

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Midwest Young Artists



October 10, 2011  
Midwest Young Artists  
878 Lyster Road  
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### **MYA announces scholarships for two Merit Combos – Jazz Diplomats Merit Combo and Jazz Envoys Merit Combo**

**Fort Sheridan, IL (Oct. 10, 2011)** – The Midwest Young Artists (MYA) youth music conservatory announces a new merit scholarship program for its jazz students, present and future. MYA is the largest youth music program in the Midwest, and with a comprehensive jazz program and elite jazz faculty is the first name in Chicago youth jazz instruction. What was heretofore missing from MYA jazz was a merit scholarship program not unlike a similar program for the MYA orchestras. Students are selected to play in special performing groups based on their work ethic, attitude and skill. A majority of the costs of participation are underwritten by an MYA scholarship fund, and students will receive an honorarium for performing in local schools on a mini-tour.

Jazz is the music of America; a gift to the world that reflects our open mindedness as a nation. It has been said that Jazz is the most democratic of music styles, since a group must quickly and collectively make decisions during a performance. It is fitting then that the new MYA Jazz Merit Combos are called the Jazz Diplomats and Jazz Envoys. It is MYA's desire to provide a curriculum that promotes the learning of Jazz in a nurturing, educational, socially supportive and socially responsible environment.

It is with the addition of the MYA Jazz Merit Combos that the Jazz program at MYA, generously supported by the C. Louis Meyer Family Foundation, can advance to a superior level of instruction and offer unsurpassed learning experiences.

Merit Combos will be coached by a team of top jazz performers/teachers including:

- Nic Meyer, sax
- Jarrard Harris, sax
- Joel Spencer, drummer
- Erik Hochberg, bass
- Frank Portolese, guitar
- Joan Hickey, piano
- Additional master class teachers will be announced at a later date

Eligibility for the MYA merit combos is contingent on membership in the MYA Big Band. To schedule an audition online, visit: <http://www.mya.org/audition/>

Contact: For more Jazz information, contact Will at the MYA offices: [matthew@mya.org](mailto:matthew@mya.org), 847-926-9898 or visit [www.mya.org](http://www.mya.org)

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### *Information about Midwest Young Artists:*

Midwest Young Artists is the premier youth conservatory in the Midwest and represents some of the best young musicians in the country. The program offers exceptional training in jazz, choral, chamber and orchestral instruction. Midwest Young Artists was founded in 1993 with just one orchestra. The organization currently reaches more than 900 students over 75 communities in the metropolitan Chicago area, with students ranging in age from 12 months through 12th grade. MYA has eight youth orchestras, more than 60 chamber music ensembles, four choral groups, an all-inclusive jazz program, classes in music theory and composition and an early childhood education program. Students have the opportunity to travel abroad and to perform in major venues throughout Chicago and around the world. Leading the nation in chamber music instruction, MYA graduates are accepted at the most selective conservatories, universities and colleges in the country.

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