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Kent Wehman and Jack Mouse at Emporia State University

EMPORIA, Kan.- Vibist Kent Wehman and jazz drummer Jack Mouse presented two clinics and a concert at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas, which began a five-day tour taken by the two as part of the Janice Borla Group. Other tour appearances included Hutchinson at Hutchinson Community College and Wichita and Wichita State University.

The Janice Borla Group is a five-member modern jazz

ensemble, which besides Wehman and Mouse, includes vocalist Janice Borla, guitarist Frank Dawson, and bassist Bill Harrison. The first of the two clinics was presented by the Group as a whole and dealt with basic jazz musicianship, with detailed attention given to backing a jazz soloist and a jazz vocalist. A second clinic was given by Wehman and Mouse, with assistance by Dawson and Harrison, in the form of a masterclass for rhythm section instruments.

The Janice Borla Group gave a formal concert, which kicked off the tenth anniversary season of programs presented by the Emporia

Arts Council. Selections for this concert consisted mostly of numbers from the Group's current album, entitled "Whatever We Imagine," including the title cut, which was performed as an encore. The concert also included a suite of two original compositions by Jack Mouse. Following the completion of the tour, Jack Mouse gave private lessons to area students on drum set and conducting a rehearsal of the Emporia State Jazz Ensemble.

Jack Mouse appears as a clinician for Yamaha, who underwrote part of the funding for this Kansas tour of the Janice Borla Group, and

who also supplied the set of vibes used during the tour by Mr. Wehman.

The concert in Emporia was particularly well received by the audience, which numbered nearly 400, and by a music critic from the Emporia newspaper, who gave the program an enthusiastically favorable review. Kent Wehman and Jack Mouse appear to be two of the more exciting new talents on the percussive scene today, and it seems certain that much more will be heard from them and from the Janice Borla Group as a whole in the not-so-distant future!