

PRESS RELEASE

From: Baton Rouge Magnet High School Instrumental Music Department
Event: Fortier-Gerbrecht Jazz Invitational Concert
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Manship Theatre at Shaw Center for the Arts

Outstanding Jazz Ensembles and Jazz Combos from seven area high schools and one middle school will participate in this year's 53rd Annual Fortier-Gerbrecht Jazz Invitational Concert sponsored by Baton Rouge Magnet High School and The Baton Rouge Jazz Ensemble.

John Gerbrecht and Lee Fortier, both outstanding jazz musicians and former band directors at Baton Rouge Magnet High School were the initial organizers of the Invitational Concert. It was a vision of these two exceptional educators to give local school jazz bands the opportunity to perform before they would attend spring jazz festivals. After Mr. Fortier's passing in Dec. 1988, the Invitational Concert was named the Lee J. Fortier Jazz Invitational Concert in his memory. At the 2008 Invitational, Bobby Campo, former BRMHS Director of Bands and former student of both Fortier and Gerbrecht, renamed the Invitational the Fortier-Gerbrecht Jazz Invitational to acknowledge their contributions and commemorate both outstanding jazz educators.

This is another exciting year for the Invitational, being hosted again in the beautiful Manship Theatre at the Shaw Center for the Arts. Opening the Concert will be the St. George Jazz Ensemble under the direction of John Gerbrecht himself. The line-up also includes returning high school ensembles that are known for delivering stellar Invitational performances every year.

Mr. Gerbrecht continues as a sponsor of the Jazz Invitational Concert, along with B.J. McGibney and Jan Gerbrecht Dupre. Over the years, it has proven to be a great showcase of talented young jazz musicians.

Participating schools and their respective directors are:

St. George Catholic School	John Gerbrecht & Jan Gerbrecht Dupre
Catholic High School	Mark Messina
The Dunham School	Jordan Tupper
EBR Talented Combo	Mike Esneault
Central High School	Patrick Bordelon
St. Michael High School	Dr. Kevin Andry
Baton Rouge Magnet High	B.J. McGibney

Tickets are \$5.00 (*plus Theatre M&E*) and available online www.manshiptheatre.org or by calling the Theatre Ticket Desk at 1.225.344.0334.

We would very much appreciate press coverage the week/weekend prior to the Concert date.

Thank You,
B.J. McGibney
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Jazz Invitational Sponsors
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