Jazz, big band, classical will make spring notable

As always, spring quarter will be a busy one for music lovers at Ohio State.

High school bands from Ohio and college bands from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Illinois will gather April 5 for the 10th Annual Ohio State Jazz Festival.

Competitive and non-competitive events will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Hughes Hall, Weigel Hall and Mershon auditoriums. All events are free.

Local groups include Beechcroft High School, 10 a.m., Hughes Hall; Reynoldsburg High School, 10 a.m., Weigel Hall; Ohio State Jazz Lab Ensemble, 11 a.m., Mershon; Capital University Fusion Band, noon, Mershon; and Capital University Big Band, 1 p.m., Mershon.

The host Ohio State Jazz Ensemble will perform again at 4 p.m. in Mershon Auditorium. Winners of high school and college competitions will receive awards at 4:30 p.m.

A concert by the United States Navy Commodores will end the day’s events at 5 p.m. in Mershon Auditorium. The Commodores is a specialty unit of the United States Navy Band based in Washington, D.C. The group, directed by Master Chief Musician Gary Elliott, features 18 jazz and big band musicians.

For more information, call 292-8050.

A nine-week series of noon-time concerts begins April 7 with a performance by the “High Street Stompers” Dixieland band.

The free performances, sponsored by the University Gallery of Fine Art, will be held on Tuesdays in April, May and June in the Hopkins Hall Gallery.

The High Street Stompers are faculty members from the School of Music. They are Tom Battenberg, trumpet; Gary Carney, trombone; Jim Curlis, drums; Bob Le Blanc, tuba; James Pyne, clarinet; and Paul Robinson, banjo.

On April 21, Christopher Weait, associate professor of music, will play bassoon and lead the Lyric Wind Quintet. Fellow faculty members in the group are William Baker, oboe; Katherine Borst Jones, flute; and James Pyne, clarinet.

A marimba ensemble from the music school will play Mozart, Haydn and ragtime on April 28. The music was transcribed for the marimba, the predecessor to the xylophone. James L. Moore, associate professor of music, will lead graduate students Gary Dachyt, Linda Dauwalder and John Evans.

On May 5, a trio will play harpsichord, glass harmonica and recorder in a program of Baroque music. The musicians are Henry Schmidt, professor of German; David Robinson, associate professor of Slavic and East European languages and literatures; and Dennis James, organist for the Ohio Theater.

For more information, call 292-0330.

The Ohio State Scarlet and Gray Show Choir will bring Broadway to Mershon Auditorium at 8 p.m. April 10 and 11.

The show combines a wide range of choral singing with innovative and energetic dancing. Director James Gallagher, assistant professor of music, will lead the 20-member choir in traditional show tunes, jazz numbers and contemporary popular music.

For ticket information, call 292-2354.

One of Poland’s finest ensembles, the Academic Choir of Szczecin Technical University, will perform at 2:30 p.m. April 12 in Hughes Hall Auditorium.

The free concert is an installment of the Guest Artist Series sponsored by the School of Music.

The 43-member choir commands a repertoire ranging from medieval to modern. Jan Szyrocki, who founded the choir in 1952, conducts the ensemble of architecture, economics and engineering students.

For more information, call 292-8050.

I Musici, the 12-member Italian string ensemble, will perform at 8 p.m. April 22 in Mershon Auditorium, the last of eight Great Artist Series concerts.

Three of the group’s four works for the performance come from the 17th-century Baroque period. The program includes Handel’s “Concerto Grosso in F Major, Op. 6, No. 9”; Bach’s “Concerto in G Minor for harpsichord and strings”; Mozart’s “Divertimento in B-flat Major”; and Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons.”

For ticket information, call 292-2354.

I Musici will give a 7 p.m. concert preview in Mershon Auditorium.
Twenty-four Ohio high school jazz ensembles, one of the hottest big-band leaders and the Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble will unite Sunday at the OSU School of Music for the 12th Annual OSU Jazz Festival.

An entire day of events is planned in Weigel Hall and Hughes Hall auditoriums.

Bob Mintzer — a composer, saxophonist and bandleader — will conduct a clinic from 3 to 4 p.m. He has played in the big bands of Buddy Rich, Mel Lewis and Louie Bellson; in classical orchestras and with Latin artists; and in pop recording sessions.

In addition, Mintzer will be guest soloist for the Jazz Ensemble's concert at 4 p.m. During this concert, Mintzer will perform several of his compositions, and the ensemble will premiere a performance of a piece it commissioned from him.

For more information, call 292-2870.
New York jazz artist to highlight festival

By Jim Dallas
Lantern staff writer

The 12th Annual Jazz Festival on April 16 will feature big band director Bob Mintzer performing a special piece with the OSU Jazz Ensemble, which is coming off an award-winning performance last week.

"He wrote a piece especially for us, and this will be the world premier of it," ensemble director and OSU alumnus Tom Battenberg said.

The Jazz Festival will also feature a clinic given by Mintzer.

Mintzer, a saxophone soloist, and his New York-based band, have been nominated for a Grammy Award and have recorded three albums. The releases, which are available on compact disc, are entitled "Spectrum," "Camouflage" and "Incredible Journey."

Mintzer, who is also a pop session musician, has played with the likes of Buddy Rich, Mel Lewis and Louie Bellson.

Mintzer will be performing with the OSU ensemble, which captured top honors at the Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival on April 8th.

"It's the oldest and most prestigious jazz festival in the country," Battenberg said. "What we did there is really a tribute to the musicianship of the group."

In addition, four OSU musicians netted outstanding soloist awards.

John Allen, trombone, Derek DiCenzo, guitar, Tim Williams, drums and SteveWieclaw, lead trumpet, are the musicians who were recognized.

"We weren't really looking at it (the competition), we just went to have some fun and enjoy the other bands," Williams said.

"It was fun, and fortunately, it turned into some awards," DiCenzo said.

DiCenzo, 21, has been playing guitar for 12 years and occasionally sits in with the group Dr. Bombay at Bernie's.

Williams, 24, is a senior from Elyria majoring in music education and has been playing drums since he was in the third grade.

Allen, who is from Hermitage, Pa. and majoring in Jazz Studies, is the veteran of the group.

"I've been there (Notre Dame) a couple of times already with the ensemble," Allen said.

Allen, 29, has been playing trombone for 17 years and has been with the ensemble "... at least since birth," DiCenzo said.

Steve Wieclaw, who is from Ravenna and majoring in Sociology, has been playing trumpet since the fourth grade, and in spite of his outstanding soloist award, says that the ensemble is "... just a hobby."

Battenberg says that the ensemble is at the peak of performance right now.

"The members have been working hard, playing a lot of concerts and practicing," Battenberg said.

"It just finally all came together at the right time."

"We really gelled at Notre Dame," DiCenzo said.

The festival at Ohio State will also feature 25 area high school ensembles that will perform from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Weigel and Hughes Halls. The performances are open to the public.

"We hope to get high school players interested in coming here," Williams said. "Whether they are inspired by us or by Bob, we hope they will pursue it."

The clinic given by Mintzer will start at 3 p.m. in Weigel Hall and will cost $3. The cost includes the performance of five original compositions by Mintzer with the OSU Jazz Ensemble.
HIGH NOTES — The Ohio State University Jazz Ensemble should be all tuned up for this weekend's OSU Jazz Festival.

Director Tom Battenberg's players picked up five outstanding performance awards at the Notre Dame Jazz Festival last weekend.

In addition to the group award, players Derek DiCenzo (guitar), John Allen (trombone), Tim Williams (drums) and Steve Wiclaw (trumpet) won solo awards.

Sunday's jazz fest at Weigel Hall and Hughes Hall is free from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Then it's $3 to hear New York sax man Bob Mintzer perform with the OSU ensemble at 4 p.m.
Trombonist at jazz fest

Trombonist Jiggs Whigham takes the spotlight Sunday at the 14th annual Ohio State University Jazz Festival.

Whigham will teach a jazz clinic at 3:15 p.m. and perform as soloist with the OSU Jazz Ensemble at 4 p.m. The festival includes competitive and non-competitive performances from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by 30 Ohio high school jazz bands in Hughes and Weigel auditoriums.

Whigham, a Cleveland native, was a featured soloist and first trombonist with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, directed by Ray McKinley, at age 17. In 1963, after two years with Miller, Whigham went to play lead trombone with Stan Kenton.

All concerts until 3 p.m. are free. Admission for the jazz clinic and OSU Jazz Ensemble concert is $3.50. For details, call 292-ARTS.
Jazz Festival expanded

by Jack Bashian
lantem staff writer

The School of Music has expanded the 15th annual OSU Jazz Festival to a four-day program of jazz concerts, instruction and improvisation, which begins Thursday at Hughes Auditorium.

This is the first year for a four-day jazz festival, which previously has been a one-day event for performances by high school jazz bands.

"We hope to become a model for other jazz programs in the area and nationally," said Ted McDaniel, director of the festival and OSU Jazz Studies.

"We have long felt that as the flagship institution of Ohio we have to act," McDaniel said.

This year's festival, "Miles Beyond," is a tribute to jazz legend Miles Davis, who died in September 1991.

"When Miles died, many of us were deeply touched and we felt it would be fitting that we paused to reflect, honor and celebrate one of the icons of this tradition," McDaniel said.

The festival, which begins Thursday with a presentation of scholarly papers on Davis, is a combination of educational forums, clinics and performances by the Roy Hargrove Quintet, the United States Air Force Airmen of Note and the OSU Jazz Ensemble with Jimmy Owens as featured soloist.

Roy Hargrove, who is considered a protege of jazz star Wynton Marsalis, will be performing with his quintet Saturday night at Weigel Auditorium.

Hargrove was a recipient of a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts, and also won DownBeat magazines' school competition scholarship for best jazz soloist. He will also be presenting a clinic on improvisation Saturday afternoon at Hughes Auditorium.

Saturday night features the big band sounds of the United States Air Force Airmen of Note. The band has been touring and performing on television and radio for 40 years and portrayed the Glenn Miller Orchestra in the movie "The Glenn Miller Story."

Sunday afternoon's schedule features the OSU Jazz Ensemble with featured soloist Owens.

Owens, an alumnus of Duke Ellington's band, is a trumpeter, composer and arranger. He has played with Count Basie, Charles Mingus and Dizzy Gillespie, among others.

Miles Davis fans may be especially interested in two audio and video sessions of selected recordings and videos at 174 Weigel Hall. These will be presented Thursday at 7 p.m. and Friday at 6 p.m.

If this is still not enough, the schedule of events also includes 14 college jazz bands performing on Saturday, 11 high school jazz bands performing on Sunday, instructional clinics with the Airmen of Note on Saturday morning and Jimmy Owens providing instruction on Sunday afternoon.

"It's the best ticket in town," McDaniel said.

All the performances, along with the clinics, are free and open to the public with the exception of the Hargrove concert, which is $10.00.
Trumpeter Hargrove will sound off at OSU Jazz Festival

By Bill Eltenberger
Dispatch Pop/Music Critic

They have style. They’re precocious. They know their roots and their jazz history. And they can play with anyone.

In jazz circles, they’re the Young Lions, exceptionally talented musicians such as Wynton Marsalis, the Harper Brothers and the Roy Hargrove Quintet.

Leaders of the so-called jazz renaissance, the Young Lions have begun to reshape what the music’s elder statesmen, such as Gil Scott and Ahmad Jamal, would call American classical music.

Not only are these musicians vital for the present, but they can serve an equally important role in jazz’s future, said Ted McDaniell, director of jazz studies in Ohio State University’s School of Music.

That’s why, in his first year as director of the OSU Jazz Festival — the 15th annual event runs today through Sunday — McDaniell has pursued and landed trumpeter Hargrove as headliner.

“Those young guys aren’t just shaping the sound of jazz now,” McDaniell said recently. “They’re bringing a new vibrancy to the music.”

“Musicians like Hargrove also send out a strong message to high school and college students. They are living proof of what’s possible when you’re willing to work hard and get serious about this music.”

Hargrove has impressed McDaniell with his understanding of the music’s past and his willingness to share his knowledge.

“Roy and the guys in the quintet volunteered to conduct a clinic on Saturday before their concert. I didn’t ask them. They told us they didn’t want to do it,” he said.

“You can talk to some one like Roy about Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis. They appreciate the tradition, the history. It’s refreshing to see such enthusiasm, to see that hunger.”

McDaniell said the festival, expanded from one day to four days this year, would pay tribute to trumpeter Davis.

“The festival is our celebration of jazz. It’s our statement on the importance of the music, and what better musician to salute than Miles, probably the most influential player since World War II.”

Hargrove will perform his own music, but the festival’s opening day will feature readings of scholarly papers on Davis and a video exploration of the trumpeter’s 50-year career.

“We’ll have rare footage from every era of Miles’ career, from his work with Charlie Parker in the ’40s to his collaboration with Cannonball Adderley and Coltrane in the ’50s and Herbie Hancock in the ’60s,” McDaniell said.

The festival also will feature the U.S. Air Force’s Airmen of Note Big Band, trumpeter Jimmy Owens and the OSU Jazz Ensemble, which will perform Seven Steps to Heaven, Solar, Tune Up and other Davis standards.

Though the OSU festival can’t yet compete with Cleveland’s well-established Tri-C Jazz Fest — which lasts two weeks and this year will include the Modern Jazz Quartet — McDaniell hopes this year’s festival will lead to bigger and better things.

“This is just the first step toward having a full weekend of activities,” he said. “It’s important to be able to bring in more national acts as well. We hope to build on this.”

The festival lowdown

The schedule for the 15th Annual Ohio State University Jazz Festival (all events are free except Roy Hargrove’s performance):

**TODAY**

2-5 p.m. — Scholarly papers on Davis, Hughes Hall auditorium

7 p.m. — Mixed-media presentation on Davis’ career, Weigel Hall, Room 174

**FRIDAY**

2-5 p.m. — Scholarly papers on Davis, Hughes Hall auditorium

6 p.m. — Mixed-media presentation on Davis’ career, Weigel Hall, Room 174

8 p.m. — OSU Jazz Faculty concert, Weigel Hall auditorium

**SATURDAY**

9 a.m. — Instrumental clinics conducted by the Airmen of Note:

— Trumpet, Hughes 109
— Trumpet, Weigel 177
— Saxophone, Hughes 110
— Rhythm section, Hughes auditorium

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. — College and university jazz bands, Weigel auditorium

3 p.m. — Roy Hargrove Quartet clinic, “The Art of Improvisation,” Hughes auditorium

7:30 p.m. — Airmen of Note, Weigel auditorium

9-10 p.m. — Roy Hargrove Quartet, Weigel auditorium

**SUNDAY**

11 a.m.-3 p.m. — High school jazz bands, Hughes and Weigel auditoriums

3 p.m. — Clinic with Jimmy Owens, Weigel auditorium

4 p.m. — OSU Jazz Ensemble with soloist Owens, Weigel auditorium

5 p.m. — Awards presentation
Spring brings music of Jazz Fest

ANN DOWELL
MUSIC WRITER

More than 500 musicians will be performing in the four-day long 16th Annual OSU Jazz Festival featuring major jazz musicians from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

The festival includes lectures, clinics, concerts and workshops which will be taking place April 15-18 in Weigel and Hughes Halls. The theme for this year's festival is a “Tribute to Dizzy Gillespie.”

The event will be kicked-off at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, with the opening lecture; “Dizzy Gillespie: Co-Architecture of Modern Jazz” given by Ted McDaniel, director of jazz studies.

Jibaro Jazz will put on the first performance of the festival with a concert at 7:30 Thursday night in Weigel Auditorium. This six-member band comes from Puerto Rico, where their music is well received, said Daisy Aguilera, a graduate student from Puerto Rico.

The feature event for Friday is the Shawn "Thunder" Wallace Quintet. Wallace, the hottest young jazz saxophonist of the day, leads this quintet from East Lansing, Michigan at 9:30 p.m. at Weigel Auditorium, McDaniel said.

“He's just a young, phenomenal saxophonist at only 18 years old,” McDaniel said. “It's really frightening.”

Headlining the festival is the Antonio Hart Quintet, at 8 p.m. on Saturday. The quintet has received recognition in several cities throughout the United States, including San Francisco and New York, McDaniel said.

“I'm looking forward to the festival,” Hart said in a phone interview. “By exploring other types of music I keep my music sounding fresh. I just love to play.”

Hart originally studied classical music, but found he couldn't identify with it, so he switched to jazz. He experiences a closeness to jazz that he never felt with classical, Hart added.

“Antonio Hart is a great performer,” said Paul Reichle, an OSU graduate student completing his doctorate of musical arts in composition.

The OSU Jazz Ensemble will be performing under the direction of McDaniel. Gary Carney, a lecturer in music, will be the ensemble's guest trombone soloist at 4:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

“I'm in the OSU Jazz Ensemble because I have an intensive love for that type of music,” said Reichle, second trumpet in the ensemble.

Tickets for these events and others are available in advance at the Mershon Auditorium ticket office or any Ticketmaster location. Prices vary for each performance.
Listen for the jazz at Ohio State

By Lee Brown

Jazz lovers, don't overlook this one.

The OSU Jazz Festival kicks off its 17th year today with headline performances for the public and private clinics for OSU music students.

This year, organizer and OSU jazz prof Ted McDaniel has booked Columbus's own new trumpet star, Pharez Whitted, and Bronx-born flutist Dave Valentin.

Whitted grew up in the musically legendary Hampton family in Indianapolis and apparently got music injections from the beginning. (Famous uncle Slide Hampton has been getting rave reviews in NYC for his weekly big band gig at the Village Vanguard.)

In Indy, they still talk about Whitted's spiraling phrases on pieces like Freddie Hubbard's Super Blue.

Just as Whitted was garnering national recognition—playing with Elvin Jones, the Marsalis brothers and uncle Slide—OSU hired him on its music school faculty. I've been lucky to catch his sharply punctuated horn work at Bobby Floyd's Saturday jam sessions at the Sir Lounge. This is my first chance to check out a current version of his band.

Expect to hear funk, blues and lots of bold, brash bop.

- Whitted's rhythm section includes Kevin Turner (guitar) and Kenny Banks (keyboard) and a Cincinnati drummer. And I'm itching to hear his much-touted Indy bass player, Jonathan Wood, who is said to be the glue of Whitted's band. Wood keeps the adrenaline pumping with his leaps into the musical space where mortals fear to fly.

Hometown star Bobby Floyd, Hank Marr and Jeanette Williams take the stage Friday night. McDaniel says we'll be treated to a big band backing up several soloists, including Marr on his Hammond B-3 and some solo piano work by Floyd. (If anybody is taking requests, mine is for Bobby's through-the-roof version of Battle Hymn of the Republic.)

Saturday night is dark horse night—for me—when classically trained flutist Dave Valentin takes over in Weigel Hall.

Valentin, who has worked with Arturo Sandoval, plays Latin jazz on what we hear is the biggest collection of flutes anyone, anywhere is known to play—including those big wooden Peruvian joes—as well as Romanian pan-pipes.

Sunday afternoon features Columbus tenor sax star Gene Walker with the OSU Jazz Ensemble. By the way, did you catch Walker and Sonny McBroom in their faceoff with tenor star Benny Golson in the last Jazz Arts Group concert? Our locals more than held their own again the big guy.

Between 10 a.m. and late afternoon on Saturday and Sunday, more than 30 high school and college jazz bands will play in Weigel and Hughes Halls. (For OSU, this festival serves a major recruitment function.) And that school talent can be awesome. Where do you think our hot players come from these days?
Great jazz musicians highlight OSU festival

Pharez Whitted performs free Sunday night

By Jason Thrush
Lantern staff writer

A weekend for jazz lovers began last night as the four-day Ohio State Jazz Festival filled Weigel Auditorium with music.

The Pharez Whitted Quintet gave the opening performance for the 16th annual festival Thursday night. Whitted, the leader of the quintet, has performed with artists like Branford and Wynton Marsalis, David Baker and John Mellencamp. He is an assistant professor of jazz at Ohio State and recently recorded "Pharez Whitted," available on the MoJazz label.

The concert series continues tonight with a performance by trumpeter Steve Turre in Hughes Auditorium. Turre, who is currently a member of the Saturday Night Live band, is a phenomenal artist and a fine writer, said Ted McDaniel, OSU director of jazz studies.

"He is an outstanding jazz musician," said McDaniel.

On Saturday evening, the Stephen Scott Trio takes the stage in Weigel Auditorium and features saxophonist Javon Jackson. Scott works out of New York and tours nationally, said McDaniel.

The festival wraps up on Sunday night as Pharez Whitted returns to perform a free concert with the OSU Jazz Ensemble in Weigel Auditorium.

While the well-known artists highlight the festival, the heart of the event lies in the performances by high school and college bands throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, said Lois Foreman Wernet, OSU director of arts.

Although the festival is not a competition, the bands are critiqued by OSU faculty and, if qualified, receive a rating of superior or excellent, said McDaniel.

"Through a competitive environment, these young musicians are given suggestions and criticisms from qualified jazz artists. It's an opportunity for them to hear other groups and to see what's happening in big band jazz," said Tom Battenberg, OSU jazz professor emeritus.

At the end of the event, two outstanding high school jazz musicians are offered scholarships to a one-week jazz summer camp at Ohio State, McDaniel said.

"Recruitment is not the focus of the festival, but it provides us with the opportunity to take a serious listen to high school talent," he said.

The festival began in 1977 as a way to bring competitive high school bands and national acts to Ohio State. College bands were invited several years later, said Battenberg.

"I took the OSU (jazz) band to Notre Dame and other major jazz festivals. I felt that a university like OSU should have one of its own," said Battenberg, who was involved with the festival until his retirement in 1990.

While always including national acts, the jazz festival has grown from a one-site, one-day event to the current four-day festival at Weigel and Hughes Auditoriums, said McDaniel.

"I hope it will continue to grow. I would like one day for OSU to sponsor a full jazz week," he said.

The festival is not only for jazz enthusiasts and people unfamiliar with the genre will recognize some of the music, said Foreman Wernet.

"It is a type of music that should appeal to most people. It's not rock and roll, but it is unpredictable, upbeat and fun," said Battenberg.

McDaniel said that he hopes people will come out and support these fine acts.

"They are all exceptional artists and they deserve good audiences," said McDaniel.

Tickets for the Friday and Saturday evening concerts are available at the Wexner Center Ticket Office and at all Ticketmaster outlets.

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**Weekend Events**

**Friday, March 1**

- Bernie's Distillery LOP/Jettison
- Chazlo's Distillery LOP/Jettison
- Charly/Frankie Furman
- Chazlo's Ark Band
- Dick's Den Milestones

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**Saturday, April 1**

- Barley's Underground Paul Kelly/Tim Easton/Sparks form the Wheel

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**Sunday, April 2**

- Barley's Underground Paul Kelly/Tim Easton/Sparks form the Wheel

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**Bernnie's Distillery Rymocerous/Lollipop Factory
Chazlo's Twist-Offs Ludlow's Donna Magavero Band
Newport Jackyl Palace Theatre Philip Glass, "La Belle et la Bette" Short North Art Galleries Gallery Hop Stache's Train Meets Truck Reunites
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Jazz festival swings into action

By Devon Immelt
Lantern arts writer

The School of Music will hold its 20th annual Ohio State Jazz Festival Thursday through Sunday.

The festival is a combination of educational forums, clinics, and performances, said Ted McDaniel, director of the festival and OSU jazz studies.

The jazz festival was expanded from a one-day event to a four-day event in 1992 in order to include more college bands and national acts, McDaniel said.

"This year's festival will be a showcase of our own faculty members," he said.

The Pharez Whitted Quartet kicks things off Thursday. Whitted, an assistant professor of jazz, has performed with artists like John Mellencamp, Branford and Wynton Marsalis, and jazz trombonist Slide Hampton.

OSU jazz faculty member Derek DiCenzo, who recently toured Europe with the Afghan Whigs, will perform with his quintet following Whitted.

The Jim Masters Quartet will wrap things up Thursday. Masters, who is also an OSU faculty member, performed at the Inaugural Party in Washington, D.C. in January.

Friday evening features the Hank Marr Quartet. Marr was the recipient of the Jazz Masters Award from the Society of Creative Arts Talent.

Saturday evening will be highlighted by a performance from the OSU Jazz Ensemble. This past summer the Jazz Ensemble performed at Europe's two most prestigious jazz festivals: The Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands, McDaniel said.

"It was an opportunity for our students to appear with the greatest jazz musicians in the world," he said.

Besides serving as a showcase of jazz performances, the festival functions as a recruitment tool for the School of Music. Nearly 30 high school bands from across the state will perform Sunday.

Pharez Whitted, as part of his jazz quartet, will perform Thursday night as part of the Ohio State Jazz Festival.

These performances will be judged by OSU faculty members, McDaniel said. The two top high school jazz musicians will be offered scholarships to a five-day summer camp at OSU, he said.

"The festival gives us a chance to reach out to high school students and make them aware of the possibility of music as a college major," Whitted said.

Tickets for Thursday and Saturday nights' performances are $5 for students, $8 for seniors, and $10 for the general public. All other performances are free. The festival will be held at Weigel and Hughes Auditoriums. Tickets will be sold at the door.