

**GAINESVILLE
FRIENDS OF
JAZZ, INC.**

March 6, 2008

Honorable Janie S. Williams, Chair
Alachua County School Board
620 East University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

RE: Jazz Appreciation Month Proclamation

Dear Chair Williams:

Gainesville Friends of Jazz, a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation, has been bringing national and regional jazz and blues musicians to our community for concerts and school clinics for 25 years. Our mission is to support, promote and increase public awareness, interest, participation and education in jazz, America's music.

The Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History in cooperation with other partners has designated April as "Jazz Appreciation Month." We respectfully request that the School Board issue the enclosed proclamation declaring April to be "Jazz Appreciation Month," in Alachua County School District.

In addition, we invite you to be our guest at our concert on April 14, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. at the Savannah Grande Reception Hall located at 301 North Main Street in historic downtown Gainesville to present the above referenced proclamation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (352) 955-2200, ext. 101.

Until Next Time, **Keep Jazzin' It Up!**

Sincerely,



Scott R. Koons
President

Enclosure

xc: ~~W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent~~
Christiana Shaw, Curriculum Supervisor for Fine Arts

Officers

- Scott Koons
President
- Judy Locascio
Vice-President
- Beverly Hill
Secretary
- Karan Schwartz
Treasurer
- Walt Barry
Immediate Past President

Board Members

- Jack Bregger
- Cathy DeWitt
- Bill Donnelly
- Nancy Grissom
- Bill Kessler
- Gary Langford
- Marty Liquori
- Howard Noble
- Mary O'Banyoun-Abdullah
- Dan Shorstein
- Steven Weiner

P.O. Box 12769
Gainesville, FL 32604-0769
gnvfriendingofjazz.org
352.379.0300
Founded 1983

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, jazz has played a significant role in the cultural and social history of America; and

Whereas, Gainesville Friends of Jazz & Blues, a not-for-profit corporation, founded in 1983, is dedicated to support, promote, and increase public awareness, education and participation in jazz, America's music; and

Whereas, Gainesville Friends of Jazz & Blues has been bringing premier jazz musicians to our community for concerts and school clinics for 25 years; and

Whereas, the month of April is the birth month of such jazz greats as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Herbie Hancock, Billie Holiday, Charles Mingus, Gerry Mulligan, Tito Puente and Bessie Smith; and

Whereas, the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History, along with partners, including the U. S. Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Association of Music Education, the International Association of Jazz Educators and the Grammy Foundation have designated April as Jazz Appreciation Month to draw greater public attention to the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz as both a historic and living American art form; and

Whereas, in recognition of the vital role jazz has played in the cultural enrichment of our community.

Now, therefore, *be it resolved* that the School Board of Alachua County does hereby proclaim the month of April as

Jazz Appreciation Month

in the Alachua County School District.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2008.

Janie S. Williams, Chairman

ATTEST:

W. Daniel Boyd, Jr., Superintendent