

The Columbian

Weekend

and beyond

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Rated HG

Homegrown talent showcased
at Clark College Jazz Festival

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New CD 'very freeing'
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Bilmos brings taste of Philly
to the Pacific Northwest **PAGE F27**

Festival blows its own horn



JANET L. MATHEWS/The Columbian

The Clark County Jazz Ensemble, featuring bassist Evan Bastian of Washougal, will perform a variety of tunes, ranging from jazz to salsa to swing at the Clark College Jazz Festival.

Clark College's highly regarded jazz competition places emphasis on abundance of local talent

By MATT WASTRADOWSKI
Columbian staff writer

Before taking over as Clark College's director of bands in the spring, Richard Inouye had heard from other professors about how well-regarded the school's jazz program was because of its student musicians and its annual festival. If the school was so well-known, he wondered, why not showcase its own talent?

The answer to that question shaped this year's edition of the Clark College Jazz Festival, which wraps up Jan. 25-26. Fans of the festival already know to expect more than 50 bands and vocal ensembles from Pacific Northwest high schools, each performing in quick succession. The bands compete in four divisions, based on the size of their school, and they each have less than a half-hour to make a mark. The vocal jazz competitions took place Jan. 24, leaving the instrumental bands to compete Jan. 25-26.

It's the headline events that will be a departure from years past for festival regulars.

High-profile musicians such as saxophonist John Handy used to be the festival's main draw. The attractions this year are the homegrown groups. The Clark College Vocal Jazz Ensemble was featured Jan. 24, and shows by the Clark College Jazz Ensemble are Jan. 25-26.

The Jazz Ensemble will perform several pieces by jazz luminaries, including Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo," Count Basie's "Belly Roll" and Wayne Shorter's "Adam's Apple."

The festival is part of a four-concert series, called Jazz at Clark, that Inouye started this academic year with a per-

If you go

■ **What:** Clark College Jazz Festival.

■ **When:** Preliminary competitions began Jan. 24 and continue 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 25-26. Final competitions are at 7 each evening. The Clark College Jazz Ensemble performs at 12:20 p.m. Jan. 25-26 and 9 p.m. Jan. 25. Mountlake Terrace High School, which won top honors in the 2007 festival, performs at 9 p.m. Jan. 26.

■ **Where:** Clark College's Gaiser Hall, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver.

■ **Cost:** \$5, and free for Clark College students and children 11 and younger.

■ **Information:** 360-992-2662 or clark.edu.

formance in November.

For the third concert in the series, the Clark College Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Clark College Jazz Ensemble will celebrate Black History Month by performing a retrospective of material by Duke Ellington. Fans will get a sneak preview of material from that performance at the Jazz Festival.

The February concert will also feature an appearance by Ron Carter, a consultant with the Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington education program. Carter will introduce and discuss the pieces being performed.

The year's final performance, happening in May, features both ensembles, which will join forces on stage for the first time this year.

SCHEDULE OF CLARK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND PERFORMANCES

Woodland High School, with Boris Pekarsky directing, 8:40 a.m. Jan. 25.

Union High School, with Robert Sullens directing, 9:20 a.m. Jan. 25.

Washougal High School, with Bryn Walker directing, 10:20 a.m. Jan. 25.

Ridgefield High School, with Phillip Scamahorn and Caroline Chaparro directing, 10:40 a.m. Jan. 25.

Washougal High School, with Kelly Ritter

directing, 2 p.m. Jan. 25.

Union High School, with Lewis Norfleet directing, 2:20 p.m. Jan. 25.

Hockinson High School, with Mike Leone and Al Aldridge directing, 3 p.m. Jan. 25.

Ridgefield High School, with Phillip Scamahorn directing, 3:40 p.m. Jan. 25.

Battle Ground High School, with Evan Irwin directing, 8:20 a.m. Jan. 26.

Prairie High School, with Joe Accuardi directing, 9:20 a.m. Jan. 26.

Evergreen High School, with Danny Orrantia directing, noon Jan. 26.

Battle Ground High School, with Greg McKelvey directing, 2:20 p.m. Jan. 26.

Mountain View High School, with Sam Ormson directing, 3:40 p.m. Jan. 26.

Skyview High School, with Steve Robertson directing, 4:20 p.m. Jan. 26.