

# Eau Claire Jazz INC.

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Martha Seroogy  
Communications Director  
Eau Claire Jazz, Inc.  
715.836.4092  
[www.eauclairejazz.com](http://www.eauclairejazz.com)

Upcoming jazz concerts to serve as CD release party and New York fundraiser

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EAU CLAIRE — Keeping the sounds of jazz alive, the Eau Claire community is set to host several upcoming jazz concerts next week. Under the direction of Brian Claxton and Corey Cunningham, UW-Eau Claire Jazz Ensemble IV will perform in a free concert Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. UW-Eau Claire Jazz Ensemble I, under the direction of Robert Baca, will perform Thursday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. Both concerts will be held in the Gantner Concert Hall in Haas Fine Arts on the university campus.

The Jazz I concert will also double as a CD release party for their latest album, *Jazz in Clear Water: Soul Searching*, featuring internationally-recognized trombone icon, Jiggs Whigham. Jazz Ensemble I has been nominated for two Grammy Awards, once in 1996 and 2000, and received the prestigious nation-wide DownBeat Student Music Award for “Best College Jazz Ensemble” five times in eight years.

Other upcoming jazz events include the Spring Jazz Concert on Monday April 26 at Memorial High School. The concert will feature MHS Jazz I, II, III, Regis High School Jazz Band and Menomonie High School Jazz Band with special guest artists, Reggie Thomas and MHS grad Tim Sullivan, from New York City’s Lincoln Center. The concert starts at 8 p.m. and also serves as a fundraiser for the Jazz Essentially Ellington competition in New York City. This is the seventh time that MHS Jazz I has been chosen for the Ellington competition.

Jazz I tickets are \$1.50 for students, \$5 general public and \$4 for faculty and seniors and are available at the University Service Center, 715-836-3727. For ticket information for Memorial High School call 715-852-6300.

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