Buddy Defranco Jazz Festival presents internationally renowned musicians

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BUDDY DEFRANCO JAZZ FESTIVAL PRESENTS
INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED MUSICIANS

MISSOULA--

Stellar jazz musicians Eddie Daniels and Byron Stripling will join Buddy DeFranco at the annual University of Montana festival that bears his well-known name.

The Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival takes place Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, in the University Theatre. Each day features adjudicated performances by high school and college jazz bands as well as high school clinics and evening concerts with the professional guest musicians.

DeFranco, the All-Star Jazz Trio and UM Jazz Band I will be joined in concert by Daniels on Friday night and by Stripling on Saturday night. Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performances are $15 for reserved seating, $12 for student and senior citizen reserved seating and $10 for general seating. They are available at all Tic-It-E-Z outlets or by calling (888) MONTANA or 243-4051 in Missoula.

Clarinetist Eddie Daniels is a Grammy award-winning Renaissance musician who bridges jazz and classical styles effortlessly, earning the admiration of fans and critics. A Juilliard graduate, Daniels emerged onto the jazz scene performing with the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra, where his efforts earned him Downbeat Magazine's International Critics New Star on Clarinet Award. "Eddie Daniels combines elegance and virtuosity in a way that

-more-
makes me remember Artur Rubenstein," said legendary conductor Leonard Bernstein. "He is a thoroughly well-bred demon."

Actor and trumpeter Byron Stripling's face and music are familiar from various stage, television and movie roles and soundtracks, including the starring role of Louis Armstrong in the Broadway musical "Satchmo." Educated at New York's Eastman School of Music and Michigan's Interlochen Arts Academy, Stripling debuted at Carnegie Hall with Skitch Henderson and the New York Pops and earned his stripes as lead trumpeter and soloist with the Count Basie Orchestra. Critics ranging from The New York Times to the Los Angeles Times have compared Stripling to Armstrong and to Dizzy Gillespie, calling him "powerful," "charismatic" and "remarkable."

Festival namesake Buddy DeFranco has earned the title of No. 1 jazz clarinetist in the world with 20 Downbeat Magazine Awards, nine Metronome Magazine Awards and 16 Playboy All-Stars Awards. Dubbed "the Charlie Parker of the clarinet," DeFranco has recorded more than 150 albums during a career that spans seven decades, making him the most recorded modern jazz clarinetist since the Swing Era. He is credited with leading the way for jazz clarinetists from swing to bop, playing with greats like Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, Tony Bennett, Billie Holiday, Nat Cole, Mel Torme and Dizzy Gillespie. He was a member of the Count Basie Septet and, from 1966 to 1974, leader of the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He is a part-time resident of Whitefish, Mont.

"Buddy is a world-class clarinetist whose many years of dedication to jazz make him without equal among living jazz artists of today," said UM music Professor Lance Boyd. "His role with the jazz festival is an acknowledgment of the viability of jazz education and gives our
program a real boost."

For more information, visit the following Web sites:

- Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival, www.umt.edu/defrancojazz
- Buddy DeFranco, www.buddydefranco.com
- Eddie Daniels, www.eddiedanielsclarinet.com

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State dailies and weeklies, Spokesman Review, Coeur d’Alene Free Press, Idaho Statesman
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