

Dear El Paso Youth Jazz Ensemble Students & Parents:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to welcome and congratulate you on being selected as a member of the 2022-2023 El Paso Youth Jazz Ensemble (EPYJE).

If you are a returning member, you know that over the last few years we've had some great performances such as the *Side By Side* concert playing with several local professional jazz musicians, being the opening act at the *Nutcracker Suite Christmas Jazz Concert*, performing at the Hanks Jazz Festival, giving back to the community by performing at the Arte Con Corazon Benefit, showcasing our Artist-In-Residence, Alex Hahn, a recording session at Star City Studios, performing at the University Medical Center 10th Anniversary Gala, and *Symphonic Jazz*, the collaborative concert with the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestra. This year should prove to be just as ambitious. If you are a new student this year, we welcome you to what will be a challenging but fun and rewarding musical journey.

The EPYJE would also like to welcome our new Artistic Director, Carlos Barba. We are very excited to have Mr. Barba take the lead after Andres Avila's departure. All of us at EPYJE wish Mr. Avila great success in his current and future endeavors.

CARLOS BARBA, Artistic Director

Carlos Barba is a graduate of Franklin High School where he was deeply involved in the guitar program with former director Stefan Schyga. Mr. Barba went on to *UTEP* where he received his B.A. in Commercial Music and M.M. in piano performance. He is currently teaching guitar and piano at Parkland Middle and Parkland Elementary schools with the Ysleta Independent School District. Mr. Barba is an active performer, composer, and arranger and has released over eight full length albums as a leader with his trio and as a sideman with several other artists. Carlos has some great ideas for the continued success of EPYJE in the coming year and we are all very fortunate to have him leading the ensemble.

Welcome Mr. Barba!

FIRST REHEARSAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

This first rehearsal is mandatory for all students.

Rehearsal Schedule

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sundays 2:45 - 5:00 P.M.

Please call or text Mr. Barba at (915) 887-9658 if you cannot make this first rehearsal.

TUITION: The annual tuition to participate in EPYJE is \$300. A payment plan is available with monthly installments. We will provide a payment schedule if you decide to enroll in the payment plan. **There is a \$50 discount if the \$250 is paid in full at the**

First Rehearsal on September 4th.

SCHOLARSHIPS: EPYJE has limited scholarship funds available for students who need assistance in paying the tuition. Please contact Mr. Barba or Victor Salas, EPYJE Board Chair, if you would like to apply for a scholarship.

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET: Please download, print and fill in the information on the Student Handbook and bring it to the first rehearsal. A more detailed EPYJE Student Handbook will be given to each student at the start of the season.

Once again, we are very excited to have you participating in the EPYJE. We are looking forward to a year of growth, education, fun and playing great Jazz Music!