Over 100 people packed into the McDonough Auditorium Tuesday evening to hear the Marietta Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo rock the house at their fall show.

The concert featured the Jazz Ensemble and the official debut of the Marietta College Jazz Combo. 2008 National Banjo Champion Steven Moore, a freshman, played two traditional bluegrass pieces in-between sets of the ensemble and combo.

The evening was filled with a variety of jazz pieces picked by the groups. Nick Giebel, a senior trumpet player from both bands, said picking their own music this year has helped. “We’re getting better at playing and we’re meshing more.”

The concert kicked off with a high-energy piece by Scott Stanton called “Adrenaline Attack”. Heavy drums by sophomore music major Peter Krutschnitt helped get the band rolling. “We blended together really well tonight. Our practice paid off.”

One of the best pieces of the evening was Mike Smukal’s slower swing piece “Goodbye My Heart” which was played during the first set. Director Marshall Kimball announced that the band was dedicating the performance of the piece in the memory of Kathryn Booth, a long time supporter of the music program at Marietta. Giebel played the trumpet solo and Casey Mercer, grandson of Booth, played the alto saxophone solo.

Dr. Jean Scott, president of Marietta College, was in attendance at the event. Although Scott is not a musician herself, she often attends concerts held by the
music department. “I never played on a team or in an ensemble like this and I believe I really missed out. This teaches people about teamwork and how working together a lot can be achieved.”

Krutschnitt agreed about the teamwork aspect of playing in any musical group. “Everyone learns about teamwork. I’ve even learned a lot about leadership by keeping everything together through how I play drums. It’s an awesome experience.

The Jazz Ensemble is in its fourth year. It was formed shortly after the arrival of Kimball. There are music majors and non-music majors alike in both groups. The Jazz Combo features musicians from the Jazz Ensemble. The groups’ next appearance will be December 4 at 7:30 PM on Fenton Court for the annual Holiday Concert.