

### **Final Report:**

Dr. Timothy Howe, "Jazz Ensemble Composition Commission and Workshop/Concert with Composer Tom Davis"

### **Synopsis of the Project**

The Arkansas Tech Jazz Ensemble would commission jazz composer Tom Davis to compose a new piece for jazz ensemble. In conjunction with the commission, the premiere performance of the new composition and a composer and rehearsal workshop featuring Tom Davis as a guest clinician would be given at a concert in March 2009 at Arkansas Tech. In addition to his guest appearance on campus, Mr. Davis would provide online support during the rehearsal preparation (January-March 2009) via webcam, web blogging, etc. It was an opportunity to bring an established jazz composer to campus and allow Dr. Howe to explore the collaborative process of working with a composer in the performance and creation of a new composition. This project would also provide a resource and inspiration to Arkansas Tech music students in the area of jazz composition.

### **Timeline for project**

Date	Task	Status
October 31, 2008	Commission New Work for Jazz Ensemble from Tom Davis	Complete
November 1, 2008 to January 11, 2009	Composition consultation period with Dr. Howe and Tom Davis	Complete
January 12, 2009 to March 11	Rehearsal and preparation period with online support	Complete
March 12-14, 2009	Tom Davis on campus for workshops, master classes and rehearsal of new composition	Complete
March 14, 2009	Premiere performance on campus	Complete
September 1, 2009	Grant final report due	Complete

### **Assessment of Objectives and Goals**

The ATU jazz ensemble premiered *Instrument of Justice*, by jazz composer Tom Davis on March 14, 2009. This performance was preceded by a very successful collaboration and rehearsal period using the technologies as planned. Mr. Davis provided blog support and Facebook page which posted the stages of the composition process, vision statements, discussion board for interaction with Dr. Howe and members of the ensemble, pedagogical materials, and rehearsal feedback. In addition these sites allowed for national exposure for the project from the national jazz community and the Arkansas Tech community. There were also three live real time rehearsals with Mr. Davis using Skype technology. All these interactions were valuable on a practical preparation level but also had the additional benefit of engaging the students in the ensemble at a much deeper level. By the time Mr. Davis arrived on campus for his residency, a working relationship had already been established with the ensemble and as a result the residency was much more productive. This blog is still available at [tomdavismusic.com](http://tomdavismusic.com). I believe we were successful in using simple technologies to enhance the collaborative process.

The preparation period was followed by a three day residency on campus with Mr. Davis during which he presented master class sessions in several music classes and rehearsed with two area high school groups and the ATU jazz Ensemble. The residency was concluded with a concert by the ATU Jazz Ensemble and the two high school jazz ensembles which featured Mr. Davis' music and the premiere of *Instrument of Justice*. Mr. Davis and I were also able to have preliminary discussions about the publication of a journal article discussing our collaborative experiment.

This project was completed within the proposed budget.

Sincerely,

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