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John Paulson Big Band in Winona to be featured at Jazz Educators' National Conference

The 17 piece John Paulson Big Band is preparing to blast off for their performance January 7th at the Jazz Educators Network national conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The group was notified last summer of their acceptance to perform at the high level event that features top performers and clinicians from all over the country.

The band became a reality in 2012 with the assistance of a generous grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council and the McKnight Foundation allowing Paulson to assemble a group of excellent jazz educators from around the area. A year later, after several concerts and more recording, they released the "John Paulson Big Band Project" CD and DVD documenting the music. They are unique in that they perform only original big band jazz composed and arranged by musical director John Paulson. The music is an exciting mix of contemporary blues, Latin, ballads, funk and swing featuring some of the best jazz soloists in the area.

The group has secured some limited funding support but they are still seeking contributions to offset the extreme expenses involved with getting the band to Louisville, KY. Players from Rochester, Austin, Winona, LaCrosse, Red Wing, Wabasha and the Twin Cities are all taking time off from work and teaching duties to perform without pay. To contribute visit www.indiegogo.com and search John Paulson Jazz or send a check to John Paulson at PO Box 1031 Winona, MN 55987-7031.

As a means of saying thanks to the community, the public is invited to attend the band's dress rehearsal for the trip Tues. Jan. 5th from 6:30-8:30 pm at Saint Mary's University in the band/choir room located in St. Yon's Hall on the Winona campus. There is no cost to attend. For further information, contact John Paulson at jpaulson@smumn.edu or visit www.paulsonjazz.com