

Brandi Cook
All-State Jazz Choir Managing Chair
5450 Linder Rd., Meridian, ID

Dear All-State Jazz Choir Participant,

Congratulations on your acceptance to this year's Idaho All-State Jazz Choir! This is an outstanding accomplishment. The selection criteria is demanding, and being chosen is a true honor. The dates for this year's All State event is Jan. 31-Feb. 3rd at North West Nazarene University in Nampa. Our clinician, Dr. Kate Skinner, has chosen an exciting set of music for us to prepare for the Jazz Concert on Friday, February 2nd. Dr. Josh Skinner will be our clinician for the rhythm section. I am the manager for this ensemble, and my job is to help you, answer any questions you may have, and ensure that this event is an inspiring music making opportunity for all involved. I could not be more excited to work with you all, Kate, Josh and our talented rhythm section.

Jazz pianist and vocalist Kate Skinner maintains an active performing, composing, and teaching career in the western United States. A native of Ogden, Utah, Skinner pulls influences from the bluegrass and classical roots of her childhood into both her songwriting and performing as a jazz musician. In her teenage and college years, Kate delved into R&B, funk, and hip hop, genres that also continually find their way into her musical explorations helping to create her own unique voice. Part of this unique voice is an obsession with alternative keyboard instruments and a study of the great keyboardists of jazz, rock, and funk.

As a pianist, Skinner is in demand in a variety of performance styles and has performed with the Downbeat-award-winning jazz band from the University of Northern Colorado, Jazz Lab Band I among many other established large and small jazz ensembles. Her work as a vocalist has seen much success among a wide audience of listeners across genres. Kate's compositions and playing have won multiple awards, including a Downbeat award for Outstanding Vocal Performance and a Jazz Education Network award for composition.

Skinner is currently Assistant Professor of Jazz Piano at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, where she directs Jazz Band II and teaches multiple courses in jazz studies. She holds M.M. and D.A. degrees in Jazz Studies from the University of Northern Colorado.

The music that has been selected for this choir will require a significant amount of practice and preparation on your part before you arrive on January 31st. You will need to have your music marked, learned, and memorized prior to your arrival. Remember you are on individual mics. Recordings have been and will be provided for you to help you prepare successfully. The better prepared each musician is upon arrival, the more we dig into the nuances of the music to make our time together even more special.

Please make sure you click on the Dropbox link. It contains all the music and recordings for the music that you will need for the performance. It is your job to **PRINT ALL THE MUSIC** from the Dropbox link. The Jazz Choir music will not be sent to your schools. I know this is different than the other All-State ensembles. I will give you your All-State Jazz Choir folder

when we all meet together at NNU. For the time being, print your music and practice it as much as you can until January 31st.

You will need to bring your performance uniform for the concert on February 2nd. Gentlemen should plan to wear a long-sleeved, button-up, collared, black dress shirt with black slacks, black dress shoes, black socks, and a solid brightly colored necktie. Ladies, plan on wearing black pants or a black skirt, a black blouse/shirt, black shoes, heels, or flats, and a solid brightly colored solid accent color such as a scarf, or waist high belt. Jeans, t-shirts, letterman jackets, shorts, spaghetti straps, or anything with profanity on it will not be allowed on stage for the performance.

For rehearsals you may wear school appropriate clothing, but please make sure that you do bring warm clothing as it will be cold and likely snowy in early February. You will be walking to a separate building for meals, so plan on being outside for a few minutes every day. Please note that you will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused from a rehearsal session made in advance due to school performance at the conference concert hours, or due to extenuating circumstances. Excuses need to be cleared by the All-State Jazz Choir Chair Coordinator.

You are expected to be in your seat when rehearsal begins with your music, a pencil, and a water bottle (if desired). We expect that you will be respectful to all adults and follow general rehearsal etiquette. During rehearsals, your phones and other electronic devices are silenced and put away. If your phone is an issue, it will be taken and returned after rehearsal.

In order to better facilitate communication regarding the Honor Groups, we are asking that all students in an All-State ensemble sign up to receive text message reminders for this event through Remind101.

Signing up is very easy. All you must do is:

- Send a text message to: 81010
- Using the appropriate code below: @asjzch24

You will then receive a reply text asking for your name. Please use both your first and last name. Your number will not be visible to anyone at any time. We will only be using this for All State Honor Groups and then you will be deleted from the text sign-up list.

Again, congratulations on the honor of being a member of this ensemble. I know that this event will be a highlight of your high school and musical career, especially if you come ready to learn and grow. We are so lucky to be working with Dr. Kate Skinner and Dr. Josh Skinner. They are masterful musicians and educators. I look forward to meeting you and to hearing the incredible music that this choir will create.

Sincerely,

Brandi Cook
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