



Photo by the Music Conservatory

The Jazz Ensemble of the Music Conservatory for the Arts at Tarpon Springs High School blends academics with learning different musical forms.

Tarpon High Jazz Ensemble set to perform at New York's Lincoln Center

BY MARK SCHANTZ
THE SUNCOAST NEWS

Students in Jazz Ensemble of the Music Conservatory for the Arts at Tarpon Springs High School are dedicated to continuing the legacy of a musical art form that originated in the American southland and spread around the world.

This weekend a band of the ensemble's top performers is playing at New York's Lincoln Center.

This Thursday, April 16, the ensemble will be back in town and headlining the city's Music on Sunset Beach evening concert series.

Emily Frederickson, a senior in the school's conservatory magnet school program, said her interest in jazz has inspired "many life-changing experiences." A concert she attended in the

sixth grade, by the touring Tommy Dorsey Orchestra inspired her to listen to jazz and study it in all its forms.

"Jazz offers a variety and ability to express oneself that doesn't exist in other musical genres," said Emily. In true jazz musician style, the 18-year-old plays not only the trombone but piano and guitar as well.

Attending that concert six years ago inspired her to become a jazz performer, she said. She plans to major in musical studies focusing on jazz performance, next year, when she goes to college.

Robert Barfield, the ensemble's director and musical mentor, said jazz has captured the imagination and inspiration of all students in

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Dunedin OKs Fenway development agreement

BY MARK SCHANTZ
THE SUNCOAST NEWS

DUNEDIN » St. Petersburg-based attorney and developer George Rahdert's dream of restoring the Fenway on the Bay Hotel to the grandeur it enjoyed in the early part of the last century is a major step closer to reality.

City commissioners recently voted to transmit a site plan and development agreement between the city and Rahdert to the Pinellas County Planning Council and Florida Department of Community Affairs for approval.

Matthew Campbell, the city zoning administrator and assistant planning director, said commissioners will have a final hearing and vote on the agreement in early to mid-summer.

As part of the agreement the 5.2-acre property on Bayshore Boulevard will be designated a single-site historic overlay district. The developer plans to complete a period restoration on 48,694 square feet of the 85-year-old hotel that would resurrect its 1920s grandeur.

When completed the renovated hotel will include: 132 rooms; a 151-seat restaurant; a 6,000-square-foot ballroom; 10,000 square feet of meeting space; and resort amenities such as a spa and retail shops.

Two wings featuring 1920s' design motifs will be added to

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the ensemble, from beginning players to top performers who play in festivals around the country. The ensembles recently performed at the annual Swing Central High School Jazz Band Competition and Workshop at the Savannah Music Festival.

The Music Conservatory for the Arts blends a strong focus on academics and leadership, with the study of musical tradition, performance and composition. Some students in the magnet program want to build a foundation for a career in the performing arts while others have a strong interest in music, Barfield said.

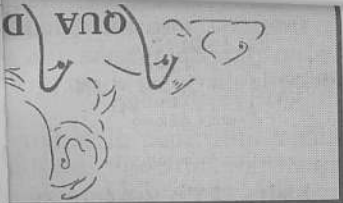
Jazz Ensemble members also participate in other music groups offered by the conservatory such as the Concert Band or marching band.

Jazz is a truly original American musical art form. Each jazz style, from the early 1900s to the present, reflects a rich cultural history of each era in which it is played," he said.

Students learn traditional forms to improvisational techniques. This past year Jason Marsalis conducted a special workshop at the school. Marsalis, a drummer and vibraphone player, is the brother of jazz musicians Branford, Delfeayo and Wynton Marsalis and the son of pianist Ellis Marsalis.

Barfield said the school has always had a strong and popular music program. Since the conservatory became a magnet program, about a year ago, many more students from around the county have expressed interest in the music leadership program. Along with jazz, the program includes a wind ensemble, orchestra, marching band, percussion group and color guard.

Students and parents help fund trip and amenities for the program, but the conservatory is always looking for corporate sponsors, Barfield noted.



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