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Jazz great to lecture at UAHuntsville

(11/10/2008)

Renowned jazz educator and musician Gene Aitken will be a guest lecturer and band leader at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAHuntsville) Nov. 13 and 14.

His visit is sponsored by the 2008-09 UAHuntsville Distinguished Speaker Series, the Music Department, the Faculty Senate and the Office of the Provost.

Aitken will give a lecture titled "Jazz Education in Unlikely Places - An Original American Art Form Circles the Globe," on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall on the UAHuntsville campus. His presentation will describe his experiences taking jazz education into non-western cultures. The event is free and open to the public.

In addition to the lecture, Aitken will also serve as guest bandleader for the UAH Jazz Ensemble Concert on Friday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in Roberts Recital Hall. The concert will feature contemporary big band jazz compositions from many of Aitken's former students. General admission for the concert is \$5; students are admitted free with valid identification.

Aitken is the author of numerous articles on the implementation of music technology, and his articles have been published in international publications such as Computer and Music and The IAJE Educator magazines.

In 1995, he was the seventh person inducted into the DownBeat Magazine Jazz Educators Hall of Fame. Aitken joined jazz greats such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald. Aitken was recognized for the impact he has made and continues to make on jazz education throughout the world.

Retired from the University of Northern Colorado, Aitken lives in Southeast Asia where he spends his time giving music clinics in major cities from China to Iraq.

More information is available from the UAH Department of Music at 824-6436.

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