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2018



SWOSU's Richard Tirk Wins Oklahoma Jazz Educators Award

Dr. Richard Tirk, associate professor of music and director of the jazz program at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, has been awarded the Collegiate Educator of 2017 by the Oklahoma Jazz Educators.

Tirk was recently recognized at the Oklahoma All State Jazz Ensemble concert in Tulsa as part of the Oklahoma Music Educators' Association annual convention.

A trumpeter and conductor, Tirk has performed on five continents and for as varied audiences from the King and Queen of Norway to an outdoor concert in the park crowd in Woodstock (IL), his hometown. An avid performer, he has premiered several new works for trumpet including Robert Levy's *Reflections* for trumpet and clarinet at the 2010 International Trumpet Guild conference in Sydney, Australia.

Tirk has also been a member of several Midwest orchestras, opera orchestras and jazz ensembles sharing the stage with artists such as Doc Severinsen, Itzak Perlman and Joyce DiDonato. A sought after clinician, Tirk has given masterclasses across the United States, Brazil, Haiti and the British Isles.

He has a music education degree from Lawrence University in Appleton (WI) and degrees in trumpet performance from Western Michigan University and Michigan State University.

Tirk is director of the SWOSU Jazz Festival.

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