

PRESS RELEASE
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February 14, 2012
Midwest Young Artists
878 Lyster Road
Highwood, IL 60040

MYA's Jazz Big Bands perform final concert of the year at Bennett Gordon Hall

Fort Sheridan, IL (Feb. 14, 2012) – The Midwest Young Artists (MYA) youth music conservatory is pleased to present a concert featuring the critically acclaimed Midwest Young Artists' C. Louis Meyer Family Foundation Jazz Program Big Bands. *Discover Coolness* will be presented on the evening of Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 6:00PM at Bennett Gordon Hall at Ravinia Festival.

The Midwest Young Artists Jazz Program provides students with the most comprehensive jazz instruction in the Midwest. The MYA Jazz Program has been featured on Harry Porterfield's *Someone You Should Know* series and on CBS 2.

The MYA Jazz Ensemble is conducted by Jarrard Harris, a well-known saxophonist and composer on the faculty of Columbia College, who also coaches the Combos at MYA. Both the Jazz Workshop and the Jazz Orchestra are conducted by Chris Madsen, a renowned jazz composer and Northwestern University faculty member. This past December, the MYA Big Band was invited to perform at the Midwest Clinic in downtown Chicago with Wycliffe Gordon.

*"Chris Madsen and his Big Band then took to the stage with the director's own *With Gratitude*, a work that was commissioned by Illinois Music Educators Association to be the 2012 All-State jazz audition piece. Countless budding jazz players are working on the delightful piece this fall, but it's doubtful any accounts will match the driving performance given by Madsen himself with his MYA band.*

Madsen also announced that the Big Band was accepted as guest artists for the Midwest Clinic at the McCormick Place in December. A high honor indeed, and richly deserved."

- Excerpted from a review of "*Discover Brilliance*" (October 2011) by Michael Cameron, guest reviewer for the Chicago Tribune and faculty at the University of Illinois

Date and Time: Sunday, May 6, 2012, *Discover Coolness* at 6:00PM

Venue Information: Bennett Gordon Hall in the John D. Harza Building at Ravinia Festival, Highland Park, IL

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About Midwest Young Artists:

Midwest Young Artists (www.mya.org) serves 1000 students and encompasses over 60 chamber music groups, 8 orchestras, a Jazz program, music theory courses, early childhood education and choral programs to name a few. Conveniently located within walking distance from the Metra, the Midwest Young Artists Center in Highwood offers custom designed rehearsal space and state of the art touches

like a professional recording studio. MYA graduates are routinely accepted into the most prestigious conservatories and universities in the world.

For more information, please visit <http://www.mya.org> or call [\(847\) 926-9898](tel:(847)926-9898).

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