

April 28, 2005

Contact: Laura Hanna
Director of Communications
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lhanna@txwes.edu**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**HIGHLANDER/WESLEYAN JAZZ FESTIVAL FEATURES
17 PUBLIC SCHOOL BANDS AND INTERNATIONAL JAZZ ARTIST TIM RIES

Texas Wesleyan University, Tarrant County College South Campus and Eastern Hills High School present the Highlander/Wesleyan Jazz Festival, with international jazz artist Tim Ries, on Saturday, May 7. The festival begins at TCC South with a daylong high school competition from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and a free jazz workshop with Ries from noon to 1 p.m. That evening, the event moves to Texas Wesleyan for an awards concert with Ries at 7:30 p.m. in Martin Hall, located in the Ann Waggoner Fine Arts Building, 1309 Wesleyan St. Concert tickets are \$5 and no reservations are required.

A nine-year tradition of competitions, clinics and performances by local and international jazz talent, this year's festival includes 17 area jazz bands and directors: Arlington High School, Dimas Delgado; Bellaire High School, Edward Grigassy; Bowie High School, Larry Brown; Brewer High School, Keith Duke; Castleberry High School, Wes Griffin; Creekview High School, Nathaniel Neugent; Creekview High School, Eric Mullins; Frisco High School, Jason Gonzalez; Iowa Park High School, Ed Hefti; Martin High School, Joe Dolkos; Martin High School, Michael Knipe; Paschal High School, Mario Casanova; Paschal High School, Teresa Padilla; Red Oak High School, Mark Pease; Richland High School, Kevin McNulty; West Mesquite High School, Kenneth Ragland; and Zundy Junior High, Justin Lewis.

Competition judges and panel include retired UTA director of Jazz Studies Bill Snodgrass, current UTA Director of Jazz Studies Tim Ishii, UNT jazz keyboard instructor Stefan Karlsson, UNT jazz drum instructor Mike Drake, and Wesleyan bass guitar instructor Lou Carfa. The competition and jazz workshop with Tim Ries are free and open to the public.

Following the competition, an awards concert at Texas Wesleyan features jazz ensembles from TCC South and Texas Wesleyan and special performances by Karlsson, Drake, Carfa and Ries.

A versatile and thoughtful saxophonist and composer, Ries has collaborated with such jazz artists as Phil Woods, Tom Harrell, Al Foster, John Patitucci, Dave Liebman, Danilo Perez, Maynard Ferguson, Red Garland, Badal Roy, Maria Schneider and Donald Byrd. Having just returned from a second world tour with the Rolling Stones playing saxophone, keyboard and organ, his other

recording and performance credits include work with Donald Fagen, Paul Simon, Sheryl Crow, Lyle Lovett, Stevie Wonder, Incognito, Blood Sweat & Tears, Bob Belden and David Lee Roth.

Ries has written more than 100 compositions in both the jazz and classical idioms. A graduate of the University of North Texas and the University of Michigan, Ries has served on the faculties of The New School, City College of New York and the Mannes College of Music. Ries currently teaches saxophone and jazz combo at Rutgers University and New Jersey City University. He travels to other universities, jazz festivals and clinics as a teacher of saxophone, composition and improvisation.

This program is made possible, in part, through grants from the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County and Conn-Selmer, Inc. To learn more about the daylong high school competition and free jazz workshop with Tim Ries at TCC South, contact Rick Stitzel at (817) 515-4648. For awards concert details, contact the Texas Wesleyan Department of Music at (817) 531-4992 or visit <http://department.txwes.edu/mus/>.