

**Subject:** Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival - 2004

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**To:** everyone@cnu.edu

On January 19, 2004, we will publicly release the line-up for CNU's seventh annual Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival. I wanted to share this exciting news with you first and give you the opportunity to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

The Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival will run April 28, 29, 30 and May 1 - and as in years past, some of the biggest names in jazz will be performing on our campus.

The festival will kick off on Wednesday, April 28 as we showcase the incredible talent that exists right here at CNU! Our own award winning Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Bill Brown promises an exciting evening of big band music and jazz standards. The CNU Vocal Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Lauren Fowler will also perform, singing in a variety of styles from swing to bebop. This evening of high energy and enormous talent is always a sell out.

On Thursday, April 29, The Dave Holland Quintet will perform. Down Beat magazine calls bassist Dave Holland a "mainstay of jazz excellence for more than three decades." Born in Wolverhampton, England, Dave has performed with jazz greats like Coleman Hawkins, Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Stan Getz and Herbie Hancock. He has attained a new plateau of public popularity and critical acclaim with his quintet. Acknowledged as one of the most polished and creative ensembles in acoustic jazz, their albums Points of View and Prime Directive were both Grammy-nominated and the band was voted #1 Acoustic Jazz Group of the Year in the Down Beat Critics Poll, and Best Combo of the Year in the Bell Atlantic jazz awards. These days, Holland is focusing more and more on "using the totality of his experience as a player...utilizing the full spectrum which includes the tradition...the blues...and improvising freely."

The Michael Brecker Quartet will be with us on Thursday, April 30.  
A

major figure in contemporary instrumental music, tenor saxophonist and composer Michael Brecker is a seven-time Grammy winner and is among the most studied instrumentalists in music schools throughout the world today. Brecker has performed with the most respected and renowned names in jazz including McCoy Tyner, George Benson, Dave Brubeck, Quincy Jones, Pat Metheny, not to mention an exhausting list of pop icons - Lennon, Springsteen, Sinatra, Elton John, Diana Ross and Joni Mitchell just to name a few. Michael Brecker's accomplishments assure that his time will forever be intertwined with the history of music...Brecker is inarguably the most influential tenor stylist of the last 25 years.

We will conclude this year's festival on Saturday, May 1 with an appearance by recording artist Peter Cincotti, the 20 year-old jazz pianist, vocalist, composer and arranger who has been making incredible strides since the release of his self-titled debut CD Peter Cincotti in March 2003. The CD reached #1 on Billboard Magazine's Traditional Jazz Chart where it remains a best-seller and ranks #3 in overall sales in 2003! Peter's background in innovative jazz and classical piano "breathes new life into both pop standards and back-alley Bourbon Street anthems." With a sultry Sinatra-style baritone voice, charisma, talent and sophistication well beyond his years, Peter is on the verge of an extraordinary recording career that will bring pure jazz to a whole new audience.

All performances will be held at 8 p.m. in Gaines Theatre. Tickets will be available for purchase on January 5, 2004 and are \$35 each for Dave Holland, Michael Brecker and Peter Cincotti. CNU students may purchase their ticket at half-price and a 10% discount is available to anyone with a valid CNU ID. Tickets for the Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble performances are \$5 each (no discounts are available for the CNU performances). Tickets may be purchased at the CNU Box Office or by calling 757-594-8752.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2004 Ella Fitzgerald Music

Festival!

