

56A SCKMEA Honor Jazz Ensemble Clinician



Lisa Hittle is currently in her 22nd year at Friends University where she is the director of the jazz department and instructor of saxophone. Lisa directs two full jazz ensembles, several jazz combos, teaches jazz improvisation classes and applied saxophone. Ms. Hittle is an alumnus of the Stan Kenton Orchestra, an active jazz musician in the Wichita area and adjudicator/clinician throughout the mid-west. The Wichita Arts Council selected Lisa as the 2006 “Wichita Arts Educator of the Year”.

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James Pisano is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at Bethel College. His performance and teaching invitations have taken him to nearly every state as well as Europe and South Africa. Last fall Mr. Pisano took over directorship of the Mid-Kansas Jazz Ensemble, a high school honor group consisting of students from various high schools throughout the region. Auditions are held early in the semester, and the ensemble performs 2-3 concerts yearly.

In addition to his extensive jazz performing and teaching background, Pisano holds degrees in clarinet performance from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Miami. While studying at the U of M, he was a member of the award-winning Concert Jazz Band. Along with his university education, Pisano has studied privately with Kenny Werner and Frank Wess.

Pisano’s previous teaching positions have included the director of jazz studies at East Tennessee State University and Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Idaho/Lionel Hampton School of Music. Pisano actively serves as an adjudicator and clinician across the nation. He is a member of the Kansas Music Educators Association and the Jazz Educator’s Network.