

Jazz Fest will mark 50th anniversary

January 2012 will mark the golden anniversary for the Clark College Jazz Festival.

The event hosts more than 60 middle school and high school vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles in a three-day celebration of jazz.

On Thursday, Jan. 26, the Clark College Jazz Festival Middle School Jazz Clinic begins at 8 a.m. with vocal jazz performances beginning at 1 p.m.

The Clark College Vocal Jazz Showcase will begin at 7 p.m. High school jazz ensemble preliminary competitions for the 2012 festival will take place on Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 27, the A

and AA division jazz bands will compete with AAA and AAAA jazz bands taking the stage on Saturday. Final competitions will begin at 7 p.m. every evening.

The Clark College Vocal Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Janet Reiter, will perform at 5 and 8 p.m. on Thursday, and the Clark College Jazz Ensemble under the direction of director of bands Richard Inouye, will perform at 11 a.m. on Thursday, noon and 8:30 p.m. on Friday, and noon on Saturday.

The 2011 Sweepstakes Band, Roosevelt High School I of Seattle, under the direction of Scott Brown, will hold the spotlight on Saturday evening at 9 p.m.

On Saturday evening of the festival, one band from the entire festival will be selected to receive the Sweepstakes Trophy.

The Clark College Golden Alumni Band will perform at 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday after the last high school performance in the afternoon.

The all-star big band will feature students from three generations of Clark band directors and will be a tribute to the legacy of the festival.

Another special event for this year's festival will be two jazz clinics presented by coordinator of jazz studies at Washington State University in Pullman and Clark alumni Dave Hagelanz.

These clinics will take place on Friday and Saturday morning at 10 a.m. in the Ellis F. Dunn Community Room in Gaiser Hall.

Admission is \$5 per day. Clark College students and children younger than age 12 accompanied by an adult will be admitted free of charge.

Clark College is located at 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Gaiser Hall is located on the northwest corner of the main campus on Fort Vancouver Way, between McLoughlin Boulevard and Fourth Plain Boulevard.

For additional information, visit www.clark.edu/special/jazz_festival.