

Don Zentz is in his third year at the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville where he is the Director of Jazz Studies and serves on the band faculty. Previously he was the Director of Fine & Performing Arts at The Bolles School (Jacksonville), a post he served for twelve years. He has held music professorships at the University of North Florida, Valdosta State University, and Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Prior to college teaching, Don was a high school and middle school band director in Georgia and at Wolfson Senior High School in Jacksonville. His programs earned superior ratings and championship recognition in all areas of band media – concert, marching, and jazz.

Don received much acclaim for his work and leadership in jazz education particularly during his tenure at the University of North Florida. He was originally hired at UNF by program founder and jazz education pioneer Rich Matteson. Don co-taught the saxophone studio with legendary altoist Bunky Green. As the director of the UNF Jazz Ensemble, Don brought national and international visibility to the jazz program at UNF. The ensemble produced two critically acclaimed CD's, won the Notre Dame Jazz Festival and National Collegiate Jazz Festival in Mobile, performed at festivals in Europe, and was recognized by DownBeat for "Best Big Band Jazz – Outstanding Performance". The extensive list of guest artists that have performed with his jazz ensembles reads like a "who's who in jazz". In 1999, DownBeat awarded Don their Jazz Education Achievement Award. UNF had named him an Outstanding Undergraduate Professor in 1996. He also received a TIP Award from the Florida Board of Regents for Excellence in Teaching.

During his current tenure at Douglas Anderson, his top jazz ensemble performed at the 2017 JEN Conference in New Orleans, won the 2017 Swing Central competition in Savannah, and was recognized by DownBeat as one of the top high jazz ensembles in the country. Receiving superior ratings at music performance assessments continues to be a mainstay for both DA jazz ensembles as is having students selected for the Florida All-State Jazz Band each year and other events like the Lincoln Center jazz camp, Grammy jazz camp, etc. For the school year ending 2017, seniors in the DA band program overall were offered \$4.3 million dollars in music scholarship offers.

Don is very much in demand as a player, adjudicator, and clinician in both traditional and jazz idioms. He was a per service saxophonist with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra for over twenty years and works many of the off-Broadway shows that travel into Florida. He has performed in concert with notables that include Dave Brubeck, Ray Charles, Dizzy Gillespie, The New York Voices, Natalie Cole, Nancy Wilson, Doc Severinsen, The Manhattan Transfer, and Diane Schuur. He adjudicates extensively each year for the Florida Bandmasters Association and other independent band festivals across the south including Festival Disney. He has directed the all-state high school jazz bands of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Maine, the Delaware All-State Symphonic Band, and most recently the 2016 Florida All-State Middle School Jazz Band. He served as the jazz studies coordinator, music department chair, and wind ensemble director for the Georgia Governors Honors Program during the 1990's. Don has presented a variety of clinics and master classes at numerous musical events for students and teachers alike. His articles have appeared in professional publications such as *The Instrumentalist* and *Music Educators Journal*. During his two terms as the Florida Unit President of IAJE, Don was responsible for instituting the State Jazz Workshop in Florida.

Don has been a Keilwerth Saxophones performing artist and clinician since 1995. His career reveals a deep commitment and passion for both the teaching and performing of music. He credits his professional success to his mentors – Bob Greenhaw, Joe David, and Rich Matteson – and to Laurie Zentz, his loving wife and soul mate for over thirty years.