



# NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Novato High School and Middle School Students Shine at Jazz Festival

(Novato, CA)... Novato students excelled at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Cruz Jazz Festival on March 21, with three out of four Marin School of the Arts (MSA) at Novato High School Jazz Bands and San Jose Middle School Jazz Band I each earning Command Performances; the encore concert of groups that earned unanimous superior ratings from all judges.

Over 50 MSA students participated in the festival, which draws jazz bands from middle schools to colleges from across the west coast and beyond. MSA Jazz Bands I, II and III received unanimous superior scores, earning each a spot in the evening's Command Performance - a first in MSA history. MSA Jazz Band IV also scored high, with 3 out of 4 superior scores. MSA Jazz Combos also participated, with three combos participating in their first-ever jazz festival. MSA Combos I, II and III each scored unanimous superior ratings.

Under the direction of Benedetta Dalbessio, San Jose Intermediate School presented two jazz bands in the festival, with SJMS Band I earning unanimous superior scores and a command performance and SJMS Band II scoring high as well.

Students from both schools also earned numerous awards for solo performances. In addition, MSA's Adam Miller was awarded a scholarship to the Berkeley College of Music summer program for his outstanding work on trombone. Jackson Torchon, baritone saxophone, and Tristan Mitchell, alto saxophone, received the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival Award of Excellence for outstanding musicianship.

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