

Boardman High School
proudly presents

The 23rd Annual BHS JAZZ FEST

featuring



Grace Kelly



with



Leo P

8th Grade Jazz Ensemble
BHS Jazz Ensembles 1 & 2
2k25 Pop/Rock Band
OMEA D5 Mahoning Honors Jazz Band

Directed by
Thomas Ruggieri

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 - 7:00 pm
Boardman Performing Arts Center

GRACE KELLY



An unequivocal musical prodigy, singer-saxophonist-songwriter-composer, and band leader, Grace has rocked the jazz world with sold-out concerts, 15 acclaimed albums, and a resume that includes performing at the Hollywood Bowl as well as a member of the house band for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* – all before reaching her mid-twenties. In 2022, she became the youngest member of Berklee College of Music's Board of Trustees.

Grace's early career highlights featured performances at Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration at age 16 and at age 14 as a soloist with the Boston Pops. Since then, she has played over 1,000 shows as a bandleader in 35 countries at venues such as the Kennedy Center and Moscow Symphony Hall. Touted for her scorching saxophone stylings and purring vocals, Grace has performed and recorded with renowned artists including Lin Manuel-Miranda, Dave Brubeck, Lee Konitz, Phil Woods, Huey Lewis, Harry Connick Jr., Jon Batiste, Gloria Estefan, Questlove, and Wynton Marsalis.

Grace won "Song of the Year" for her single, "Feels Like Home" in the 2018 John Lennon Songwriting Contest, and has been named nine times consecutively in the Annual Downbeat Magazine's Critics Poll "Rising Star Alto Saxophone" from the age of 17 and winning the poll in 2017 and winning the Critics Poll in 2023 for "Rising Star Baritone Saxophone."

Featured by *Vanity Fair* as a millennial shaking up the jazz world, Grace's state-of-the-art brand of electro jazz-pop and inventive digital content reaching millions of fans across her socials. Grace has been seen in national campaigns for M&M and Subaru.

She is a masterful clinician specializing in jazz improvisation and stage performance. She has taught thousands of students to become more confident performers and saxophone players both online and in person. She is the co-founder of **Saxy School** with Leo P (of Too Many Zooz), an innovative online saxophone school for beginners and seasoned players alike. She has held a guest teaching residency at The Berklee College of Music and spearheaded the establishment of the Fred Taylor Endowed Scholarship Fund by organizing, emceeing, and performing in the All-Star Benefit Concert in 2017 which raised over \$70,000 for the fund.

Grace is a Yamaha Music and Boston Sax Shop artist. She plays the 82Z Alto Saxophone and the YBS Baritone Sax along with the Vandoren Alto V16 A8 S+ mouthpiece, Boston Sax Shop Custom Alto Reeds 2.5 strength reeds, and Boston Sax Shop Superlative Alto Ligature.

Web: www.gracekellymusic.com

Instagram: @gkellymusic

TikTok: @gracekellymusic

YouTube: www.youtube.com/gracekellymusic

Facebook: facebook.com/GraceKellymusic

X: @gracekellymusic

LEO P

Leo Pellegrino, popularly known as Leo P, is an American saxophone player from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His chops on the baritone sax and unique dance moves alongside his ever changing hair color and matching outfits have taken him from the subways of NYC to featured status at Royal Albert Hall and international prominence.



Leo moved to New York in 2010 to attend the Manhattan School of music. His unique performance style created friction with his professors. Some loved him and believed in his alternative style while others claimed he would never be able to produce a good sound while moving around so much. Nevertheless his fashion and personality lead to him being on the cover of the yearly calendar that everyone in the school received a copy of during his senior year.

Leo began playing in the subways in 2014 and found that was a great way to get fans and support. Soon after graduating Leo was in viral videos that have millions of views with both Lucky Chops and Too Many Zooz. Leo also did some TV work during that time appearing on an MTV show with Lucky Chops and with Beyonce and Too Many Zooz on the CMAs. Too Many Zooz also collaborated with Beyonce on the album *Lemonade*. Eventually Leo left Lucky Chops and focused on Too Many Zooz. Since that time the band had their song *Warriors* featured in an international commercial for the Google Pixel 2 (alongside a visual including a TMZ performance) and has been named Song of the Week by the BBC.

In 2017 Leo was chosen to perform as a featured artist at the BBC Proms Tribute to Charles Mingus at Royal Albert Hall. According to SeenandheardInternational.com "possibly the true highlight of the evening were the outstanding solos of fuchsia-haired New York-based saxophonist Leo Pellegrino, choreographed to a tee in zebra-striped shoes, in *Moanin'*. His sheer physical agility while playing his instrument virtuosically was simply unlike anything I have experienced before. Unsurprisingly, he brought the house down."

Since then Leo has been touring the world with "Too Many Zooz", most recently opening up for the band "Primus". He also continues to perform with other projects including "2Saxy" with Grace Kelly and "Thundersmack" with Michael Wilbur. He released his first solo album under Shanachie records in 2022 called "Comin' up Aces" and he was also prominently featured on the soundtrack to the movie "Babylon". In the summer of 2025 Leo P will be performing with Dave Koz on his "Summer Horns" tour.

Web: leop.com

Instagram: @leopfollowme

Tiktok: @leopfollowme

Youtube: @leopsax

Facebook: @leopfollowme

X: @leopfollowme

THE PROGRAM

brought to you in part by the generous support of Bill and Karen Veri

BHS Jazz Ensemble 1

Moanin' Charles Mingus, Arr. by Sy Johnson

8th Grade Jazz Ensemble

Chameleon Herbie Hancock, Arr. by Frank Mantooth

OMEA District 5 Mahoning Honors Jazz Band

The Jazz Police..... Gordon Goodwin

BHS Jazz Ensemble 2

Soulful Strut Eugene Record/William Sanders, Arr. by Victor Lopez

Dark Paradise

Cold Duck Time Eddie Harris, Arr. by Alan Baylock

2k25 Pop/Rock Band

Pink Yesterday Too Many Zooz, Arr. by Thomas Ruggieri

Funky Town..... Steven Greenberg, Arr. by Thomas Ruggieri

BHS Jazz Ensemble 1

Caught A Touch of Your Love..... Craig Bickhardt/James Best/Jack Keller

Fish N' Chips Grace Kelly/Leo P, Arr. by Aaron Hedenstrom

Cookie Dough..... Grace Kelly/Leo P

Lemons Make Lemonade Grace Kelly, Arr. by Charlie Rosen

Saxy Back..... Grace Kelly/Leo P/Justin Timberlake, Arr. by Aaron Hedenstrom

Pokemon Theme John Siegler/John Loeffler, Arr. by Charlie Rosen

The Chicken..... Alfred James Ellis, Arr. by Kris Berg

2024-2025 Boardman High School Jazz Ensemble 1

1st Alto Sax Jacob Cline
 2nd Alto Sax Carter Yocum
 1st Tenor Sax Alex Wolfgang
 2nd Tenor Sax Lucas Mitchell
 Bari Sax Jared Clark
 1st Trumpet Adam Beggs
 2nd Trumpet Dominic Belcastro
 3rd Trumpet Bella Brabant
 4th Trumpet Hannah Fenneken
 Morgan Gibson

1st Trombone William Smith, Jr.
 2nd Trombone Nathan Duritz
 3rd Trombone Max Caguia
 Lukas Signor
 Bass Trombone/Tuba Joel Twyman
 Guitar Ian McCaskey
 Piano Dyllan Carpenter
 Bass Connor Boots
 Drums/Percussion Ian Holdridge
 Lauren Klanica
 Aidan May
 Vibes Grace Miller
 Flute Justice Holt

Strings: Violin - Aiden Blevins, Leelah Bradshaw, Viola - Kaylee Bushling, Coraline Wakefield
 Cello - Maddie Packo, Max Reeping, Elena Wakefield

Jazz Ensemble 2

1st Alto Sax Ethan Hoffman
 2nd Alto Sax Julien West
 1st Tenor Sax Jacob Cline
 2nd Tenor Sax Alex Wolfgang
 Bari Sax Jared Clark
 1st Trumpet Dereon Bailey
 2nd Trumpet Cecelia Maiorana
 3rd Trumpet Hannah Fenneken
 Adrienne Fenneken
 4th Trumpet Aidan Kirlik
 Mia Martin
 1st Trombone Dominic Belcastro
 2nd Trombone Nevaeha Stacey
 3rd Trombone Malia Johnson
 Bass Trombone William Smith, Jr.
 Guitar Ryan Jackson
 Piano Adam Beggs
 Bass Jack Benson
 Drums/Percussion Carson Galich
 Dominic Hurd
 Collin Mertz
 Vibes Connor Borecki
 Flute Mary Melone

8th Grade Jazz Ensemble

Alto Sax Cameron Kenney
 Bari Sax Jaydon Evans
 1st Trumpet C.J. Corey
 2nd Trumpet Jonah Verdine
 3rd Trumpet Pacey Habeger
 4th Trumpet Austin Toles
 Trombone Charlie Beichner
 Cello/Piano Emma Prokop
 Elena Wakefield
 Bass Elijah Eynon
 Alex Lee
 Meredith Wakefield
 Drums/Vibes Santino Nespeca
 Jackson Rea
 Flute SkyleeShay Gline
 Viola Coraline Wakefield

2k25 Pop/Rock Band

Woodwinds Jacob Cline
 Kyrie Heeman
 Justice Holt
 Ava Kalbasky
 Mary Melone
 Lucas Mitchell
 Brass Dereon Bailey
 Bella Brabant
 Mitchell Evans
 Adrienne Fenneken
 Hannah Fenneken
 Morgan Gibson
 Aidan Kirlik
 Cecelia Maiorana
 Mia Martin
 Zach Slanina
 William Smith, Jr.
 Guitar Ryan Jackson
 Keyboards Adam Beggs
 Bass Nevaeha Stacey
 Drums/Percussion Lauren Klanica
 Caiden Klein
 Alex Lowery
 Aidan May
 Grace Miller
 Kendall Timko
 Vibes Connor Borecki

2025 OMEA District 5 Mahoning Honors Jazz Band

1st Alto Sax Asher Moorefield - South Range
 2nd Alto Sax Quincy Bailey - South Range
 Evan Linko - Canfield
 1st Tenor Sax Jacob Cline - Boardman
 2nd Tenor Sax Carson Kerens - Fitch
 Bari Sax Jared Clark - Boardman
 1st Trumpet Adam Beggs - Boardman
 2nd Trumpet Rachel Snyder - Fitch
 3rd Trumpet Kristyn Schrock - Fitch
 4th Trumpet Katlyn Dorch - South Range
 Olivia Leskey - South Range
 Mia Quinlan - South Range

1st Trombone William Smith, Jr. - Boardman
 2nd Trombone Luke Dyke - West Branch
 3rd Trombone Samuel Kahnt - Fitch
 Bass Trombone Mitchell Roach - Fitch
 Guitar Vincent Ury - Fitch
 Piano Corinne Gear - Canfield
 Bass Rocco Basile - Fitch
 Connor Boots - Boardman
 Drums/Percussion Adam Christy - Canfield
 Matthew Smith - Fitch
 Vibes Aidan May - Boardman

BHS JAZZ FEST GUEST ARTISTS

Pre-Ruggieri Guest Artists: Randy Purcell, Phil Woods, Maynard Ferguson

Boardman Faculty Jazz Combo | 2002
East Palestine HS Jazz Ensemble and John Reese | 2003
Laurel HS Jazz Ensemble and Jupiter Hollow | 2004
Youngstown State Univ. "Dream Band" | 2005
Univ. of Akron Brazilian Jazz Combo | 2006
Boardman All-Star Alumni Jazz Ensemble | 2007
John Reese Project | 2008
Teddy Pantelas | 2009
Jack Schantz | 2010
Boardman Combined 7th and 8th Grade Jazz Ensemble | 2011
Bernie Dresel | 2012
Univ. of Akron Jazz Trombone Group | 2013
Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band | 2014
Janet Opritza Davis and the John Reese Project | 2014
Austintown Fitch HS Jazz Ensemble | 2015
The Buddy Rich Big Band | 2016
Mike Tomaro | 2016
Joe Graziosi | 2017
Roger Ingram | 2019
Andy Martin | 2019
Eric Marienthal | 2022
James Morrison and Willie Murillo | 2023
Jim Garber | 2023
Mike Kamuf and Mark Zaleski | 2024
2Saxy feat. Leo P and Grace Kelly | 2025

Acknowledgements

Bill and Karen Veri
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Chris Neifer - Boardman Schools Superintendent
Dr. Mark Zura - Boardman High School Principal
Timothy Tuite - Assistant Band Director
Madison Zets - Kent State Univ. Student Teacher
Patrick Kale - BPAC Manager
Joe Hollabaugh - BSTN
George Stephens - CCA Graphics
Boardman Band and Orchestra Parents
Boardman Jazz Students and Parents

Jazz at Boardman High School

Boardman High School is very proud of its instrumental music department. Award-winning orchestras, the internationally acclaimed Boardman Spartan Marching Band, a Class AA Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, two full jazz ensembles, a pop/rock band, and numerous chamber ensembles all helped Boardman become a GRAMMY Signature School and helped the community repeatedly make the NAMM Foundations list of the 100 Best Communities for Music Education.

A great schedule is one of the things that drives the Jazz Program at Boardman. Jazz Ensemble 1 and 2 meet daily as part of the school schedule. The 2kxx (the name changes each year) Pop/Rock Band meets after school twice weekly. All three groups perform at three concerts and dozens of school and community events each year. Between band and jazz, Boardman's busiest musicians perform an average of 60 times in a school year.

Recent and regular performance venues for BHS Jazz Ensemble 1 include Swing 46 Dance and Supper Club, Albee Square Plaza, and B.B. King's Blues Club in NYC; The Blue Wisp in Cincinnati; Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and BluJazz in Akron. The band has featured local and national guest artists including Maynard Ferguson, Phil Woods, Randy Purcell, Jack Schantz, Mike Tomaro, Roger Ingram, Andy Martin, Bernie Dresel, Eric Marienthal, Mike Kamuf, Mark Zaleski, Willie Murillo, and James Morrison. It had the honor to serve as opening act for local appearances of Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band in 2013 and The Buddy Rich Big Band in 2016. The band and director Thomas Ruggieri presented a TEDx Talk in 2019!

The momentum of jazz throughout the school year has been so strong that we continue each June and July with what we call "Summer Jazz." All three groups play at least three times each summer at local parks, arts festivals, local clubs, church festivals, and professional and minor league sports games.

This year marked Jazz Ensemble 1's FIFTH time being selected to perform at the OMEA PDC. Past appearances were in 2011, 2013, 2018, and 2020. The honor of performing at the annual state music teachers convention is attained through a blind audition process. Adjudicators select only the very best-sounding school and college groups without name or reputation bias. Ruggieri considers this evidence of the Boardman Jazz Program being one of the best in Ohio.

Ruggieri is a product of the Boardman Jazz Program playing drums and vibes in the groups from 1979-1983. He then was the drummer in Tony Leonardi's Youngstown State University Jazz Ensemble 1 during his college years. His education and experience as a professional drummer/percussionist/vocalist have enabled him to nurture the Boardman Program for the past 26 years.

From Mr. Ruggieri...

I am humbled to reflect on my 37 wonderful years as a public school music teacher. I'm grateful to have had students at East High School, Liberty, and Boardman who opened their minds and hearts allowing me to introduce them to jazz. The overwhelming sense of pride and joy upon hearing that a former student released an album, went on tour, or won a GRAMMY will sustain me until I draw my last breath. Thank you, students, for all of your past, present, and future musical accomplishments.

Mere words cannot express the gratitude I feel for the amazing guest artists that have appeared at the BHS Jazz Fest over the years here at Boardman. Every single one has left an indelible mark on students and audiences here and all over the world.

The BHS Jazz Fest (and all of our concerts) would be nothing without fans, friends, family, and benefactors. Thank you for supporting music in our schools. I hope we brought some joy to you whether you paid \$3 for a ticket or thousands to bring in a guest artist.

Because music creates strong personal bonds, I consider all of you family and will cherish our connection forever. I sincerely hope our paths cross again soon and often. THANK YOU for everything!



Autographs