

Subject: Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival

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From: Paul Tribble <ptrible@cnu.edu>

To: everyone@cnu.edu

On November 25, we will publicly release the line-up for CNU's sixth annual Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival. I wanted to share this exciting news with you 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 30, May 1-3 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 30 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.

One of the most significant and important vocalists of this decade, Dianne Reeves, will perform on Thursday, May 1. With 11 recordings and three Grammy nominations to her credit, this Blue Note/EMI artist thrills audiences far and wide – from New York to London to Japan. Born in Detroit in 1956 and raised in Denver, Reeves says that music was a treasured gift from her family. Her eclectic style ranges from pop, to rhythm and blues, to soul, to marvelous jazz standards. She has performed with such greats as Harry Belafonte, Sergio Mendes and Kenny Garrett, just to name a few.

Grammy Award winner, saxophonist Sonny Rollins, will be with us on Friday, May 2. At an age when most would be content to "tread water," this jazz legend enters his sixth decade as a professional musician in resplendent form. Like Louis Armstrong and all the great jazz improvisers, Rollins has a unique gift for transforming the most unlikely of songs into extraordinarily expressive vehicles. Nurtured by Thelonious Monk, he has worked with such greats as John Coltrane and Miles Davis and easily sustains his standing as the living nonpareil of jazz improvisation.

We will conclude this year's festival on Saturday, May 3 with the Chick Corea New Trio. Chick Corea's four decade career is the stuff of jazz lore.... "an amalgamation of influential, limit-stretching musical experiences." Born in Massachusetts in 1941, Chick began playing the piano at the age of four. His father's career as a bandleader in the 30's and 40's provided him with a childhood filled with the sounds of Beethoven, Chopin and Bach along with the recordings of Charlie Parker, Bud Powell and Dizzy Gillespie. According to Chick, his "interests change and vary as the years go along, with different emphases all the time." He has had the good fortune to work with the likes of Gary Burton, Sarah Vaughn, Stan Getz, Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock.

All performances will be held at 8 p.m. in Gaines Theatre. Tickets are \$35 each for Dianne Reeves, Sonny Rollins and Chick Corea. Tickets for the CNU Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Jazz Ensemble performances are \$5. CNU students may purchase their tickets at half-price and a 10% discount is available to anyone with a valid CNU ID. Tickets are available at the CNU Box Office or by calling 757/594-8752.

I look forward to seeing you at the Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival.