My Objective:

- Conduct interviews with jazz saxophone luminaries Bob Mintzer and Dick Oatts while volunteering at the 11th Annual Jazz Education Network Conference [COMPLETED]
- Animate an awareness of jazz’s uniqueness through the publication of an article [IN PROCESS]

*Bob Mintzer was unable to make the conference, so Bob Sheppard kindly substituted in his place.*
Overview

Completed Work

- With the Office of Undergraduate Research’s generous support for my project, I was able to attend the entire JEN Conference and conduct interviews with Dick Oatts and Bob Sheppard, two jazz saxophone luminaries.

- Transcribe over 1 hour and 40 minutes of interview time (both interviewees)!

In Progress

- Drafting the article
Interview Questions - all answered thoroughly by the two interviewees

- What significant factors led to your success in the music industry?
- How has this success molded your current approach?
- What strategies are required to pursue a career in music?
- Do higher education music programs adequately prepare students to tackle the professional world? Why or why not?
- What relation does music education have with performance?
- Does jazz education deserve a place in public schools as part of a general music education program? Why or why not?
- In what ways are composing and improvisation inimitable creative outlets?
- How does composing compare to improvisation?
- What processes and strategies unique to jazz foster personal development?
Following our interview, Dick Oatts was kind enough to critique my own playing and composing.

His main suggestion was that I aim to play with more natural breathing/phrasing.

Compare the following excerpts from one of my original compositions.

In both passages, I added a brief rest to add a more natural breath/phrase.

In music, like any fine art, small details can make big impacts.
Pre-Critique Excerpt 1:

Post-Critique Excerpt 1:
Thank you for your generous support!