

# An education to jazz up your life

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Co-A&E-Editor

Jazz is an underappreciated and often misunderstood form of music. In fact, most people don't even think about it at all, judging from the share of the music market that jazz possesses. Jazz albums account for only three percent of all music sold in this country, while groups with little musical talent such as the Spice Girls sell millions of copies. What is wrong with this picture?

Too much, according to Clackamas teacher Tom Wakeling.

Wakeling teaches the History of Jazz class, and is a jazz musician himself, having played the bass for over 27 years now.

"I played pop and rock for a long time, and gravitated towards jazz because it was so much more challenging. I still love much rock music, though," Wakeling says of his musical roots.

In History of Jazz, students learn about jazz from its early roots in New Orleans through today's "Fusion" style, encompassing the swing, bebop,

cool jazz, hard-bop, jazz-rock, and avant-garde forms of jazz along the way.

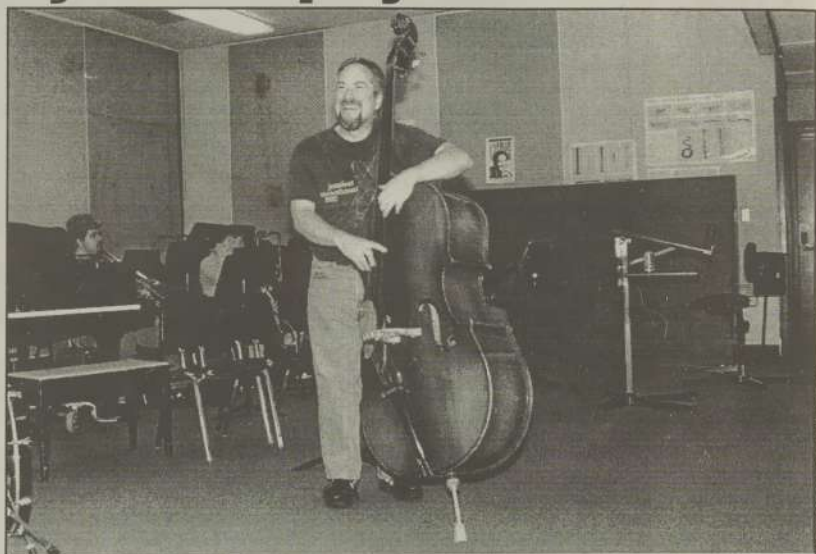
Guest musicians also are part of the experience, coming in to talk with and play for the class. Just two weeks ago, for instance, famous bassist John Clayton of the Clayton Brothers played a duet with Wakeling, and then stayed to chat with students. Clayton has worked with such artists as Phil Collins, Quincy Jones, and even composed for Whitney Houston when she sang "The Star Spangled Banner" during the Super Bowl a few years ago.

Wakeling says this shows that jazz musicians are much more accessible than famous rock musicians.

"You can call almost all of them at home, and they'll take the time to talk to you."

Students in the class also feel strongly about jazz as both a music and an art form.

"Jazz isn't all about pop artists like Kenny G. Jazz is more about the musician expressing himself through his music, more about swinging, grooving, and rhythm," intoned freshman Aaron Shep-



History of Jazz teacher Tom Wakeling demonstrates proper bass technique.

herd.

Other students agree with Shepherd.

"If you're interested in American music of any kind, then this is the place to learn about it," noted student Will Wyatt.

For students interested in taking the class, it is not too late to sign up. History of Jazz is one of three classes required for the Introduction to Music Literature sequence, which meets the Humanities and Arts sequence requirement for the

Associate of Arts transfer degree.

The other courses in the sequence are the History of Rock and a class that relates to the history of classical music. History of Rock runs spring term and will have guest speakers, videos, and plenty of rock music.

For more information about the jazz class and other classes in the music sequence, contact Tom Wakeling at ext. 2160 or stop by his office in R208B.

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Aaron Shepherd  
Jazz Student

## Spend time with three local playwrights

At this term's Authors' Night, three Oregon playwrights will be sharing scenes from their works on Feb. 4.

Charles Deemer, DMae Roberts and Sue Mach will host in the McLoughlin Hall Theatre at 7 p.m.

Deemer has an M.F.A. in play writing from the University of Oregon where he was a Shubert play writing Fellow. Thirty-six

of his plays have been produced, and he has sold four screenplay options. He also writes fiction and is a three-time recipient of the Roll of Honor Recognition in "Best American Short Stories." He teaches screen writing at Portland State University and for Eastern Oregon State University via Internet.

Deemer is best known for his play "Christmas at the Juniper

Tavern," the public television version of which won an ACE award. His play, "Familly," won the 1997 Crossing Borders International Playwright competition and will open in Salem, Massachusetts next season. His actors will be reading from his latest play "Bedrooms and Bars."

Roberts is an Amerasian playwright, actress, and radio producer. Roberts' two-act play "Picasso in the Back Seat" received the Portland Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Original Play of the '95-'96 season and the Oregon Book Award for Best Play.

Roberts has been nominated for the Drammy Award for two other plays. In 1990, she received the Peabody award for her autobiographical radio docu-play "Mei Mei, A Daughter's Song." Her 13-part radio series Legacies: Tales From American was hosted by James DePriest and broadcast on National Public Radio to 100 stations. Her actors will be reading from a play about Kwan Yin, "Lady Buddha," which was produced at the

IFCC Theater in 1997.

Sue Mach is on the English faculty and teaches playwriting at CCC. She received an M.A. in playwriting from Boston University and has also taught at Linfield College and Portland State University. Her first play, "Monograms," about Portland poet Hazel Hall, won a Drammy Award at Portland Rep Stage II. After rewriting, it moved to the main Stage of Portland Rep for a second season and rave reviews. It was then produced in New York and Pennsylvania, receiving an excellent review.

Mach's second play, "Angle of View," was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award, and the New York Theater that produced "Monograms" plans to produce it. Her third play, currently titled "Sacred Heart," is being rewritten for possible production in Seattle. It is based on a charismatic religious cult leader in Corvallis early in the century.

This event is co-sponsored by the English Department and Friends of the Library. The event is free, but a \$2 donation would be greatly appreciated.

Professor Sue Mach will be hosting an Authors' Night with two other playwrights on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. The presentation will be held in the McLoughlin Hall Theatre. Admission is free with a \$2 suggested donation.

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