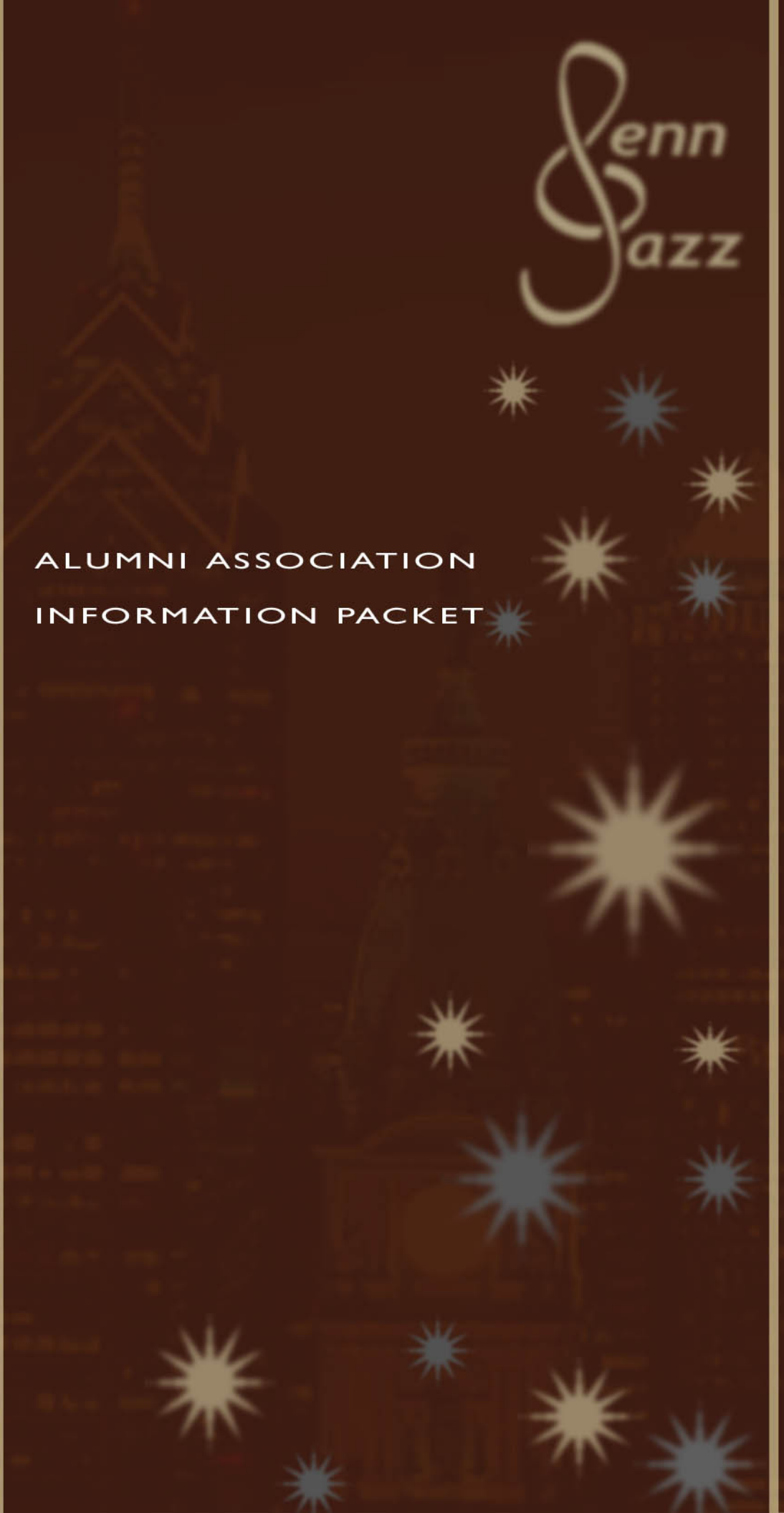




*Senn*  
Jazz

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
INFORMATION PACKET



February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Penn Jazz Alum,

Penn Jazz has come a long way. We've played with jazz greats, performed across the country, and given hundreds of Penn students the opportunity to keep jazz alive. As we roll into our fourth decade, Penn Jazz would like to take the opportunity to create an alumni organization to reconnect ensembles past and ensure the support of ensembles future.

I've been with the band for four years now and it has never sounded better. Since Fall 2005, we have been under the musical direction of New Orleans native, Ed Wise. Last year, the band was invited to compete in the prestigious North Texas Jazz Festival but couldn't attend due to a lack of funding. We are hoping that with the support of the planned Alumni Association, we can take Penn Jazz to the level it has arrived at musically.

We'd like to invite you to our First Annual Alumni Night on April 7th, 2007 to jam with us, hear us play, and to reconnect with old bandmates. For the event and the alumni organization to be a success, we are going to need your help in tracking down the past generations of Penn Jazz.

**Please check out the alumni section of our website ( [www.pennjazz.com/alumni.htm](http://www.pennjazz.com/alumni.htm)) to add yourself to our Alumni Database and help put us in contact with other past members that we may not be in touch with. You'll also find more info about Alumni Night and other cool features.**

There's a lot to plan and discuss and we'll be in touch. I'm looking forward to hearing Penn Jazz war stories and jamming over Blues in Bb.

Thanks,

-Ted Perkins  
Alumni Coordinator

### /A Brief History of PennJazz/

The University of Pennsylvania Jazz Ensemble is comprised of an 18-piece big band and smaller accompanying ensembles that play songs from a variety of styles and backgrounds. It is a student-run organization, conducted by an outside musical director.

Formed in 1974, Penn Jazz has experienced great success over its thirty-year history. The ensemble has been fortunate to work with past directors including Claude White, Denis DiBlasio, and Alan Kinsey and perform with jazz greats such as Dizzy Gillespie, McCoy Tyner, the Count Basie Orchestra, and most recently Wynton Marsalis. The group hosted its own jazz festival for several years and has plans to begin anew the tradition of jazz festivals within the Ivy League.

Following a stretch of low membership in the early Nineties, PennJazz has seen remarkable growth. The growth is due in large part to Adam Warshafsky who, as a first year undergraduate student, took the position of both Musical Director and president. Under his leadership, Andrew Nelson, an accomplished local bassist, was hired as the group's music director for the 1997-98 school year. Working with the Penn community and administration, Warshafsky rebuilt Penn Jazz. By the end of the 1997 the band's membership had risen to 17 members. Proper budgets, library organization, scheduling, equipment, music, and administration were brought back. The group began playing several concerts, including a concert at the "Castle" on Penn's campus, a performance at Penn's Spring Fling, and a formal concert in the Annenberg Center.

The following year saw continued growth for Penn Jazz. Warshafsky, working with the newly appointed vice president of the band, Michael Larsen, brought recruitment to the foreground, increasing membership back to 20. Under the direction of Louis Spagnola, hired for the 1998-99 school year, the group played various concerts including the nationally televised Fairhill Maryland International Equestrian Event, the Sophomore Class Swing Dance, several concerts for the University's undergraduate nightlife programs, and an opening performance for the esteemed Herbie Hancock trio. Penn Jazz has also been fortunate to perform with groups such as the Princeton University Jazz Ensemble, Penn Singers, Penn's jazz professor Dr. Guthrie Ramsey, and the dance groups African Rhythms, Onda Latina, Sparks Dance Company and West Philly Swingers. In the spring of 1999, Penn Jazz recorded its first album, *Beat One*.

### **/Recent News/**

In the 2003-2004 school year, Penn Jazz gained even more prominence on campus. Penn Jazz attended a clinic and performed with Wynton Marsalis in the spring semester. In 2004-2005, Penn Jazz had clinics with several notable jazz musicians, including John Scofield and Christian McBride. Later that year, the band was accepted to attend the prestigious North Texas Jazz Festival but were unable to attend due to a lack of funding.

In the spring of 2005, under President Jeff William, Penn Jazz recorded its most recent album, "All the Way" which featured some of the highlights from 2002 through 2005. At the spring performance, PennJazz performed the first of many songs composed by the band's own Sam Rothberg

The fall of 2005 brought about quite a bit of change as Penn Jazz found itself without a director. While Penn Jazz was very sad to see Alan Kinsey leave, we realized that change inevitably leads to growth. Throughout the first part of the semester, President Jeff William served as interim musical director. Jeff's leadership played a crucial role in bringing the band to where it is today. In an interesting turn of fate, Penn Jazz found its new musical director, Ed Wise, when trombonist Ryan Cochran struck up a random conversation with him at Ortlieb's Jazzhaus. Ed, an extremely accomplished bassist, had recently moved to Philadelphia from New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Also during the fall of 2005, Penn Jazz became more prominent in the local jazz scene, appearing at both Chris's Jazz Cafe as a big band and World Cafe Live, as a jazz combo.

### **/The Network/**

One of our goals in creating this thing is to make it easier for different generations of PennJazz alums to play music with other alumni in their areas. We are working on creating a regional connect those people interested in playing jazz again.



We can then welcome our regional “pick-up” alumni ensembles back to Penn once or twice a year to jam with Penn Jazz past and present.

## **/Projects/**

With the help of the new Alumni Association, PennJazz hopes to finally carry out some projects that financial constraints have kept on the back burner. These include:

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ivy League Jazz Festival**  
An annual competition between the jazz ensembles of the Ancient Eight to be held on Penn's campus and then at other schools on a rotating basis. The weekend will be headlined by an international jazz artist and judged by jazz instructors and professional musicians.
- **Community Outreach Program**  
PennJazz has recently begun talking with the Center for Community Outreach and is scheduled to play two concerts at local public schools. In addition, there is a program to offer free tickets to our shows to local students. We would like to expand the program include music lessons, instrument loans, and concert series for interested students in West Philadelphia.
- **JazzHaus**  
Building on the recent strength of PennJazz's program, the creation of this independent co-curricular, residential, and cultural hub for jazz is the next logical step upward for Penn and outward into the community.

In addition, the PennJazz Board has been working hard to secure sources of funding for the following priorities:

- Instrument purchases and repairs
- Addition of modern jazz music scores to library
- Covering travel expenses for festivals/events
- Holding clinics to improve our sound.

### ***/The future/***

So far, the Alumni Association exists only on paper. We would like your input as to how we can create a lasting organization with the power to bring thirty-plus years of jazz musicians together and provide financially for the wonderful things to come.

Please let us know of any thoughts you might have for the organization, the band, or the association.

#### 2006-07 Penn Jazz Board

President: Ali Levy 06 / [levyali2@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:levyali2@sas.upenn.edu)  
Vice-President: Jack Lowey 06 / [jlowey@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jlowey@sas.upenn.edu)

Alumni Coordinators Ted Perkins 07 / [eperkins@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:eperkins@wharton.upenn.edu)  
Daniel Glass 07 / [djglass@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:djglass@sas.upenn.edu)

**/2007 Penn Jazz Spring Show/**

**Friday April 06, 2007  
Saturday April 07, 2007**

Houston Hall Auditorium / Both Shows are at 8:30

