



SJZ HIGH SCHOOL ALL STARS (HSAS) BIG BAND AND U19s COMBO 2019-20 FAQ

What is the High School All Stars program?

The SJZ High School All Stars is a regional, audition-based music education program for advanced music students who want to engage in the study and performance of jazz. The program includes a large ensemble and a combo. It's designed to help students achieve a mastery of performance and improvisation techniques while advancing their knowledge of music theory, arranging, composition, performance, and jazz history. The program is under the direction of Dr. Aaron Lington, professor of music and coordinator of the Jazz Studies Program at San José State University.

How long has San Jose Jazz and the High School All Stars been in existence?

San Jose Jazz was founded in 1986 and the High School All Stars was founded in 1997.

Who can participate?

In order to participate in the SJZ High School All Stars, each student must first audition with Dr. Aaron Lington. If accepted, each musician will need to commit to weekly rehearsals, and make themselves available for 5-8 concerts per year.

Competitive Audition

Students are selected through a competitive audition process conducted by Dr. Aaron Lington. The audition includes 1) sight-reading etude in the jazz idiom; 2) demonstrating knowledge of all 12 major scales; and 3) improvising on a 12-bar blues in F (optional). 18 to 22 musicians will be chosen for the big band.

What are the dates of the program?

- Saturday 10/12, 10am-2pm - Auditions
 - Auditions will take place in the office of Dr. Lington in the music building at San José State University (Music Dept. Room 109, Washington Square, San Jose [MAP](#))
- Wednesday 11/6, 7-9pm - First Rehearsal
 - Rehearsals will continue each Wednesday from 7-9pm thereafter.
- December - Concerts begin
- Saturday, 8/8/2020 - Final Concert at Summer Fest

What instruments will be included in the big band?

Piano/keyboard, bass, drums/percussion, guitar, saxophone, trombone, and trumpet but other instruments can be included (flute, oboe, vibes, vocals, etc).

What is the cost of participating in the program?

The cost of participating in the program is \$375 per year. This includes roughly 60 hours of rehearsals at San José State University with Dr. Lington, additional hours of rehearsal for those selected to participate in the combo, and hours of performing. All families are required to become members of San Jose Jazz. A limited number of scholarships are available for students who participate in the free or reduced lunch program at their school.

When does the large ensemble rehearse?

The large ensemble rehearses each Wednesday evening from 7-9pm.

When does the combo meet?

Those times and days will be determined. The combo is led by a graduate student, who reports to Dr. Lington, from SJSU's music department.

What is the U19s?

The U19s is a combo made up of the rhythm section from the big band (Drums, Bass, Piano, Guitar), along with a standout brass player to provide a melodic emphasis. The U19s will play an additional 5-10 concerts per year. Typically the combo members choose the repertoire for their breakout concerts, and are encouraged to write and perform their own original material.

How does one get into the combo?

If you are a rhythm section player in the High School All Stars Big Band, you will be automatically included in the U19s Combo.

Communication

The High School All Stars and their parents receive information in a number of ways: from Dr. Lington at rehearsals; emails from San Jose Jazz All Stars coordinator, Scott Fulton; on the High School All Stars webpage located on the San Jose Jazz website.

What other San Jose Jazz education and outreach programs exist?

Information about all of the other programs can be found on the San Jose Jazz website. The two most significant programs for High School All Stars are Summer Jazz Camp and the San Jose Jazz Summer Fest Next Gen Stage.

- **Summer Jazz Camp** is a two-week learning lab for talented and committed middle and high school music students with backgrounds that range from intermediate to the pre-professional level. Students learn from professional musicians/educators and collaborate with young people from throughout the Greater Bay Area and beyond. Students engage in daylong immersion into all aspects of jazz including music theory, ear training, rhythm classes, and various levels and styles of improvisation. Each student is placed into a small ensemble and a big band, and select advanced level students have an opportunity to participate in the Latin Jazz Big Band or the Summer Jazz Camp 'A' band which focuses on playing the repertoire of historically important Jazz composers such as Duke Ellington,

Buddy Rich, John Clayton, Thad Jones and more. One combo is selected to open the Main Stage on Sunday at the annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest.

- **In-School Master Classes** provide visits from teaching artists from our Summer Jazz Camp, who visit local schools to enrich their jazz programs with professional tips and experience.
- **Progressions** is a research-based, K-12, youth development program that uses a rigorous music education program to connect with low-income, at-risk students during and after school, and on weekends. The program is focused on engaging students in a high quality music education program and keeping participants in school, out of gangs, and on the road to becoming better students and contributing citizens. In 2018-19 the program serves more than 1,000 students in the Franklin-McKinley School District.
- **The Next Gen Stages** at our Summer and Winter Fests invest in the future of jazz and live music in Silicon Valley by providing performance opportunities for some of the most talented youth musicians in Northern California and beyond.
- SJZ produces **Community Engagement Events** throughout the year, including hands-on music activities, ensembles and lectures. We're currently piloting SoundPainting, an activity that connects music making with digital culture.
- The **SJZ Boom Box Stage**—Shaped from a converted box truck, the Boom Box is a self-contained mobile stage we roll out to parks, community centers and street corners, bringing live music to underserved neighborhoods and events throughout the Bay Area.