

# The 2021



**Online Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

For Middle School & High School Students and General Public

REGISTER AT <https://www.mtsu.edu/music/jazzfest.php>

## ARTISTS & CLINICIANS

GARY SMULYAN, BARITONE SAXOPHONE

CORD MARTIN, TENOR SAXOPHONE

CASEY BREFKA, TRUMPET

with

the MTSU Faculty Jazz Quintet

Don Aliquo, saxophone

Jamey Simmons, trumpet

Matt Endahl, piano

Jonathan Wires, bass

Brian Mueller, drums





**TO: Middle Tennessee music students, directors, and general public**

Greetings to you. The MTSU School of Music and the Illinois Jacquet Foundation invite you and your students to participate **online** in the **2021 MTSU Illinois Jacquet Jazz Festival**. With support from the Tennessee Arts Commission we have unlimited capacity for students to participate in all our Zoom sessions on **Saturday, April 10, 2021**. All events are **FREE** to students and the public via Zoom and through the MTSU School of Music concert YouTube livestream at [www.mtsu.edu/musiclivestream](http://www.mtsu.edu/musiclivestream). The festival is full of outstanding educational components including:

- Saturday 3:30 p.m. guest Zoom clinic by **Downbeat** magazine and **Grammy** award-winning **baritone saxophonist GARY SMULYAN**. A veteran of the New York City jazz scene, Gary will discuss his career as a working jazz musician, educator, give saxophone insights, and the details of jazz improvisation.
- Saturday 5:30 CD release celebration concert featuring **MTSU Jazz Ensemble I**, and a YouTube premiere of a new collaboration recording with **Downbeat** magazine and **Grammy** award-winning **baritone saxophonist GARY SMULYAN**.
- Saturday: MTSU Combo performances for highly respected jazz educators-adjudicators, **Casey Brefka** (leader, Music City Big Band) and MTSU alumnus **Cord Martin** in a non-competitive format.
- **Weekday one-hour online** clinics with MTSU students and **Brefka and Martin** are available on Thursdays, April 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Topics include music business, jazz trumpet and saxophone performance instruction, and time for Q + A. For those interested, a zoom link will be sent out upon registration.
- Guest clinic **the Art of Small Group Jazz Performance** by the **MTSU Faculty Quintet**, Brian Mueller (drums), Jonathan Wires (bass), Matt Endahl (piano), Jamey Simmons (trumpet), and Don Aliquo (saxophone). Topics include soloist/rhythm section interaction, jazz styles, song form, basic arranging, and musicality.

Registration for the festival is at <https://www.mtsu.edu/music/jazzfest.php>. For further information, contact Jamey Simmons, [James.Simmons@mtsu.edu](mailto:James.Simmons@mtsu.edu). **REGISTRATION FOR THE EVENT WILL BE OPEN UNTIL THURSDAY, APRIL 8<sup>th</sup>.**

The festival honors the legacy of tenor saxophonist/band leader **ILLINOIS JACQUET**, who rose to prominence in the 1940s with the big bands of Count Basie and Lionel Hampton. To learn more about the Illinois Jacquet Foundation go to <https://illinoisjacquetfoundation.org/>. We hope that you and your students will join us in this celebration of America's great art form at Middle Tennessee State University. Best wishes for continuing success in your programs.

Sincerely,

Jamey Simmons  
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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
**ILLINOIS JACQUET**  
J A Z Z F E S T I V A L

## Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 11:30 a.m.

Casey Brefka ZOOM jazz trumpet, music industry clinic

Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.

Cord Martin ZOOM jazz saxophone clinic

Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

All LIVE events occur in Hinton Hall, available to MTSU jazz students and jazz pedagogy students, and online through the MTSU School of Music livestream, available at

[www.mtsu.edu/musiclivestream](http://www.mtsu.edu/musiclivestream)

- 9 a.m. MTSU Combo performance and clinic, Jamey Simmons, Director, Hinton Hall
- 10 a.m. MTSU Combo performance and clinic, Jonathan Wires, Director, Hinton Hall
- 11. a.m. MTSU Combo performance and clinic, Matt Endahl, Director, Hinton Hall
- Noon Break
- 1 p.m. MTSU Jazz Ensemble 2, Don Aliquo, Director, Hinton Hall
- 2:15 Jazz faculty clinic - *the Art of Small Group Jazz Performance*, Hinton Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Guest Zoom clinic by Grammy-winning saxophonist Gary Smulyan
- 5:30 p.m. Special CD release concert by MTSU Jazz Ensemble I, Jamey Simmons, Director

# 2021 MTSU ILLINOIS JACQUET JAZZ FESTIVAL GUEST ARTIST

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **CORD MARTIN**

Saxophonist, composer and educator Cord Martin serves as Co-Director of Bands at Whitthorne Middle School in Columbia, Tennessee. He also serves as conductor of the Ethos Jazz Ensemble, an audition-based youth jazz ensemble in the Middle Tennessee area.

As a standout All-State and Mid-State musician at Columbia Central High School, Martin earned a scholarship to study music at Middle Tennessee State University. Martin earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Instrumental Music Education from Middle Tennessee State University (2010) and a Master of Music Degree in Instrumental Conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University (2014). He continues to perform and record in the Nashville area on a regular basis. He has had an opportunity to perform alongside renowned artists and groups such as Aretha Franklin, Cab Calloway Orchestra, Don Braden, Greg Osby, Tom Harrell, Jeff Coffin, and Lee Konitz.



### **GARY SMULYAN**

The gifted multi-instrumentalist started his music career by first learning alto saxophone during his teenage years on Long Island. Today he is critically acclaimed across-the-board and recognized as the major voice on the baritone saxophone. While still in high school, he had the chance to sit in with major jazz artists such as legendary trumpeter Chet Baker, saxophonist Lee Konitz, trombonist Jimmy Knepper and violinist Ray Nance. After graduating high school he attended

SUNY-Potsdam and Hofstra University before he joined Woody Herman's Young Thundering Herd in 1978. It was a remarkable collection of young musicians who ultimately would find themselves in the forefront of present-day jazz. Joining Smulyan in the band were saxophonist Joe Lovano, bassist Marc Johnson and drummer John Riley, who would eventually become a fixture in the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra. In 1980, he became part of the Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra then under the direction of Bob Brookmeyer.

No matter who he is performing with – or whether he is leading his own band at the time – Smulyan brings to the stage the spirit, style and savvy of a deep-toned master of bebop. Hidden Treasures, a piano-less trio date featuring Christian McBride was given four and a half stars in Down Beat magazine and voted as one of the best CD's of the year.

He is a faculty member of Amherst College and serves as the artistic

director at the Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley, Massachusetts, a two year post secondary music school for eighteen to thirty year olds with developmental disabilities.

The baritone saxophonist is a four-time winner of the Downbeat Critics and Readers Polls and a multiple winner of numerous other official polls including the Jazz Journalists Award for Baritone Saxophonist of the Year. He is a six-time Grammy award winner for his work with B.B. King, Lovano, Holland and the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra.

### **CASEY BREFKA**

Casey Brefka is a trumpet player, composer, arranger, and teacher from Nashville, TN. He plays trumpet for the Chris Weaver Band, Hey Listen!, and is the musical director for the Music City Big Band, an 18-piece big band in Nashville. Casey earned a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music, where he graduated in 2008 with a degree in Jazz Composition. He earned his Master's in Jazz Studies from New England Conservatory, and served as faculty for one year at Berklee as an Assistant Professor of Contemporary Writing and Production. Casey has performed with McCoy Tyner, Maria Schneider, Greg Hopkins, Omar Thomas, Dynamo, and many others. He currently freelances in Nashville, and instructs the afterschool jazz band at Siegel High School.

