



Presents the 46TH Annual

UM BUDDY DEFRANCO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Featuring

THE UM JAZZ ENSEMBLE
FESTIVAL GUEST ARTISTS

Amanda Gardier

Kris Johnson

Erik Hughes

Lauren Ellis

Barb Catlin

Molly Redfield

March 12-13, 2026



JAZZ PROGRAM

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 46TH annual UM Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival! Thank you so much for your generosity and continued support of jazz education and our program. The UM Jazz Program is thrilled to bring professional musicians of this caliber each year to work with our students and the many talented middle school, high school and college bands visiting our campus.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to hear so many groups making music together. It is phenomenal to witness music and jazz education at its best. This is what it is all about!

Thanks for helping us make it happen and for all your support of the UM Jazz Program and what we do for our students, the university and our community!

Looking forward,

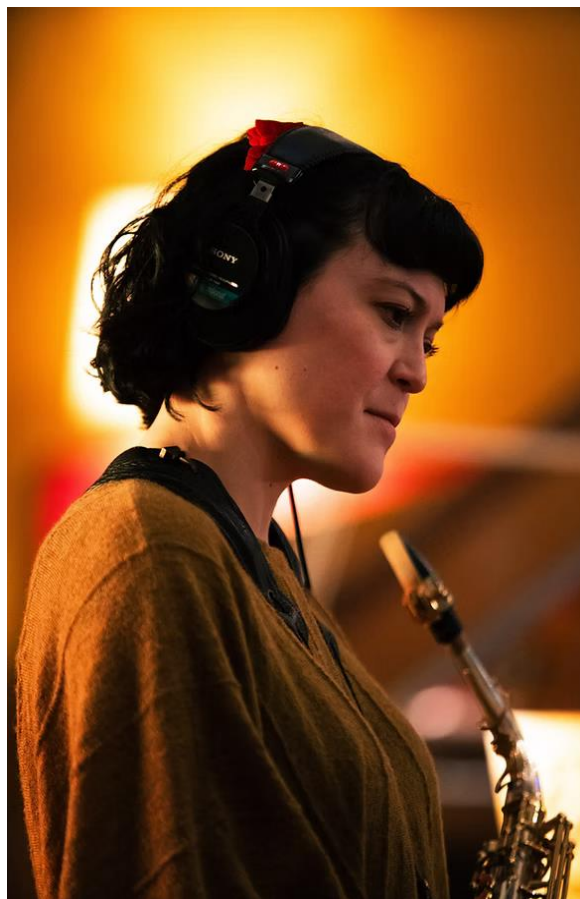
Rob Tapper

Rob Tapper

Director, UM Jazz Program

**UM Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival
Artists & Clinicians**

Amanda Gardier - *Saxophone*



<https://www.agardier.com/bio>

Molly Redfield – *Bass*



<https://www.mollyredfieldmusic.com/about>

Barb Catlin – *Piano*



<https://www.barbcatlin.com/>

Lauren Ellis – *Drum Set*



<https://www.laurenellismusic.com/about>

Kris Johnson – *Trumpet*



<https://www.krisjohnsonmusic.com/about>

Erik Hughes – *Trombone*



<https://erikhughesmusic.com/about>

Thursday Evening Program

Dr. David Stewart, Festival Host

Festival All-Stars

High School Best Section Big Band

Larry Gookin Best Trombone Section Award

Larry Gookin – Professor Emeritus CWU

Bob LedBetter Rhythm Section Award

Hannah Ransom – UM Professor of Percussion

Outstanding Soloists

---Intermission---

UM Jazz Ensemble I

Featuring Festival Artists

Amanda Gardier, Saxophone

Barb Catlin, Piano

Kris Johnson, Trumpet

Friday Evening Program

Dr. David Stewart, Festival Host

Festival All-Stars

High School Best Section Big Band

Lance Boyd Best Trombone Section Award

Lance Boyd – Professor Emeritus UM

Florence Saxophone Section Award

Brooke & Chuck Florence

Outstanding Soloists

---Intermission---

UM Jazz Ensemble I

Featuring Festival Artists

Lauren Ellis, Drum Set

Molly Redfield, Bass

Erik Hughes, Trombone

JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

ROB TAPPER - DIRECTOR

SAXOPHONES

(A1) Aaron Mamula
(A2) Lucas Furhringer
(T1) Sam Haveron
(T2) Greyson Buckler
(B) Owen Meador

TRUMPET

Alek Sweeden
Roman Hulsey
Alex Maroncelli
Jessica Putnam

TROMBONES

(lead) Jake Baron
(2) Adam Elkin
(3) Cameron Doucette
(b) Owen Haines

RHYTHM SECTION

Simon Hickey (p)
Markus Van Tassell (g)
Owen Cleary (b)
Garon Jones (b)
Simon Hickey (dr/perc)
Logan O'Brion (dr/perc)

JAZZ BAND II

ROB TAPPER – DIRECTOR

SAXOPHONES

(A1) Zach Stemson
(A2) Caleb Greenwood
T1) Rikyn Milliron
(T2) Janis Lewis
(Bari) Nick Mogensen

TRUMPET

Alek Sweeden
Jacob Nelson
Blayze Mockel
Miles Kuss

TROMBONES

Mieka Arensmeyer
Harry Walker
Olivia Martin
Kaleb Janicke (bass)

RHYTHM SECTION

Anthony Rangel (p)
Simon Monticello (g)
Rafe Rusche (b)
Aubrey Cruson (dr/perc)
Grayson Gross (dr/perc)

LAB JAZZ BAND III

JAKE BARON & OWEN CLEARY – DIRECTORS

SAXOPHONES

Gavin Baker
Corman Chandler
Jade Bailey
Tony Nimichuck
Robert Morrison
Gwen Thompson
Molly Churchill
(b) Chris Dowd

TROMBONES

Hunter Bruso
Chloe Cotton
Logan Sites
Anna Trafton
Kenny Wright
Kalub Janicke

TRUMPET

Martha Klaus
Claire Trafton
Nick Mogensen
Liam Schimmelman
CJ Pawlitschek
Mariah Henry

RHYTHM SECTION

John Paul (g)
Andey Weitz (b)
Markus Van Tassell (g)
Anthony Rangel (dr/perc)
Mary Brown (dr/perc)



JAZZ PROGRAM

SMALL GROUPS

Boyd Small Group – Johan Eriksson, Coach

*Aaron Mamula - saxophone
Sam Haveron - saxophone
Jake Baron – trombone
Markus Van Tassell - guitar
Garon Jones - bass
Simon Hickey – drum set

Blue Note – Johan Eriksson, Coach

Owen Meador – saxophone
Cameron Doucette – trombone
*Drew Saltzman - guitar
Rafe Rusche - bass
Logan O’Brion – drum set

Village Vanguard – Owen Cleary, Coach

*Roman Hulsey - trumpet
Rikyn Milliron – saxophone
Greyson Buckler – saxophone
Cooper Godfrey - guitar
Andey Weitz - bass
Grayson Gross – drum set

Birdland – Jake Baron, Coach

*Nick Mogensen – saxophone

Meika Arensmeyer – trombone

Gabe Hendrix - guitar

Kat Machek – piano

AJ Frisque – bass

Aubrey Cruson – drum set

Dizzy's Club – Rob Tapper, Coach

*Jessica Putnam – trumpet

Zach Steenson – saxophone

Olivia Martin – trombone

Mitchell Clarkson – piano

Anthony Rangel – piano/drum set

Mark Miller – bass

Iridium – Owen Cleary/Jake Baron, Coach

Blayze Mockel - trumpet

Gavin Baker – saxophone

Moe Kobold – piano

Blyth Bolman– bass

Mary Brown – drum set/vibes

Participating Groups 2026

Group

Big Sky High School
Butte High School
C.R. Anderson Middle School
Centennial Middle School
Chase Middle School
Cheney High School I
Cheney High School II
Corvallis High School
CS Porter Middle School Blue
CS Porter Middle School Silver
Darby High School
East Helena High School
East Valley Middle School
Ferris High School Jazz Band
Ferris High School Jazz Orchestra
Great Falls High School
Helena Middle School
Hellgate High School
Hellgate High School Small Group I
Hellgate High School Small Group II
White River High School
Lewis & Clark High School Jazz Ensemble
Lewis & Clark High School Jazz II
Libby High School
Libby Middle School
Mead High School I
Mead High School II
Mead High School Small Group
Mt. Spokane High School III
Mt. Spokane High School II
Mt. Spokane High School I
Missoula All-City MS Miles Davis
Missoula All-City HS Melba Liston
Missoula All-City HS Alice Coltrane
Missoula All-City HS Herbie Hancock
Park High School Jazz Ensemble
Park High School Combo
Sentinel High School Jazz Band I
Sentinel High School Jazz Band II

Director/Coach

Jeff Taylor
Jean Perusich
Chris Nevinski
Lukas Selfridge
Brendan Cessaratto
Josh Wisswell
Sam Schlaich
Skyer Genazzi
Michelle Schroeder
Rory Anderson
Alex Petrusaitis
Cole Bass
Jon Cantrell
Ben Brueggemeier
Kyla Fague
Lisa Sundquist
Tyson Reiter
Jesse Dochnahl
Jesse Dochnahl
Jesse Dochnahl
Rich Kuntzleman
Heidi Hanes
Heidi Hanes
Patrick Lewis
Patrick Lewis
Rob Lewis
Brian Comstock
Rob Lewis
Sy Hovik
Andrew Savage
Sy Hovik
Rob Tapper
Naomi Siegel
Rob Tapper
Rob Tapper
Garrett Stannard
Garrett Stannard
Lewis Nelson
Blake Mikkola

Shadle Park HS Jazz Ensemble
Shadle Park HS Jazz Band II
Stevensville High School
Washington Middle School
Whitefish Middle School
University of Montana Jazz Band II
University of Montana Lab Jazz Band III
University of Montana Boyd
University of Montana Blue Note
University of Montana Village Vanguard
University of Montana Birdland
University of Montana Dizzy's Club
University of Montana Iridium

Matt Wenman
Matt Wenman
Zachary Paulus
Jared Supola
Mark McCrady
Rob Tapper
Joke Baron & Owen Cleary
Johan Eriksson
Johan Eriksson
Owen Cleary
Jake Baron
Rob Tapper
Jake Baron & Owen Cleary

**University of Montana Jazz Program,
Jazz Artist Series and Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival**

Mission, Vision & Values

MISSION

The UM Jazz Program, Jazz Artist Series and Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival inspire a lifetime of learning for the UM music students and regional music programs as well as affording the community exceptional artistry through its programs.

VISION

The Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival is an essential part of the UM Jazz Program and the School of Music. Our goal is to inform, engage and ultimately expand the knowledge of jazz education by creating experiences with numerous nationally acclaimed artists on campus. These experiences afford student musicians an ability to connect with professionals on many levels and discover the potential of music and the art form, jazz.

VALUES

The core values of the UM Jazz Program are excellence, commitment, integrity, openness, accountability, innovation, ambition and reliability.

UM Jazz Faculty

Johan Eriksson, Saxophone
Thomas Sciple, Bass
Dylan Bautista, Piano
Hannah Ransom, Percussion

Sam Purvis, Drum Set
Owen Ross, Guitar
Rob Tapper, Trombone

UM Jazz Program Advisory Board

Cathy Capps
Lewis Nelson
Mary Ann Albee
Kathleen Kimble
John Arvish

Royce Engstrom
Johan Eriksson
Terry Conrad
Ed Wetherbee
Rob Tapper

Pat Montgomery
Gary Bowman
Leslie Wetherbee
Mary Engstrom



JAZZ PROGRAM

Special Thank You

Jennifer Cavanaugh, Dean - College of Arts & Media

Adrea Lawrence, Provost of the University of Montana

Peggy Nesbitt, College of Arts & Media

Kevin Griggs, Interim Director – UM School of Music

James Smart, Director – UM School of Music/UM Director of Bands

Laura Claque, Program Coordinator of the UM School of Music

Mario Puccinelli, Director of Fiscal Operations

Owen Cleary, Festival Coordinator

Jake Baron, Festival Coordinator

David Stewart, Festival Evening Host

Adam Elkin, Cameron Doucette, Travel Managers

Markus Van Tassell, Aubrey Cruson & Rafe Rusche Equipment

Sam Purvis & Cameron Doucette, Set-up & Tear-down Managers

Owen Haines & Simon Hickey, Set-up & Tear-down Managers

Aaron 'Torg' Torgerson, Director, Dennison Theatre

Spencer Perry, Dennison Theatre Manager

Jason McDaniel, School of Theatre & Dance

Alek Sweeden & Jessica Putnam, Registration Managers

Owen Meador, Head Band Runner

Harry Walker & Aaron Mamula, Site Managers

Janis Lewis & Sam Haveron, Site Managers

Jacob Nelson & Roman Hulse, Site Managers

Lucas Fuhringer & Nick Mogensen, Site Managers

Garon Jones & Alex Maroncelli, Hospitality

Alek Sweeden & Simon Hickey, Backstage Managers

Johan Eriksson, Best Section/Outstanding Soloist Adjudicator

The Festival Awards

As an addition to the educational aspects of this festival, we have created a way of recognizing excellence from the daytime participants and honor those people who have been a driving force in the Montana education field.

This year we will be honoring some very special people. We are excited to present the newest award in the name of longtime Professor of Percussion, **Bob Ledbetter**. Bob has enriched the School of Music university and community and we are proud to have a Rhythm Section Award in his name.

One of the awards is given on behalf of two music education legends **Chuck & Brooke Florence**. Chuck & Brooke have taught hundreds of woodwind students in the Missoula community over the years cultivating many current music educators.

In 2020 this award was given on behalf of a music education legend, **Fred Nelson**. Fred left his mark on thousands of musicians over the years, and many current music educators are former students of this amazing educator. An outstanding trumpet section will be recognized as the 'Fred Nelson Best Trumpet Section'.

An annual award is given on behalf of the festival namesake, **Buddy DeFranco**. An outstanding woodwind soloist will be recognized as the 'Buddy DeFranco Outstanding Soloist'. We are pleased to have the opportunity to name this award after the internationally recognized jazz legend and bandleader, Buddy DeFranco.

We once again will be honoring **Earl Morgenroth** and **Lance Boyd**. Earl spent his life giving to the arts as well as supporting the UM Jazz Festival. Lance Boyd, Director of the UM Jazz Program and Professor of Music left a music legacy impacting thousands of students, community members and jazz lovers across the Northwest.

We will also recognize pianist **Jodi Marshall**. For over 60 years, Jodi performed with some of the best entertainers in Los Angeles and throughout the country including with Capital Records and MGM and we were blessed to have this musical treasure in our community.

To say the Missoula community would not be the same without having **Don & Pat Simmons** a part of it would be a profound understatement. We are so fortunate that these wonderful Midwestern people came to help make a difference in our community.

A 1971 graduate of the University of Montana, **Larry Gookin** is considered one of the finest wind band conductors of our time. Also, an exceptional trombonist, Larry has conducted honor groups throughout the world and his name is synonymous with educational integrity, class and exceptionality. Originally from Montana, we are lucky to call Professor Gookin 'one of ours'.

THANK YOU

to all of our

Jazz Program

Donors & Sponsors

for your

Generosity

& Support!

THANK YOU TO OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS



Missoula All-City Jazz Program





Fine Dining

Dining Room Open Daily at 5:30 p.m.

201 Railroad Street W.

Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 728-7007

Thank you for a jazzy dinner!



Starbucks Coffee Company



Guest Artist Transportation provided by

(406) 542-2311

1905 WEST BROADWAY

MISSOULA, MT 59802



**Thank you Dollar for
the GREAT set of wheels!**

UM Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival