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**IOWA JAZZ STARS TO PERFORM WITH STUDENTS AT CORRIDOR JAZZ PROJECT CONCERT
Concert celebrates CD release April 6.**

Some of Iowa's top musicians will join forces with area high school bands in the Corridor's only joint high school jazz concert, Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids. The "Corridor Jazz Project" celebrates the release of a compilation CD featuring the work of all nine bands and guest artists.

Here are the schools participating, and a brief bio of each guest artist.

1. Performing with **Prairie High School** will be **Andrew Classen**, trumpet. Classen is Director of Trumpet and Jazz Studies at Drake University and also is principal trumpet for Orchestra Iowa. He is a sought-after teacher, player, writer and clinician who recently traveled to China to give recitals and master classes.
2. Performing with **Iowa City High School** will be **David Kobberdahl**, trumpet. Kobberdahl is the director of the Jazz Studies Program at Valley High School in West Des Moines. He is member of the internationally-renown Latin Jazz ensemble Ashanti as well as the Des Moines Big Band.
3. Performing with **Linn Mar High School** will be **Dave Rezek**, flugelhorn. Rezek recently returned to his home town of Des Moines after playing professional in a variety of jazz groups in Boston and New York. He played frequently in Broadway orchestras, including an onstage performance during the 2006 Tony Awards.
4. Performing with **Marion High School** will be **Jay Ramsey**, saxophone. Ramsey is a jazz player and music repair technician for West Music.
5. Performing with **Washington High School** will be **Craig Boche**, vocals. Boche is the lead vocalist for the Rod Pierson Big Band who has been compared with Michael Buble and Harry Connick, Jr.
6. Performing with **Kennedy High School** will be **Myron Peterson**, trombone. Peterson is Director of Bands at Urbandale High School. He performs with the Tony Valdez Large Band, the Brix Big Band, the Plymouth Brass Consort, and national touring productions such as "The Color Purple" and "High School Musical."

7. Performing with **Jefferson High School** will be **Eric Thompson**, drums. Thompson is a Cedar Rapids native who graduated from The New England Conservatory of Music with a degree in Jazz Studies. He performed, recorded and toured internationally while living in New York City with his group Guaranteed Swahili. Now based in Cedar Rapids, Thompson is a member of the group Equilateral, and also composes and arranges for the Washington High School Marching Band and is the assistant director of the Grant Wood All-City Flag & Drum Corps.
8. Performing with **Iowa City West High School** will be **John Rapson**. Rapson is the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Iowa and is a composer, trombonist and recording whose work mixes ethnic and experimental elements with more conventional jazz forms. Jazz historian Mark Gridley has characterized his music as "extending several trends that were first demonstrated by Charles Mingus and George Russell." He has written over 100 jazz compositions and recorded 21 albums, ten of which are under his own leadership and feature his compositions.
9. Performing with **Xavier High School** will be **Al Naylor**, trumpet. Naylor is a trumpet instructor at Coe and Kirkwood, and a former high school band director. He has performed with the Barnum and Bailey Circus, and touring Broadway shows like Chorus Line and South Pacific. In 1999, he was inducted into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Al is the director of the I-380 Express, a professional big band, which has played a variety of venues, from telethons to backing up Aretha Franklin. He also plays and tours with The Blue Band. He is past president of the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators.

Tickets are available at the nine participating high schools, West Music in Coralville and in Marion and online at <http://tinyurl.com/CorridorJazz>. Cost is \$10.00, \$5.00 when purchased from a participating school. Proceeds benefit each participating band.

The Corridor Jazz Project is a jazz education and mentoring program for jazz band students. The program matches each school's top jazz band with a professional jazz player, who will perform as a guest soloist with the band during the concert. Each song was professionally recorded earlier this year by Karrleton Recording and Catamount Studios. CDs will be made available to each school to sell and keep the proceeds.

"The Corridor Jazz Project is the only collaboration of its kind in the state," said KCCCK General manager Dennis Green. "It's a wonderful opportunity for the kids to learn from a pro and gives them the only chance they have all year to share the stage with all the other schools in the Corridor."

Along with the music, there was also a contest among the high school for a student to design the artwork for the cover of the CD. KCCCK received over 100 submissions for the contest and the winning design was submitted by Allie Boteler of Marion High School. The top 12 entries will be on display during the concert.

Tickets for the April 6th concert are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/CorridorJazz>, and at West Music in Coralville and Cedar Rapids. They can also be purchased through the

participating schools for \$5 each. Proceeds benefit the participating school's instrumental music department.

CDs will also be available for sale to the public at the concert, through KCCCK, at Barnes & Noble in Cedar Rapids and at Real Records in Iowa City.

Support for the Corridor Jazz Project comes from Rockwell Collins, M.C. Ginsberg Jewelers and West Music.

For more information, visit www.kcck.org or call 319-398-5446. Information is also posted on www.culturalcorridor.org.

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