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Eau Claire Jazz, Inc. to bring nationally recognized clinicians to Eau Claire

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EAU CLAIRE—In its 43rd year, the Eau Claire Jazz Festival maintains an expectation of bringing world-class jazz to Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley. Every year, the festival brings in several prominent figures in the world of Jazz to serve as adjudicators and master clinicians. These individuals possess a wealth of knowledge about jazz performance and instruction allowing the festival to stay true to its vision by “...providing a world class festival to draw visitors to the Chippewa Valley.”

This year’s Eau Claire Jazz Festival adjudicators include: Grammy award-winning arranger Doug Beach, composers Susie Jones, Jamey Simmons and Kyle Newmaster, Los Angeles saxophonist Tom Luer and vocal jazz singer and pianist Christine Salerno. Each of this year’s adjudicators own many years of experience in teaching, performing and recording that promise to make this installment of the Eau Claire Jazz Festival as valuable and worthwhile as any.

Luer, a UW-Eau Claire graduate, is among many of the adjudicators who appear at the Eau Claire Jazz Festival year after year. “Returning to the Jazz Festival as both an adjudicator and alumni is a special experience for me,” said Luer, a freelance saxophonist who is currently touring with famous 1960’s pop star, Engelbert Humperdinck.

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“Considering the long-standing tradition of the Festival, it gives me a sense of belonging to a greater community of musicians, friends, and students who all share a similar passion for jazz and music. I am fortunate to be a part of it.”

Master clinicians for this year’s festival include: Grammy-winning trumpeter Nicholas Payton, guest artist Kenni Holmen, vocal jazz master Phil Mattson, and Hal Leonard composer Michael Sweeney. A master trumpeter, Nicholas Payton is recognized as an innovator of jazz and noted responsible in part for the genre’s advancement. Tenor saxophonist Kenni Holmen comes to the festival from the Twin Cities, highly recognized as an energetic and active performer with a background of memorable performances, including being a current touring member of Prince’s horn section.

Both Payton and Holmen will be holding master classes on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17. Phil Mattson will host a vocal jazz clinic on Friday, April 16. Michael Sweeney will host a middle school clinic on April 17.

The Eau Claire Jazz Festival is a partnership between UW-Eau Claire and the Eau Claire Community.

The festival is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, with funds from the state of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support comes from major sponsors Visit Eau Claire, UW-Eau Claire, TravelWisconsin.com, Hal Leonard Corporation, Sitepro.com, Wisconsin Arts Board, The Print Shop, Ludwig Drum Co. and Morgan Music.

For ticket information and a complete listing of events, visit www.eauclairejazz.com or call Eau Claire Jazz, Inc. at 715-836-4092. You can follow the Eau Claire Jazz Festival on Twitter and Facebook.

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