

## **PROVIDING JAZZ RESOURCES TO IOWA'S EDUCATORS**

### **JEI BOARD**

PRESIDENT | Kelli Swehla

PRESIDENT-ELECT | Chris Strohmaier

PAST PRESIDENT | Kelly Weber

VICE-PRESIDENT | Steve Shanley

SECRETARY | Jennifer Tiede

TREASURER | Jeff Robilliard



## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

- Composer Spotlight: Paul Lichty
- Liberty High School @ JEN
- Social Media Resources
- Reminders

## **COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT**

JEI wishes to celebrate composers both in Iowa and around the world who have helped our student-musicians achieve success with their charts. Every once in a while, this section will appear in our newsletter. We hope you take time to read what the composer has to say about their featured work!

Best wishes on all future grooves!

Kelli Swehla

# PAUL LICHTY



## "The Long Game"

Recording

### BIOGRAPHY

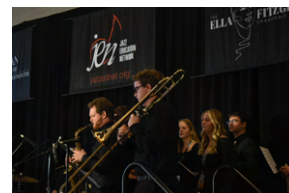
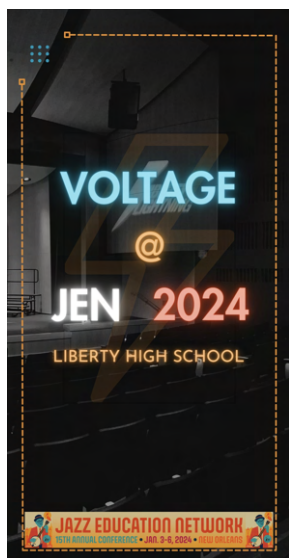
Paul Lichty is a trombonist, composer, arranger and educator currently living in Des Moines, IA. He currently leads the Paul Lichty Jazz Orchestra (PLJO), an 18-piece large jazz ensemble that performs his compositions and arrangements exclusively, featuring many of the finest jazz musicians across the state of Iowa. Equally adept at writing for a variety of instrumental ensembles and skill levels, Paul's music has been performed by numerous jazz ensembles across the United States, Cuba, and Israel. Recent commissions include works for UNI Jazz Band One for the annual Sinfonian Dimensions in Jazz concerts (featuring guest artists Kurt Rosenwinkel and Ben Wendel), Heath Alan, Jeff Kane (NOLA Jazz Band), Bob Washut (UNI Jazz Panthers), Lucas Petersen (Purdue University and Winterset High School), Dr. John Wiles (UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club), and Brad Jensen (Hudson High School). Paul currently teaches middle school band in Carlisle, IA, and has enjoyed arranging jazz standards for his middle school jazz band, including "The Preacher," "Work Song", and "Night Train." Additionally, you can hear Paul's music performed by BYOBrass (where he serves as trombonist and music director), the Iowa Jazz Composers Orchestra, and the Nate Sparks Big Band, the Des Moines Big Band. Paul's compositions can be heard on the album, "Dark Soul" as well as on his website, [paullichtymusic.com](http://paullichtymusic.com).

## From The Composer:

"The Long Game" is a work commissioned by Winterset High School (Lucas Peterson, director) in 2019. This upbeat, high-energy swing tune is my attempt at emulating the writing style of late-Bob Brookmeyer (but a *little* easier!); it presents many unique yet attainable challenges for a strong high school jazz ensemble. Saxophone and brass solis are featured throughout in addition to plenty of cross-sectional scoring, providing engaging parts for every player in the band to sink their teeth into. Solo changes are provided for trumpet, tenor sax, and piano, and the piece concludes with a drum solo that your drummer will love to work up! Bass part is entirely written out (with chord symbols) and piano chord voicings are provided. Supplemental solo sheets are available upon request as well. I hope you enjoy "The Long Game!"

---

## LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL @ JEN



---

### Congratulations to Liberty High School's Voltage on their recent performance at the 15th annual Jazz Education Network Conference!

This month Voltage traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana stopping for both clinic and performance opportunities along the way. This was the ensemble's second time being selected to perform at JEN, with their debut being at the 2022 conference in Dallas, Texas. The ensemble prepared a large set list for this performance, including eight vocal jazz charts that spanned a variety of styles.

*Here is a note from their director, Robert Williams, on the ensemble's selection process and conference experience this year:*

“The JEN Conferences have provided unique and special opportunities for our students to learn, perform, and reflect. The submission process requires the director of the ensemble to acquire three references who are current JEN members and upload three recordings of charts that the ensemble has performed from the previous year. The director must also submit supplemental materials that include a stage plot, photo of your ensemble, and a description of your group as well as the ensemble name.

The conference itself is jam packed with performances and concerts of all types; big bands, soloists, combos/small ensembles, vocal ensembles, etc. from performers at every level of music. School age, community college, four year college and university, and graduate student performances as well as concerts from professional musicians are held day and night over the course of the conference and there is so much to see and hear! On certain nights, after the concerts are done, there are jam sessions where musicians of all ages and ability levels can gather to hone their improvisation skills.

There are also reading sessions, round table discussions, and presentations on a variety of topics from sound design, recording, and production to rehearsal techniques/strategies, educational philosophy, and jazz history/culture.

This year, the highlights for us included the Highline Vocal Jazz Ensemble performance and Carmen Bradford's tribute to Carmen McRae alongside the incredible University of Northern Colorado Jazz Orchestra. We also thoroughly enjoyed our time performing on the JEN conference stage, but the real educational value comes from attending the conference performances and sessions. We are so grateful to JEN for providing us the opportunity to take part in both the 2022 conference in Dallas, Texas and the 2024 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana and for creating valuable educational opportunities for our young musicians that will stay with them for a lifetime.”

## SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES



**JEI is now on Instagram! We look forward to using this platform to serve both directors and their students.** You can expect regular posts of artist features, playlists, jazz history and more! These posts are created with your students in mind to get them listening and engaged. Encourage them to follow us so they don't miss out on the fun!

*Struggling to find songs that will get your students listening to more jazz?*

Check out our Song of The Week every Monday for some new finds and familiar favorites to discuss with your bands.



**If you are looking for a way to get your students listening to more jazz consider submitting a playlist to be a JEI Guest DJ!**



We challenge each student in your ensemble to find a song that they enjoy that features or includes someone who plays their instrument or voice part. Email your list of songs to [media@jeiowa.org](mailto:media@jeiowa.org) to have your ensemble's playlist featured on our social media pages!

We would love to see playlists submitted from jazz groups across the state from middle school bands to professional groups!

## REMINDERS



Invite Your Friends To Become Members of JEI!



Upload All-State Jazz Etudes By March 1st, 2024

## QUICK LINKS

Past Newsletters

Clinicians

Resources



Stay up-to-date with current activities and future events

### CONTACT US

President | [president@jeiowa.org](mailto:president@jeiowa.org)

Secretary | [secretary@jeiowa.org](mailto:secretary@jeiowa.org)

Treasurer | [treasurer@jeiowa.org](mailto:treasurer@jeiowa.org)

by following us on your favorite social media channels.

Media | [media@jeiowa.org](mailto:media@jeiowa.org)

Webmaster | [webmaster@jeiowa.org](mailto:webmaster@jeiowa.org)



Designed with Beefree