June)