



Dear Jazz Educator,

Swingin' greetings from Weatherford! I hope your 2022 academic year is off to a great start. The preparations for the 53rd Annual SWOSU Jazz Festival are underway and we're hoping you can join us. This year's dates are **February 9&10** and we're thrilled to have the outstanding **Tia Fuller Duo** coming to Weatherford for the first time.

Grammy nominated saxophonist **Tia Fuller** has performed with notable jazz artists such as Dianne Reeves, Wycliffe Gordon, and Rufus Reed but also has shared the stage with pop icons Beyonce, Chaka Khan, and Jay-Z. She also lent her saxophone sound to the delightful character, Theodora, in the Disney/Pixar smash hit movie *Soul*. When not on the road or recording, Fuller is a professor at the esteemed Berklee College of Music. Joining her in Weatherford will be her sister, pianist Shamie Royston who has also performed with Sean Jones, Ron Miles, and Ginger Baker of the famous band Cream.

The Tia Fuller Duo will be giving a **FREE concert** as part of the festival on Thursday, February 9th at 7PM in the Berrong Recital Hall. The next day will be featuring our big band competition with middle school, high school, and university big bands from across the region. In addition to the comments received by the clinicians in the performance room, the Tia Fuller Duo will be presenting **free clinics** about their careers and a topic of their choice. At 1 and 8PM, our guest artists will be joining SWOSU Jazz Ensemble 'A' onstage for two exciting concerts. We certainly hope you will bring your jazz ensemble or band students to hear these master musicians.

Thursday, February 9

7PM, Berrong Recital Hall - The Tia Fuller Duo featuring Shamie Royston - FREE CONCERT!

Friday, February 10

8AM-7PM, Middle School, High School, and Collegiate Big Band Festival

11AM, The Tia Fuller Duo Clinic #1

1PM, Concert with The Tia Fuller Duo and SWOSU Jazz 'A'

3PM, The Tia Fuller Duo Clinic #2

8PM, Concert with The Tia Fuller Duo and SWOSU Jazz 'A'

The application form, personnel form, and other pertinent information are enclosed and is available at swosujazz.com. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or if you have ideas on how to make this event a better experience for your aspiring jazz students. Thanks, and looking forward to seeing you in 2023!

Cheers,

Richard Tirk