

2-9-2000

## 02/09/2000 - EIU Holds Annual Jazz Festival

University Marketing and Communications

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "02/09/2000 - EIU Holds Annual Jazz Festival" (2000). 2000. 28.  
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February 9, 2000

For Immediate Release:

EIU HOLDS ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

CHARLESTON – For four decades Eastern Illinois University has welcomed high school and junior high students from across the state of Illinois and neighboring states to its annual Jazz Festival.

This weekend, Eastern will host its 41st annual Jazz Festival.

It's estimated that since the festival began, more than 12,000 young people have honed their skills learning and working with some of the nation's premiere jazz players.

While a number of outstanding educators will be on hand to conduct clinics, one of the highlights of the festival is the opportunity for professional jazz players to share what they have learned over the years.

This year's special guest is alto saxophonist Jim Snidero. As a performer, recording artist, composer and author, Snidero has made an impression on his fellow jazz musicians in the United States and internationally.

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JAZZ FESTIVAL

Snidero will kick off the festival weekend Friday, Feb. 11, by joining the Eastern Illinois University Jazz Ensemble for a 7:30 p.m. concert in Dvorak Concert Hall in the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Tickets for the concert can be purchased at the door. Cost is \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students and seniors. Doors open at 7 p.m. Parking is available at the main entrance to the Dvorak Concert Hall. Handicapped accessible parking is also available.

On Saturday, Feb. 12, an estimated 800 high school and junior high age students will participate in a series of workshops and clinics to sharpen their jazz skills.

In addition to performing with their school's ensemble, students will also have the opportunity to attend hands-on workshops and network with their peers from other schools.

During the festival, Snidero will perform for the young jazzers and will conduct an improvisation clinic.

"It's an outstanding opportunity for these young musicians," said Sam Fagaly, director of jazz studies at Eastern and festival director. "They'll have the opportunity to interact with other jazz educators besides their school band teacher and professional musicians who make their living playing music. That's inspiring to a young musician!"

As a player, Snidero has established himself as a distinguished soloist and recording artist. *Downbeat* magazine called him a "master musician" and his performance credits read as a who's who in today's jazz world. As a sideman, Snidero has performed, toured and recorded with a number of important groups including Frank

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JAZZ FESTIVAL

Sinatra's Orchestra. He is the author of the innovative Jazz Conception Series, published by Advance Music. When he's not touring, he's an instructor at the New School / Mannes School of Music in New York City.

For more information on Eastern's Jazz Festival contact Eastern's music office at 581-3010.