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A 2010 Celebration gift of jazz to the community

Summary: The free jazz concert features the Morris Area High School Jazz Band, UMM's jazz ensembles, and guest artist Laura Caviani, jazz pianist and composer.

(January 27, 2010)-An evening of jazz, scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Morris Area Schools Concert Hall, will serve as a 2010 Celebration gift from the University of Minnesota, Morris to the community. The Morris Area High School Jazz Band will open the free concert that also features [UMM jazz ensembles](#) and guest artist Laura Caviani, jazz pianist and composer. Jim Thoreen, songster, arts advocate, and Stevens County coordinator, will serve as the Master of Ceremony.

The 2010 Celebration is a yearlong recognition of Morris campus history. Fifty years ago, the University of Minnesota, Morris opened its doors, and one hundred years ago, the West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station was founded. Although the University of Minnesota boarding high school closed in 1963, the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) continues the Experiment Station's legacy. The first buildings on campus housed an American Indian boarding school from 1887 until 1909.

A committee has been planning for more than a year for the 2010 Celebration. Dian and Andy Lopez, professors emeriti of computer science, serve as co-chairs.

"Happy Birthday, UMM," say the Lopezes, "and congratulations to the West Central School of Agriculture Alumni Association and the West Central Research and Outreach Center! The 2010 Celebration begins with this wonderful jazz concert, and the entire Morris community is invited! We are very excited that the first event is a free concert involving many different groups from the Morris area plus a special guest performer."

[Guest artist Laura Caviani](#) has performed and recorded for more than 15 years. Her work has been described as "sparkling," "inventive," and "fresh." She has recorded and toured with 2002 Grammy nominee Karrin Allyson and shared the stage with jazz greats Toots Thielemans, Bob Mintzer, and Dave Liebman. Caviani has taught at many schools in her home city of Minneapolis through the "Harman How to Listen Program," an outreach program co-founded by Wynton Marsalis. She is a faculty member at Carleton College and St. Olaf College in Northfield.

The University of Minnesota, Morris jazz ensembles, directed by [Joe Carucci](#), assistant professor of music, are excited to collaborate with the Morris Area High School Jazz Band and guest artist Caviani to present an evening of exciting jazz music for the community.

"The concert will feature big band arrangements by Count Basie, Bill Holman, Sammy Nestico, Bobby Timmons, guest artist Laura Caviani, and even myself," shares Carucci. "The town of Morris has a strong tradition of jazz music, and it is an honor to present this concert as part of the 2010 Celebration."

The 2010 evening of jazz is funded through the Jim "Doc" Carlson Jazz Endowment Fund that was established with gifts

contributed in honor of his retirement.

The 2010 Celebration continues on Tuesday, February 23, with open house events at the renovated WCROC office and UMM Welcome Center, and the UMM Pride of the Prairie Farmers Market and Local Foods Meal. Visit 2010.morris.umn.edu for upcoming event details.

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