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Prestigious jazz alumni to perform at Eau Claire Jazz Festival
For Immediate Release

EAU CLAIRE— For the first time ever, nearly 20 UW-Eau Claire music alumni will unite to perform at the 43rd Annual Eau Claire Jazz Festival, 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 17 in Zorn Arena.

Members of the alumni band will be coming back to Eau Claire from all over the United States, from places as far away as California and Kentucky. Several of the band members will also be serving as adjudicators for the Jazz Festival. The band is composed of 17 former students that have studied under Eau Claire Jazz Festival artistic director, Robert Baca, who says the alumni band idea has been in the works for several years.

“Students have gone into a wide variety of professions despite their degree at UW-Eau Claire, from principal bassist in the San Francisco Symphony to curator for the National Symphony orchestra in Washington D.C., Broadway shows in New York City, movie score composers in Los Angeles and teachers on the middle school though college level,” Baca said. “We want to get these players back together again to do what they enjoy most, and that’s playing jazz. It’s going to be phenomenal.”

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According to Elizabeth Tomlinson, student planner for the alumni band performance, the festival is turning into a wonderful forum for an alumni reunion, which they aim to accomplish on a yearly basis. “We want it to be an annual event,” Tomlinson says, “...hopefully something the alumni will come back for every year.”

The performance is that of a regular size jazz band including four people in the rhythm section, four trumpeters, four trombonists and five saxophone players. The band is performing two jazz charts, *All the Things You Are* composed by Clifford Brown, arranged by Don Sebeski, and *The Jazz Calling* composed by John Clayton.

Eau Claire Jazz, Inc. is also hosting an alumni reception on Saturday, April 17 following the Alumni Band performance for all jazz studies graduates. The reception serves as a reunion for alumni as well as a way to thank past jazz festival student volunteers.

The Eau Claire Jazz Festival is a partnership between Eau Claire Jazz, Inc, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, area businesses and organizations.

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, TravelWisconsin.com, Hal Leonard Corporation, Sitepro.com, 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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