

10-25-2016

Morris Premieres Visiting Jazz Artist Program

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Morris Premieres Visiting Jazz Artist Program" (2016). *University Relations News Archive*. 2271.
http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/2271

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the External Relations at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Relations News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

Contact:

Melissa Vangness, Director of Communications
Phone: [320-589-6414](tel:320-589-6414), melissav@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: [320-589-6068](tel:320-589-6068), jrray@morris.umn.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Morris Premieres Visiting Jazz Artist Program](#)

The new program brings to campus some of the most prestigious jazz musicians in the northern Midwest.

MORRIS, Minnesota (October 25, 2016)—The University of Minnesota, Morris Music Discipline announces its [Visiting Jazz Artist \(VJA\) Program](#). New this year, the program regularly brings to campus some of the most prestigious jazz musicians in the northern Midwest for interactive performances, masterclasses and clinics, and individual and group lessons.

According to Jonathan Campbell, director of jazz studies and assistant professor of music, “there is nothing like the Visiting Jazz Artist program happening” at area colleges. Unlike [Morris’s annual jazz festival](#), which brings artists to campus for a single event, VJA brings musicians to Morris several times throughout the year and, ideally, for multiple years. And unlike visiting-artist programs at larger colleges, VJA truly hosts the artists as “guests” rather than semi-regular faculty members. Instead, artists add to the Music Discipline’s regular offerings of classes and private lessons by playing alongside students in clinics and masterclasses. The program, says Campbell, combines the best of both small- and large-college offerings in a truly Morris way.

“I think what makes this program most unique is that it is happening at Morris,” he says. “Students are getting the best of both worlds—high-quality liberal arts education in rural Minnesota *and* the opportunity to regularly work with some of the greatest jazz musicians around.”

Campbell adds that this kind of model is particularly beneficial to smaller institutions. Given the size of the campus’s jazz program, he says, “it is necessary to bring in great performers and educators” to accommodate student interest and demand.

Morris is steeped in a tradition of high-quality jazz music, thanks in part to the many alumni and community members who have been invested in the campus’s jazz festival and students. With the first VJA visit successfully concluded, Campbell believes the program will help keep that rich tradition alive and growing into the future.

“I definitely saw the spark and excitement it created with our students,” he says. “I can’t wait to see the impact a year or two from now.”

Students like Christian Pfeiffer ’18, Mountain Lake, agree: “I greatly enjoyed and appreciated the entire experience and am looking forward to more opportunities like it in the future. It has definitely furthered my playing as an individual and improved the sound of our ensembles and combos as a whole.”

This year the VJA program welcomes pianist [Bryan Nichols](#), bassist [Chris Bates](#), and drummer [JT Bates](#), all regulars in the Minneapolis music scene. For more information, visit academics.morris.umn.edu/jazz/visiting-jazz-artist-program.

This activity is supported, in part, by private gifts to the UMM Jim (Doc) Carlson Jazz Fund.

[View this story electronically.](#)

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

###