



Winter 1-14-2014

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Recommended Citation

Kamp, Danielle, "Jazz Festival Will Feature Guest Artist Kris Berg" (2014). *News and Events*. 2287.

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Jazz Festival Will Feature Guest Artist Kris Berg

Jan. 14, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The 39th annual Illinois Wesleyan Jazz Festival will take place on Saturday, January 18 in Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington). The daylong event, sponsored by the music fraternity Phi Mu Alpha, invites junior high and high school ensembles from all over the state to perform, learn and celebrate jazz in a non-competitive atmosphere.

The festival, which is free and open to the public, will include a performance at 12:45 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall by IWU's premiere Jazz Ensemble and will feature guest artist Kris Berg, jazz composer and arranger.

Berg is known to be one of the top-selling jazz composer/arrangers in the world and has worked with jazz ensembles of all different levels of skill. He is a composer/arranger for Belwin Jazz, a Division of Alfred Publishing, and has written charts for many artists, bands, colleges and public school programs across the United States.

As an award-winning bassist, Berg has appeared or recorded with Wayne Bergeron, Kurt Elling, Randy Brecker, Peter Erskine, Bob Mintzer, Delfeayo Marsalis, Bobby Shew and many others. He has been the Director of Jazz Studies at Collin College near Dallas for almost 20 years and is also a guest director for All-Region bands in Texas.

The IWU Jazz Festival, founded in 1976, will also include non-competitive performances by junior high and high school ensembles, a private 20-minute clinic for each performing group and 45-minute individual master classes taught by prominent jazz educators and performers.

For additional information, contact the School of Music Office at (309) 556-3061.

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