

## Paul Lines, Music Director

Paul Lines began his lifelong love affair with jazz in 1977, when only fifteen. During a trip to Europe, he discovered his passion for this uniquely American artform. “The Europeans would show off the record collections of Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Charlie Parker and Miles Davis as if they were gold. As a young drummer, I felt like I was in the presence of a very special group of creative individuals...I was right.” Mr. Lines “escaped” Flint, Michigan in the fall of 1985 and headed for Los Angeles with a set of drums, a change of clothes and a dream to make it as a drummer in the City of Angels. His gamble paid off--the very next year, noted critic Bud Webster exclaimed “23 year old Paul Lines, playing like a 20-year Blue Note Vet!” in The Richmond Times. After years of touring the country and around the world with various ensembles, performing music of multiple genres, Lines had an epiphany; “I could better serve the jazz community as a facilitator than as a player.” Out of this realization, he founded the Pasadena Jazz Institute in January of 2001, creating an organization dedicated to the preservation, performance and promulgation of jazz. Lines continues to spearhead the Institute, ensuring a healthy future for jazz in the community through his organizational and educational endeavors, as well as through regular performance