Jazz Festival Brings Together Students, Artists and Educators

CSM’s 18th annual Jazz Festival on November 21, showcased performances by some of the most talented high school musicians in the Bay Area. Eighteen schools participated and approximately 600 students, parents and teachers attended. The festival featured Grammy-nominated pianist and composer Taylor Eigsti who performed and conducted a performance workshop, “Talking Music with Taylor Eigsti.” According to Professor of Music and festival coordinator Mike Galisatus, “In addition to being a world-class performer, Taylor is an outstanding educator and very welcoming to the students and teachers in attendance.”

The primary focus of CSM’s festival is to provide an educational experience for the participants that they would be unlikely to receive at their own schools. The performances and workshops create a positive learning environment and one of collegiality and friendship among the students and directors. It is because of this philosophy that it is a non-competitive event. The event draws some major names in the jazz education world as the adjudicators, including CSM alum Dr. Gregory Yasinitsky, director of music and regents professor at Washington State University. Each participating band received an individual workshop by one of the adjudicators immediately after their performance.

The Stanford Jazz Workshop generously sponsored all this year’s clinic sessions and awarded a full tuition scholarship to its summer camp for one of the high school participants.
Feedback from adjudicators and high school music teachers was impressive. Among the comments received:

First rate clinics, post performance feedback, judges comments are all what we came for...plus a chance to hear some great bands. Once again the CSM Jazz Festival delivers all that and more. —Bill Tolles, Woodside Jazz Band

Thanks for running such a great festival. I know my kids got a lot out of it. I only spring my kids from classes a few times a year, but this is definitely one of them...I wouldn’t miss the CSM Jazz Festival for any reason. —Doug Minor, Mills High School

Thanks again for another tremendous festival. The CSM festival is always one of the highlights of the school year. The Taylor Eigsti concert was fabulous and very inspiring. My students were so pumped up after the festival that when we returned to Carlmont, they started to jam and didn’t want to go home. This is certainly a testament to the positive vibes that they received from the festival. —John DaBaldo, Carlmont High School

Thanks SO MUCH for a wonderful, beautifully run festival. Your festival is the best and I am proud to be part of it. —Greg Yasinitsky, University of Washington

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Addresses Human Rights Abuses

On Tuesday, November 25, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Stanford Professor Adam Johnson appeared in conversation with Professor Tim Maxwell to discuss his novel The Orphan Master’s Son, human rights, and the grim situation in North Korea. Sponsored by the ASCSM, DIAG, and Alpha Gamma Sigma, the event was well attended by students and faculty alike. One student, Mary Granados reflected afterwards, “Johnson brought attention and awareness to the entire audience of how
we should never take freedom for granted. After he illustrated the lack of freedom in another country so vividly, I now have a new appreciation for my freedom.” Cody Bustos of Alpha Gamma Sigma performed an original spoken word piece before the ASCSM-sponsored lunch. Outside the Theatre, student posters decrying human rights abuses in North Korea drew the attendees even deeper into the horrors of the country Johnson has brought to life in his novel. Johnson wrote in an email, “It was a great event, one I was honored to join in.” He has said he would like to come again. We shall welcome him. (Article contributed by Tim Maxwell)

Photography Exhibit by CSM Art Students

An exhibition of black and white photographs by CSM photography students is currently on display in the Bayview Dining Room of College Center through January 4. These images are examples of the high-quality work produced in CSM’s traditional and digital photography courses.

The exhibit included the following photographs:

• “Self Portrait with Buster Keaton’s Hat” by Samuel Yearout
• “Veil” and “Contemplation” by Cheryl Strong
• “Emerge” by Martha Ketterer
• “Sugah Betes” by Linda Barsotti
• “Sailors on Leave, San Francisco” and – “Café Saint-Régis, Paris” by Mary Scarpetti
• “Shadows” by Chris Brown
• “Untitled” by Mehran Massoumi
• “Nature’s Many Splendors” by Jerry Barrack

Samuel Yearout describes the inspiration for his “Self Portrait with Buster Keaton’s Hat” (seen in photo)

Buster Keaton’s movies and images delight me so much that I’m forced to do something about it. Here, I’m trying to understand his persona from the inside out. I learned that Keaton’s most iconic prop, the flattened gray felt hat, was his own invention. Throughout his career, he fashioned hundreds of these hats from regular fedoras. After a little trial and error, I made my own for this self-portrait.  

Photo by Samuel Yearout
CSM’s November 26th Flex Day, had a good pre-Thanksgiving turnout for flex activities; there were 53 signups and about 20 participants per activity. The day kicked off with an early morning hike up the new trail on Sugarloaf Mountain, in San Mateo Sugarloaf Open Space and Laurelwood City Park. Biology professors Huy Tran and Kathy Diamond led the group, noting features of the flora and fauna along the way. Biology adjunct Catherine Creech identified fungi as well. Diamond reports that “CSM students have worked with the Trail Center as volunteers, including on the Sugarloaf trail. This could be a great place for CSM faculty, staff and students to enjoy the college’s neighborhood open space while volunteering in the community on future trails.”

The hike was followed by the workshop “Attending to the Social Dimension: Build Academic Identity through Peer Interactions,” facilitated by Theresa Martin and Santiago Perez from the Biology Department. Participants learned about the benefits of group work, and identified key design elements when planning a group activity. They finished by having teams design a group activity for a class. The workshop brought together faculty from diverse disciplines, including adjuncts, many of whom had never met each other.

Lastly, for those faculty and staff who were not able to attend an on-site workshop, there was a series of three pedagogy training modules in an online format, facilitated by Alexis Alexander, instructional designer. (Content contributed by Theresa Martin and Kathy Diamond)
Celebrating Puente Students and Families

On November 20, CSM’s Puente Project held its third annual “Noche de Familia,” an event for our students and their parents which recognizes the academic journey our students are embarking upon. Because so many Puentistas are first generation college students, Noche is designed to inform their families of the Puente mission and to help them better understand the educational process. Noche also allows parents to meet other Puente families and students who share the same educational goals and informs families of ways in which they can support their children/siblings as they work towards an A.A. degree and transfer.

“Noche de Familia” was well attended, with over 90 guests, including current Puente students and their families, CSM administrators, faculty, and staff, and former Puentistas who shared words of wisdom with our current cohort. After an orientation for the parents and the students’ family members, Puente cohort presented their affirmation, a student-generated “mission statement”:

“We the Puente class of 2014-15 give our palabra to not give up on each other and to fulfill our sueños. With the support of our familias, we pledge to go beyond society’s expectations, to achieve transfer, and to inspire others, que con ganas, si se puede!”

The evening concluded with an open mic discussion in which both students and their parents shared ideas of how family members can best support the Puentistas as they pursue their academic goals. The sentiment shared by all was that with the support of their families and their CSM familia, our students’ dreams of achieving a degree in higher education are not only possible but probable and within reach. (Article contributed by Jon Kitamura)
Bulldogs Rule in Bothman Bowl

CSM’s football team wrapped up the 2014 season with a 30-20 victory over Laney College in the Bothman Bulldog Bowl. The State No. 7 ranked Bulldogs (9-2) set a college record, holding No. 18 Laney (6-5) to minus 45 yards rushing, and recorded ten sacks, led by the games’ Most Valuable Player Mosa Likio. Since the Bulldogs Bowl was first held in 2005, CSM has been undefeated in all nine games.

Kudos

CSM Honors Project student Divyashish (Divi) Kumar had his paper published in the online journal of the Bay Honors Consortium. His article, titled, “The Real Cost of Time: An Analysis of Acceleration on Fuel Emissions” studied the effects of acceleration on fuel emissions and implications for aggressive drivers. He presented the paper at the Honors Research Symposium held at UC Berkeley earlier this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSM Holiday Reception</td>
<td>Thursday, December 11</td>
<td>1–3 pm</td>
<td>Building 17, Room 112, Office of Student Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSM Electronic Music Concert</td>
<td>Thursday, December 11</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>CSM Theatre, Building 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Project Forum</td>
<td>Friday, December 12</td>
<td>3–5 pm</td>
<td>College Center, College Heights Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choreography Showcase</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 17</td>
<td>12 -1:30 pm</td>
<td>CSM Theatre, Building 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSM Basketball - CSM Invitational Tournament</td>
<td>December 19–21</td>
<td>All Day Event</td>
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Student Success Story: Sarah Funes

UC Berkeley, Political Science

After living in South San Francisco most of her life, Sarah Funes says she “craved the sun and a different point of view.” Which led her to attend CSM with the goal of transferring to UC Berkeley.” I knew I would be there longer than two years because I really struggle with math. My strategy was to complete the UC requirements and take advantage of the many resources that CSM offers.” She benefitted from services in EOPS and DSPS programs and participated in many activities hosted by Transfer Services. Sara received extra help in her courses by meeting with her professors during their office hours. “The sessions with my professors were life changing because they cared about me as a person rather than a name on a class roster. I also spent time in the Writing Center and Math Lab and found the people working there very helpful. Those labs really saved me!”

Sarah was pleasantly surprised by the relationships she forged with faculty, staff and the administration, including the college president. “I found that Mike Claire had an easy going nature and real commitment to students.”

“My advice to prospective students would be: attending a community college can set you up for success, and CSM is one of the best community colleges in California. The staff and faculty care and want you to succeed. With hard work you can make your dreams come true! It worked for me… as I am now attending my dream university this fall. GO BEARS!”

As a post script to Sarah’s story, she is making an impact at Berkeley. On October 28, the UC Berkeley NewsCenter, the University’s daily e-newsletter, featured Sarah in a story titled “Hell-bent on getting out the vote.” The story describes her efforts to mobilize people, especially those from minority groups, to become engaged in the electoral process. She traces her political passion to being “Latin, a woman and disabled…. I want my culture to be represented. I want to elect people who look like me.” Through her involvement with UC Berkeley’s Public Service Center, Sarah joined the Andrew Goodman Foundation and served as a Vote Everywhere ambassador during the 2014 election. The full story can be read by visiting http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2014/10/28/hell-bent-on-getting-out-the-vote/