

Louisville Jazzers

The Jazz Education Network Conference Hits Kentucky

Photographs by Ed Berger | Words by Lee Mergner

Although it's known more for baseball bats and Muhammad Ali than for jazz, Louisville, Ky., nevertheless became a jazz town Jan. 4-7, when the Third Annual Jazz Education Network (JEN) Conference convened there. More than 3,000 attendees (students, educators, clinicians, et al.) circulated throughout the Galt House conference center, taking in a multitude of workshops, panels, exhibits and performances.

Among the highlights: a panel on the legacy of the esteemed David Baker, a pioneer in the field of jazz education; a conversation with National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters, moderated by Willard

Jenkins; performances by Rondi Charleston, Sherrie Maricle & Five Play, Monika Herzig, the Dave Stryker Organ Trio, the Shelly Berg Quartet with Ken Peplowski and Kahil El'Zabar's Ethnic Heritage Ensemble. The conference also included a collaboration with the Technology Institute for Music Educators, who presented a comprehensive track geared to teaching the teachers about the use of technology in the ever-evolving classroom.

The next JEN Conference will be held Jan. 2-5, 2013, in Atlanta. For more information about the organization and conference, visit www.jazzednet.org.



▲ Clockwise from top left: The University of Illinois Concert Jazz Band (Chip McNeill, conductor); the University of Louisville Jazz Ensemble I; the Louisville Leopard Percussionists; students jamming in the exhibit hall



▲ John Clayton introduces a panel celebrating the career of David Baker



▲ Ingrid Jensen



▲ Sheila Jordan (right) lends a hand



▲ Bob Mintzer, Dave Stryker and Bobby Floyd (from left)



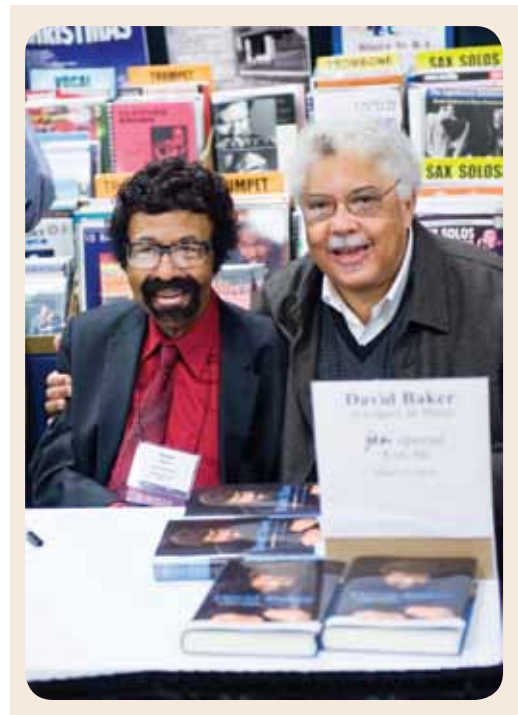
▲ Ken Peplowski



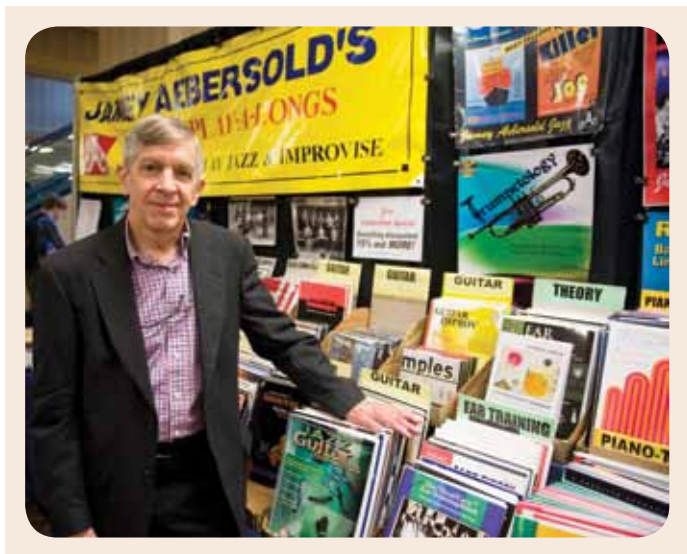
▲ Terrell Stafford (left) and Bobby Watson



▲ Yamaha brass in the exhibit hall



▲ David Baker (left) and Rufus Reid



▲ Jamey Aebersold and his wares



▲ JEN co-founders Dr. Lou Fischer (the organization's current president) and Mary Jo Papich



▲ Victor Wooten (left) and Steve Bailey are Bass Extremes



▲ Bart Marantz (center), director of jazz studies at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas, Texas, receives the John LaPorta Jazz Educator of the Year Award