



Today's Date: Wednesday February 15th 2017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOOR COUNTY STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE LANGUAGE OF JAZZ

Students from the Southern Door, Sturgeon Bay, and Sevastopol high school jazz ensembles and music programs were the beneficiaries of clinics conducted by Birch Creek Music Performance Center faculty members Reggie Thomas and Rick Haydon on Monday, Feb. 13 as part of Artists In The Schools outreach program.

Thomas is Coordinator of Jazz Studies at Northern Illinois University. He is also a consultant/clinician for Jazz at Lincoln Center, working with the Essentially Ellington program and the Band Director Academy.

Haydon is Professor Emeritus of Music at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and also a faculty member of Band Director Academy. Collectively, Haydon and Thomas have been Birch Creek jazz faculty members for over 30 years.

Professors Thomas and Haydon provided clinics ranging from rhythm to jazz style and technique, with the reoccurring theme of the language of music as a common, non-verbal avenue for communication. Between verbal instruction with the students, Thomas and Haydon demonstrated how their own relationship allows them to speak non-verbally to each other through the notes in each scale they share.

Artists in the Schools began in 2002 as a way for Birch Creek and its faculty to give back to their community. This wonderful program allows nationally-acclaimed faculty to return to Door County each year and serve as clinicians for local public school music students. Since 2002, more than 3,000 students have been involved, and the program has visited all 5 Door County schools districts including Washington Island. Birch Creek gratefully acknowledges the valuable faculty and administrative leadership of Reggie Thomas, Rick Haydon, Birch Creek Executive Director Mona Christensen, current and past board members Lolly Ratajczak and

Miriam Erickson. Birch Creek, together with the artists, thanks the Skinner Family Fund for project sponsorship.

Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Egg Harbor, WI, is a residential summer music academy for advanced young musicians. With a performance emphasis, students are taught by nationally known performers and educators during the day, and perform alongside them in concerts at night. Four, two-week sessions focus on Percussion & Steel Band, Symphony, and Big Band Jazz. For more information about the 2017 season, visit www.birchcreek.org. or call (920) 868-3763

Quotes for attached photos

Guitarist Rick Haydon tells Sevastopol students, "The blues is playing somewhere in between the notes." (-submitted)

Reggie Thomas teaches a scale exercise at Sturgeon Bay. (-submitted)