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Wayne Bergeron, Kim Park to headline 26th Annual UMM Jazz Fest

Summary:

(March 18, 2004)-Guest artists Wayne Bergeron and Kim Park will headline the 26th Annual UMM Jazz Fest April 1-3 at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Bergeron and Park will join UMM Jazz Ensembles, under the direction of Dr. James “Doc” Carlson, UMM jazz combos, alumni jazzers, and the West Central “All Stars” during performances each evening at 7:30 p.m. in Edson Auditorium.

UMM's annual Jazz Fest draws over 700 high school and community jazz musicians to participate in three days of clinics with some of the world's greatest jazz musicians as their teachers.

Wayne Bergeron's interest in music began in the 7th grade when he discovered his natural ability on the trumpet. By the age of 19, he was touring and playing local gigs in Los Angeles. In 1986 he was lead trumpet player with the Maynard Ferguson Band. He can be heard on recordings such as “Body and Soul,” “Big Bop Nouveau,” and “Brass Attitude.” According to Ferguson, “Wayne is the most musical lead trumpet player I've ever had on my band.”

Kim Park is an internationally renowned and versatile jazz artist. In addition to performing on saxophone, flute, and piano, he is also a composer, producer, clinician and educator. He is the son and protege of the late John Park, the legendary lead alto saxophonist of the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Park has performed around the world with Stan Kenton, Clark Terry, Louis Bellson, Stan Getz, and others. He has also been the featured soloist at both the National Flute and Saxophone Conventions, as well as the Kansas City, Atlanta and Tulsa Symphonies, plus the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival.

UMM currently has four Jazz Ensembles and numerous Jazz Combos. All of the UMM Jazz Ensembles tour every year, including biennial trips to New Orleans, La. UMM musicians have performed for many music conventions, including the MMEA convention in Minneapolis and the NCMENC in Chicago. They have also performed at a variety of functions including festivals, clinics, performing arts series, and various other private events. In July of 1991, the UMM Jazz Ensemble was one of the 25 big bands from around the world to perform at the 25th annual Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland. During the Memorial Day Weekend of 1992, they performed at Carnegie Hall with The Count Basie Orchestra. In July of 1994 they performed in The North Sea Jazz Festival at The Hague, Netherlands. In the summer of 1997, the ensembles made return appearances at both Montreux and North Sea Jazz Festivals. In the summer of 2000, the UMM Jazz Ensembles performed at both the Montreux and Vienne, France Jazz Festivals.

Jazz Fest is co-sponsored by the UMM Jazz Ensembles and the UMM Campus Activities Council Performing Arts Committee. Primary funding for this series is provided by University of Minnesota, Morris students. The series is made possible by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature. In addition, this activity is sponsored in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and supported by the Heartland Arts Fund.

For ticket information contact the Office of Student Activities at UMM, 320-589-6080.

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