



### Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble

Based in Guelph Ontario the Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble (GYJE) provides young musicians with the opportunity to learn about and explore the world of jazz and improvised music. The program was started in 2001 by the director Brent Rowan as a place for his private saxophone students to play together in a jazz quartet. It grew from there to become an ensemble for youth in the community to learn about jazz styles and improvised music. In 2006 it became the GYJE.

There are now varying levels of ensembles based on the experience of the members. Currently band 1 is for the beginner improvising musician who has little or no experience playing jazz. Band 2 is for youth with some experience in jazz and improvised music. In September 2011 band 3 will be offered for those students who are more serious about studying the music known as jazz.

Under the direction of Brent Rowan, original and standard jazz music is written and arranged specifically for the ensemble. From Ellington-Herman-Davis-Gillespie-Elias-Coltrane and Derome, many styles of jazz and improvised music are explored. Members are given ample opportunities to expand their ability to read music, improvise and understand the jazz language.

The Guelph Youth Jazz Ensemble has had the pleasure of working with such great musicians as Jane Bunnett, Ted Warren, Kirk MacDonald, Nicole Mitchel, William Parker, D.D. Jackson, Dean Bowman and Greg Tate. The group has done a wide variety of Performances; Formal concerts at the Guelph Youth Music Centre, the Jazz Tent for the Guelph Jazz Festival, gigs at Manhattan's Pizza, Women of Distinction Ceremony, Santa Clause Parades, weddings, fundraisers for charity, and won awards at the Guelph Kiwanis festival.