



SHAWANO
JAZZ FOUNDATION
PRESENTS



SHAZZ FINALE CONCERT

Featuring Women in Jazz



Jen Krupa

Sherrie Maricle



Leigh Pilzer

& THE FESTIVAL'S OWN ALL-STAR BAND

March 14, 2026 at 4:30pm

SCHS AUDITORIUM

\$15 CONCERT TICKETS

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS

OR VISIT SHAWANOTHEATER.LUDUS.COM





2026 Shawano Jazz Festival – SHAZZ



AUDITORIUM (P1)

8:00 AM Shawano High School Jazz I (NC)
 8:50 AM SPASH Jazz I
 BREAK – 15 minutes
 9:55 AM Badger HS Jazz
 10:45 AM Eau Claire North HS Jazz I
 11:35 AM Hortonville HS Jazz I
 LUNCH – 30 minutes
 12:55 PM Marquette Sr High Jazz I

BAND ROOM (P2)

8:15 AM Wausau West Jazz
 9:05 AM Neenah HS ilazz Ensemble
 9:55 AM Green Bay East HS Jazz I
 BREAK – 30 minutes
 11:15 AM Eau Claire Memorial HS Jazz II
 12:05 PM Tomah HS Gold Jazz Ensemble

SOCIAL STUDIES POD (P3)

8:15 AM Clintonville HS Jazz
 9:05 AM Oconto Falls HS Jazz I
 9:55 AM Wausau East HS Tophatter’s Jazz
 BREAK – 45 minutes
 11:30 AM Auburndale HS Jazz
 12:20 PM Columbus HS Jazz

ENGLISH POD (P4)

8:00 AM Green Bay East HS Jazz II
 8:50 AM Hortonville HS Jazz II
 BREAK – 15 minutes
 9:55 AM Tomah HS White Jazz Ensemble
 10:45 AM Shawano HS Jazz II
 11:35 AM Oconto Falls HS Jazz II
 LUNCH – 30 minutes
 12:55 PM Eau Claire North HS Jazz II

MATH POD (P5)

9:00 AM Shawano Middle School Jazz
 9:50 AM Auburndale Middle School Jazz
 BREAK – 15 minutes
 10:55 AM Oconto Falls Middle School Jazz
 11:45 AM Greenville Middle School Jazz

ORCHESTRA ROOM (P6)

(Combo sessions are 30 minutes each)

10:00 AM Little Chute HS Jazz Combo
 11:00 AM Green Bay East Jazz Combo
 12:00 PM Eau Claire North Jazz Combo

LIBRARY – JAM SESSION

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

MASTER CLASS *(no instruments)*

**GUEST ARTISTS: Sherrie Maricle,
Leigh Pilzer & Jen Krupa**

All students report to Auditorium (P1)

3:15 PM - 4:00 PM SECTIONALS *(bring instruments)*

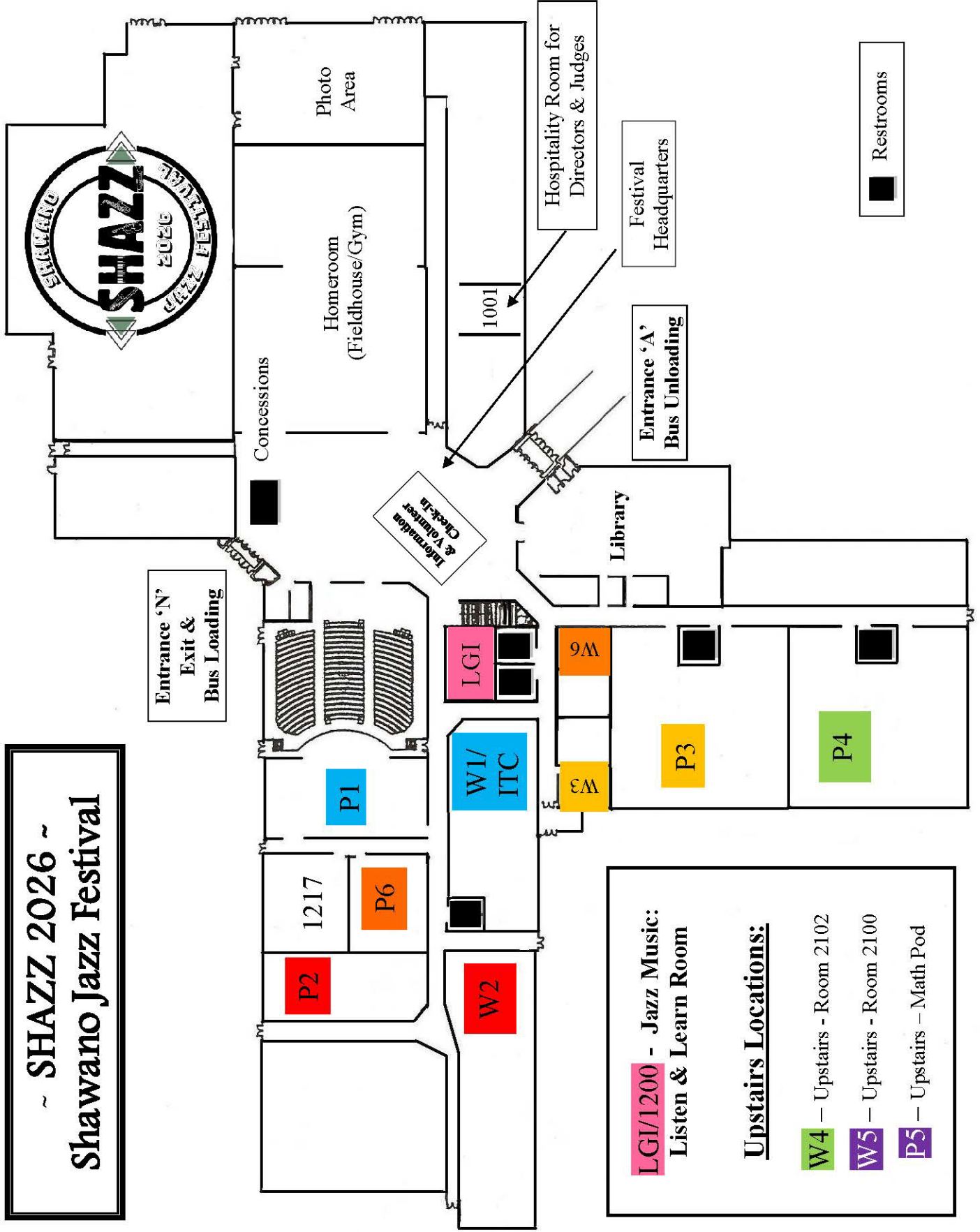
*Rhythm: Drums – Band Room (P2)
 & Orchestra Room (P6)
 Piano – Room 1203 (W2)
 Bass – ITC (W1)
 Guitar – Room 1101 (W3)*

*Trombones – Social Studies Pod (P3)
 Saxophones – English Pod (P4)
 Trumpets – Math Pod (P5)*

4:30 PM FINALE CONCERT FEATURING: Sherrie Maricle, Leigh Pilzer & Jen Krupa AUDITORIUM (P1)

as of 3.7.26
Schedule & locations subject to change

~ SHAZZ 2026 ~ Shawano Jazz Festival



- LGI/1200 - Jazz Music:
Listen & Learn Room**
- Upstairs Locations:**
- W4** — Upstairs - Room 2102
 - W5** — Upstairs - Room 2100
 - P5** — Upstairs — Math Pod

Restrooms

MEET OUR GUEST ARTISTS



Sherri Maricle

From the drum set Sherrie leads The DIVA Jazz Orchestra, her quintet FIVE PLAY and co-leads the 3D Jazz Trio. She is also a busy freelance performer, a published composer/arranger and a dedicated educator, clinician, guest conductor and soloist.

With her bands Sherrie has performed at many of the world's most acclaimed music venues and festivals, from Lincoln Center to the Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl, to Jazz Festivals in Germany, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Ireland, England, Croatia, Japan, Vietnam, and Israel and beyond. Additionally, Sherrie and DIVA were featured at the 2017 NEA Jazz Master's Awards Ceremony, the soundtrack for the [NBC-Macy's Fireworks Spectacular](#); on CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood, on TCM's televised broadcast of the 25th Anniversary of the Kennedy Center and NHK Japan's New York Jazz. The band also

co-stars in the award-winning documentary film [The Girls in the Band](#).

As an educator, Sherrie runs a private drum set and percussion studio. She is also an active clinician for Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Aquarian Drumheads and Vic Firth Drumsticks. From coast-to-coast she also serves as a guest conductor, soloist, and adjudicator for collegiate and high school jazz festivals. Fifteen years ago, Sherrie created, and remains the Music Director for Musical Magic, a hospital outreach program for The Ronald McDonald House – New York. Sherrie's recent recordings include The DIVA Jazz Orchestra – Tappin Thru Life (2025), The DIVA Jazz Orchestra "30"(2023), The 3D Jazz Trio 9 to 5 (2022), Christmas in 3D(2020) and I Love to See You Smile (2020), DIVA and the Boys (2019, MCG Jazz), and FIVE PLAY "LIVE" at The Firehouse Stage (2019) When Sherrie isn't fully immersed in her musical worlds, she loves to hike and spend a lot of time outside. She loves her 2 rescue kitties Goofy and Blue and her rescue dog, Finnegan the Australian Terrier. Sherrie and her partner live in a converted Dairy Barn in West Chester, PA. Sherrie loves to swing!



MEET OUR GUEST ARTISTS



Leigh Pilzer

Washington, DC native Leigh Pilzer is a baritone saxophone specialist, composer, arranger, and educator. Her performance resume includes appearances with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, The DIVA Jazz Orchestra, the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore's Soulful Symphony, and more. She is also a bandleader in her own right, leading the Leigh Pilzer Startet, her all-star quartet/quintet; organ group Leigh Pilzer's Low Standards; and her latest project, Leigh Pilzer's Seven Pointed Star. She also co-leads PALS, a duo with bassist Amy Shook and JLQ, the Jen Krupa-Leigh Pilzer Quintet. Pilzer has presented her groups to enthusiastic audience response at

top venues including Blues Alley, Keystone Korner, the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden, and the Atlas Performing Arts Center, to name a few. Pilzer is an in-demand composer and arranger whose music is performed by jazz ensembles and brass quintets throughout the country, as well as by the DC-area premier military jazz ensembles. She has contributed a number of works to the libraries of SJMO, DIVA, and BCJO, including "East Coast Andy," the opening track on DIVA's critically acclaimed 25th Anniversary Project.

Other notable writing credits include orchestrations for the Broadway production of Maurice Hines Tappin Thru Life and horn section arrangements for recordings by Chuck Brown and Eva Cassidy. Pilzer is a Brava Jazz Publishing artist, and commissions include an arrangement for the University of Maryland Jazz Ensemble's inaugural recording. Her most recent writing project is a library of compositions and arrangements for her septet, Leigh Pilzer's Seven-Pointed Star. The group's debut recording, released in March 2024, includes eight of Pilzer's original compositions and one by long-time colleague, bassist Amy Shook, all exquisitely arranged by Pilzer for trumpet, alto, trombone, bari/bass clarinet, piano, bass, and drums. As an educator, Pilzer has served on the faculties of University of Maryland, George Mason University, and Towson University. Her teaching responsibilities have included Jazz Theory, Jazz Arranging, Jazz History, Fundamentals of Rock, Blues, and Jazz, and Chamber Jazz Ensemble. She has mentored for Strathmore's Institute for Artistic Development Artist in Residence (AIR) program and for the North American Saxophone Alliance's Committee for Gender Equality (CGE), and she strives to serve as a mentor and role model for all her students.

MEET OUR GUEST ARTISTS



Jen Krupa

A dynamic force in the jazz world, Jen Krupa is an accomplished performer, educator, and leader. Renowned for her exceptional musicianship, transformative teaching, and dedicated service to the jazz community, her influence extends across generations of musicians and audiences worldwide. A versatile trombonist, Krupa has performed with luminaries such as Branford Marsalis,

Chris Potter, Miguel Zenón, Jon Faddis, Bill Watrous, Wycliffe Gordon, Seamus Blake, Eddie Daniels, Jane Monheit, Ingrid Jensen, Sean Jones, Michael Bubl , Pat Metheny, Randy Brecker, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Diane Schuur, Nancy Wilson, John Clayton, Marlena Shaw and many more. She is the lead trombonist in the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, and the DIVA Jazz Orchestra, and her performances have graced renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and the Hollywood Bowl.

Krupa is a dedicated educator and mentor, currently serving as a faculty member at The Juilliard School, where she coaches small ensembles. She has previously taught jazz trombone at the University of Maryland and conducted guest clinics, master classes, and adjudications across the United States.

Her work includes guest conductor roles with the University of Scranton World Premiere Composition Series Concert, the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra and high school honor jazz ensembles, as well as presentations at major conferences such as the Jazz Educators Network, Midwest Clinic, and the International Trombone Festival. Krupa earned her Bachelor of Music in jazz studies from the University of North Florida, her Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School, and her Master of Music from the University of Maryland.





The Shawano Jazz Foundation has been in existence since 2009. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting life skills, creating opportunities, providing scholarships and enriching lives through jazz music. To meet our current mission and grow to provide further support for the local jazz community, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses for support. With the assistance of generous donors, we will be able to expand the number of scholarships awarded and support local jazz bands with opportunities to enrich their lives through attending and participating in festivals.

Our annual SHAZZ Festival provides a high-level educational experience that allows high school and middle school jazz programs to learn from some of the jazz industry's finest musicians. It also enables the Foundation to provide scholarships for Shawano jazz students to attend summer jazz camps.

Many of our past scholarship recipients are currently attending college, studying music or have already started their career in the music industry. This is an amazing opportunity for our young musicians, and the Shawano Jazz foundation takes immense pride in preparing young musicians for their future.

MEET OUR PARTNERS

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MEET OUR BANDS



AUBURNDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Keaton Wegner, Director

Auburndale, WI

The Auburndale High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. Keaton Wegner, is in their third year of being a jazz band program and has been able to rehearse two times a week this year. The band is comprised of many students playing secondary instruments that, for some, is their first time playing those instruments!



AUBURNDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Keaton Wegner, Director

Auburndale, WI

The Auburndale Middle School Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. Keaton Wegner, is in their first year of being a jazz band program and has been able to rehearse two times a week this year. The band is comprised of many students playing secondary instruments that, for some, is their first time playing those instruments!



BADGER HIGH SCHOOL

Zach Ott, Director

Lake Geneva, WI

The Badger Jazz Ensemble is the top jazz group at Badger High School in Lake Geneva, WI. They perform regularly in the community at fundraisers and special events. This is their first year back at the SHAZZ festival in a number of years; however, they also compete at the Purdue Jazz Festival, Eau Claire Jazz Festival, and participate in Essentially Ellington competition.



CLINTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Josh Heyer, Director

Clintonville, WI

The Clintonville HS Jazz Ensemble meets every other day before school for class. The band consists of 9th - 12th grade band students and plays three concerts per year and two festivals. Students also learn about improvisation and jazz history.



COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

Tim Meinholz, Director

Columbus, WI

It is our honor to participate at SHAZZ for the second year.

The Columbus Jazz Ensemble has participated in jazz festivals for many years. Some of these include the Eau Claire Jazz Festival, the Essentially Ellington Festival held at Sun Prairie, the Fond Du Lac Jazz Festival and participating at the WSMA State Solo and Ensemble Contest. The group has received high marks throughout their existence, including a second-place finish at the Eau Claire Jazz Festival and Best of Site last year at SHAZZ.



EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL JAZZ II

Dominic Domeyer, Director

Eau Claire, WI

The Eau Claire Memorial Band Program offers a comprehensive and vibrant musical experience for students, featuring four concert bands, four big bands, a jazz combo, and a pit orchestra. The band program is one part of a comprehensive music program at Memorial High School that also includes three orchestras, three choirs, show choir, and a cappella ensembles, providing students with a rich and diverse performing arts education.

MEET OUR BANDS



EAU CLAIRE NORTH JAZZ I

Joe McCausland, Director

Eau Claire, WI

Eau Claire North Jazz 1 is North's top performing competitive jazz band. Jazz 1 is made up of student musicians in grades 10-12 and performs at a variety of school and community events in and around Eau Claire, WI. This year, they will be competing at SHAZZ as well as UW-Eau Claire's annual Jazz Festival.



EAU CLAIRE NORTH JAZZ II

Joe McCausland, Director

Eau Claire, WI

Eau Claire North Jazz 2 is made up of student musicians in grades 9-12. Jazz 2 performs at a variety of school and community events in and around Eau Claire, WI. This year, they will be competing at SHAZZ as well as UW-Eau Claire's annual Jazz Festival.



EAU CLAIRE NORTH JAZZ COMBO

Joe McCausland, Director

Eau Claire, WI

The East High Jazz Combo is an auditioned group at Green Bay East High School. The combo plays an array of jazz and creative music.



GREEN BAY EAST HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ I

Colt Maichle, Director

Green Bay, WI

Green Bay East's Jazz 1 is an auditioned group that performs traditional and contemporary big band jazz music. This is the first year that East has had an auditioned big band group. These students have benefitted from a grant through Doctors in Recital which helped them register for multiple jazz fests throughout Wisconsin and work with Sectional coaches.



Green Bay East High School Jazz II

Colt Maichle, Director

Green Bay, WI

Green Bay East Jazz II plays a variety of contemporary and big band jazz. Jazz II is not limited to traditional jazz instruments, and the students are focused on making music and having fun.



Green Bay East High School Combo

Colt Maichle, Director

Green Bay, WI

The East High Jazz Combo is an auditioned group at Green Bay East High School. The combo plays an array of jazz and creative music.



Greenville Middle School Jazz Band

Susie Patch, Director

Greenville, WI

GMS Jazz Band is an extra-curricular auditioned group consisting of 6th - 8th grade band members. Rehearsals are held before school twice a week and we love to perform for our community and families. The goal of GMS Jazz is to learn the basics of jazz and share our love of music.



HORTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL Jazz Ensemble

John Leja, Director

Hortonville, WI

The HHS Jazz Ensemble is a premier, auditioned ensemble that rehearses twice a week before school. Throughout the year, the group performs at a variety of events, showcasing a dynamic mix of timeless jazz standards and fresh contemporary works from emerging composers.

MEET OUR BANDS

 **HORTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL Jazz Band**
John Leja, Director Hortonville, WI

The HHS Jazz Band is our school's additional jazz ensemble, building on the strong foundation established in our outstanding middle school programs. Meeting twice a week before school, students develop essential jazz skills—including improvisation, comping over chord changes, and mastering the fundamentals of jazz articulation.

 **MARQUETTE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**
Emily Morgan-Booth, Director Marquette, MI

The Marquette Senior High School Jazz Ensemble located in Marquette, MI, which is on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior. We are comprised of 20 students in grades 9-12. We rehearse before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. As an ensemble, we aim to study and perform a wide variety of jazz genres and put an emphasis on creativity and improvisation.

 **NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL iJAZZ**
Jackson Smith, Director Neenah, WI

The Intermediate Jazz Band (iJazz for short) is the preparatory group for the top ensemble at Neenah High School. It is auditioned every year in the fall and rehearses once per week. The band is made up of mostly sophomores and juniors and today they are excited to perform their class B program from S&E.

 **OCONTO FALLS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ I**
Lauren Seidl, Director Oconto Falls, WI

New this year, the Oconto Falls Jazz I is an auditioned group featuring the most skilled students from our jazz program. We meet twice a week before school to rehearse music of all genres including latin, swing, gospel, funk, and more! We perform at several festivals and concerts throughout the year and are excited to share what we've been working on with you!

 **OCONTO FALLS HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ II**
Lauren Seidl, Director Oconto Falls, WI

New this year, the Oconto Falls Jazz II is a group who is passionate about playing jazz music. We meet twice a week before school to work on jazz style, techniques, and fundamentals, and we rehearse music of all genres including Latin, swing, funk, and more! We perform at several festivals and concerts throughout the year and are excited to share what we've been working on with you!

 **OCONTO FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL**
Jeremy Seelig, Director Oconto Falls, WI

This is the latest group of dedicated musicians from the Oconto Falls Middle School Jazz program which started in 2014 as the Washington Middle School Jazz Band. Every year, the participation and dedication by the students grows and allows the program to delve into new and exciting territory. This year we have nearly 30 members in our jazz ensemble and we are performing in more public performances this year.

MEET OUR BANDS



SHAWANO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ I & JAZZ II

Christopher Kent, Director

Shawano, WI

The jazz program at Shawano High School has 2 one credit year-round courses. Shawano hosts their own festival every 2nd Saturday in March and has hosted guest artists including Eric Marianthal, Wayne Bergeron, Andy Martin, Chuck Loeb, Wycliffe Gordon and Gordon Goodwin. Shawano Jazz I has won their division 12 of the last 13 years at the Rolling Meadows Jazz Festival and won their division at the Purdue Jazz Festival in 2015, 2018, 2020 & 2025. Shawano Jazz I also received exemplary ratings at the UNC Greeley Jazz Festival. The band takes special pride in the energy they bring to each performance, in addition to being technically and stylistically precise.



SHAWANO COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Erin Silk, Director

Shawano, WI

The Shawano Community Middle School Jazz Band is an ensemble made up of 7th and 8th grade students. Under the direction of Erin Silk, this ensemble focuses on the fundamentals of jazz and the study of the various styles of jazz music. Students also begin to study improvisation and learn different scales and chord progressions that enhance their improvisation solos. Students are excited to share their performance with you today.



SPASH – STEVENS POINT AREA SENIOR HIGH

Andy Emerson, Director

Stevens Point, WI

SPASH Jazz I is an audition-only ensemble that rehearses daily as a class. Jazz I members include some of the top jazz musicians in SPASH. Several of our Jazz I musicians recently performed in New Orleans, along with other members of our music department. We look forward to working with the incredible clinicians here at Shawano and hope you enjoy our performance.



TOMAH HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ "GOLD"

Alex Knoepker, Director

Tomah, WI

The Tomah High School Jazz Ensemble "Gold" consists of our band program's most dedicated performers and musicians. Students in this ensemble are challenged through a variety of repertoire and stylistic demands. Emphasis is placed on an exposure to improvisational skills as well as giving each student the unique opportunity of playing in a big band. This ensemble is extra-curricular and meets outside of the academic school day twice per week at 7:00am. Consisting of a standard big band instrumentation, the THS Jazz Ensemble "Gold" is excited to perform at SHAZZ after a hiatus from attendance at jazz festivals throughout Wisconsin. Thanks for including us in your event today!



TOMAH HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ "GOLD"

Alex Knoepker, Director

Tomah, WI

The Tomah High School Jazz Ensemble "White" consists of many students from our thriving band program in Tomah, WI. Students in this ensemble are introduced to a variety of musical styles that provide a firm foundation for playing in the jazz idiom. Emphasis is placed on development and execution of articulation, tone, style, and contrast. This ensemble is extra-curricular and meets outside of the academic school day twice per week at 7:00am. The THS Jazz Ensemble "White" is open to any student in the THS band program. Thanks for welcoming our ensemble to your event today!

MEET OUR BANDS



WAUSAU EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Curtis Hanson, Director

Wausau, WI

The Wausau East Tophatter's Jazz Band is comprised of students from grades 9-12, and is directed by Curtis Hanson.



WAUSAU WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Daniel Emerson, Director

Wausau, WI

The Warrior Jazz Ensemble rehearses Monday afternoons from November through April. The goal of this group is to develop an understanding of jazz styles and develop fundamental ensemble skills.

