



## **Director of Jazz Studies**

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Duval County Public Schools

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts (DA) in Jacksonville, Florida is seeking a highly qualified and ambitious individual to serve as Director of Jazz Studies for the band department for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond. The nationally recognized DA Band department currently provides unique opportunities for musical growth to 9th-12th grade students through two concert bands, two jazz ensembles, jazz combo, percussion ensemble, and chamber ensembles. The band program also collaborates regularly with other departments on campus providing support for musical theater, full symphonic orchestra, pit orchestra and other creative interdisciplinary partnerships.

The Director of Jazz Studies is responsible for the coordination of all aspects of the jazz component of the band program, as well as instruction and direction of the DA Jazz Ensemble I, Jazz Ensemble II, and Jazz Combo. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience with high school and/or college bands at an exceptional level of achievement. Furthermore, we are seeking an individual who will uphold the DA Band philosophy of creating a holistic music experience for the students, with the concert ensembles as the cornerstone of the program. Applicants should additionally be well-versed in teaching basic individual and ensemble music fundamentals. Also requisite to this position is the ability to teach and demonstrate improvisation at both a rudimentary and advanced level. They will work with a supportive, experienced, and successful band faculty and booster organization.

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts is a tuition-free Duval County Public High School. Admittance to the school is through audition only. Students must maintain high artistic and academic standards throughout their time at DA.

### **Current Responsibilities Include:**

- Jazz Ensemble I (auditioned)
- Jazz Ensemble II (auditioned)
- Jazz History (two sections)
- Freshman Music Theory (band, piano, and guitar students)
- Symphonic Band (co-teach)
- Jazz Combo (after school)
- Musical Theatre Pit Preparation (on a rotating basis)

### **Jazz Program Accomplishments:**

- The Midwest Clinic (1992, 2018, 2024)
- Jazz Education Network Conferences (2017, 2021, 2023)
- Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition Winner (2006)
- DownBeat Student Music Awards-Performing Arts
  - HS Performing Arts Jazz Ensemble (Outstanding Performance or Winners last eight years)
- National Jazz Festival
  - Jazz Ensemble Winners (2022, 2023)
  - Jazz Combo Winners (2022, 2023)
- Western International Band Conference/Seattle, WA (2023)
- Basically Basie Jazz Band Competition Winner (2021)
- Swing Central Jazz Band Competition Winner (2017)
- Mark of Excellence Jazz Honors – National Winner (2024)
- UNF Great American Jazz Series annually
- Jacksonville Jazz Festival annually
- Students selected to FMEA All-State Ensembles, Next Generation Jazz Orchestra, YoungArts Jazz, and NYO Jazz.
- Guest Artists:
  - Ernie Watts, John Fedchock, Scotty Barnhart, Mike Tomaro
- Clinicians:
  - Steven Feifke, Jim McNeely, Jon Faddis, Joel Frahm, Marcus Printup, Tia Fuller, Dave Steinmeyer, Allen Vizzutti, Bob Reynolds, Jamison Ross, Joe Eckert, Gary Lindsay, Theo Coker, Dick Dunscomb, Bill Prince, JB Scott, Lisa Kelly-Scott
- Noted alumni:
  - Jamison Ross, Bob Reynolds, Ulysses Owens, Alphonso Horne, Corey Wilcox, Owen Broder, Daniel Dickinson

### **Steps to Apply:**

- Interested applicants should apply through <https://duvalschools.tedk12.com>.
- Please send *links* of the following items to Benjamin Gerrard, Director of Bands, at [gerrardb@duvalschools.org](mailto:gerrardb@duvalschools.org)
  - Resume/Vitae
  - 15-20 minute YouTube video rehearsing your ensemble
  - Performance audio of your band(s)

### **Application Timeline:**

- Finalists will be notified via email in mid-February.
- Final interviews will be conducted at DA March 31 through April 4, 2025.
- If you have any questions, please contact [gerrardb@duvalschools.org](mailto:gerrardb@duvalschools.org).