

Jazz festival on tap this weekend

By IFAN PAYNE
Music Critic

Hard on the heels of the recent and successful National Association of Jazz Educators convention in Kansas City comes the Central States Jazz Festival. This is an official NAJE festival and it is being held here in McCain Auditorium on Friday and Saturday.

Some thirty jazz bands and combos will be performing in this event which takes the form of a series of competitions for high school, community college and university bands — except

that by law, the high school bands are not able to formally compete with one another, so that there cannot be any winners or losers where those bands are concerned. As for the college bands, though, there are no, or at least few, holds barred.

Events get underway at 8 a.m. on Friday when high school bands will be performing on stage at a rate of one every twenty-five minutes. All of these bands, with the exception of one from Missouri, are from Kansas schools.

Time out will be taken for an hour

at 3:10 p.m. for a clinic by Toshiko Akiyoshi and Lew Tabackin. If their words of wisdom and demonstrations are only a fraction of the experience provided either by Clarke Terry last year, or any number of the clinics held at the recent Kansas City convention then it will be more than worthwhile sitting in on this one in McCain.

On Friday evening at 8 the Akiyoshi-Tabackin band will be performing in concert.

Saturday morning at 8:25, the competition starts in earnest after the

Manhattan High School band delivers its performance. There will be three categories of bands to be heard. First, the community college groups, including combos and bands from Oklahoma, Cloud County, Hutchinson, Kansas City, Kansas, and K-State's own Jazz Combo.

Second will come a number of college second bands, including some that are better than many college's first-string bands. The Central State University, Oklahoma, is likely to be a particularly strong contender in this group, as are both the K-State and KU bands.

The final round of competition will be for university number-one bands, and those performing on Saturday will include KU, Southwest Missouri, Springfield, Washburn and KSU's own Concert Jazz Ensemble.

There will be a clinic presented by the festival adjudicators at 1 p.m. The adjudicators will be Matt Betton, whose name surely should be included on one of the current ten-with-the-mostest lists for this community, Mike Steinel, from Bethel College, Paul Mariconda, from New York, and Jim Cochran, brother of KSU's Al Cochran, who is a saxophone player and teaches in the public school system in Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

At 4:55 p.m. the waiting will be over and winners will be announced, awards given and certificates presented.

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