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A renowned jazz trumpeter is set to perform with the Utah State University Big Bands tonight.

Dave Douglas will join student musicians and a staff ensemble to perform a variety of jazz pieces — some of which are his original compositions.

"I always look forward to performing," Douglas said. "The most exciting thing, especially about jazz, is that the audience really gets to witness something new happening every time. The idea of what we are doing is discovering new music in the moment. I think that makes it really intimate and exciting, and I love to share that."

Jon Gudmundson, a director of jazz studies at the school, said Douglas' visit has been in the works for a year. Along with the concert on Thursday, Douglas will be leading several clinics and even a more informal jam session Wednesday night.

"I was totally astonished we were able to get him," Gudmundson said. "I think what makes him particularly noteworthy is that he is a fabulous jazz trumpet player, but that is not all that he is. He is also a very fine composer and arranger."

Gudmundson said the experience the jazz students have to play with Douglas is a lifetime opportunity.

"He is somebody who has worked with a whole bunch of the leading jazz musicians of our age," Gudmundson said. "It puts our students in direct contact with somebody on that level. To have them witness what it's like to create at that higher level will hopefully inspire them."

Michael Burnham, a drummer in the jazz bands, said he is excited to play with a high-caliber musician like Douglas. Burnham even received some personal advice from Douglas at rehearsals.

"He gave me a lot of good advice as a drummer," Burnham said. "He told me to take more risks and make sure it's solid. It is kind of cool to hear a big name like Dave Douglas say the same thing my professors tell me."

The concert with Douglas will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Caine Performance Hall.

"We live in Logan," Gudmundson said. "I love this place, but it's not New York City. Usually you have to go to a place like that to find his kind of talent."