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ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ MACHINE TAKES 2nd PLACE AT THE 2018 MID-ATLANTIC JAZZ FESTIVAL!

LaGrangeville, NY - The Arlington High School Jazz Machine has successfully participated in many different jazz festivals all over the east coast. This year, the Jazz Machine was looking for a new opportunity. After 20 years of success at the Berklee Jazz Festival in Boston, the Jazz Machine made their first appearance at the 9th Annual Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival in Rockville, Maryland. The festival takes place over 3 days, from Feb. 16-18, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center in Rockville. In addition to performances all weekend long by professional, college, high school, and middle school jazz ensembles, there are also clinics, master classes, jam sessions, and performances by some of the biggest names in jazz today.

The first Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival (MAJF) was launched in 2010 by the Jazz Academy of Music, Inc., a Maryland non-profit organization, whose mission is to advance and preserve jazz music through education and outreach. The MAJF's three day event has been a huge success, with attendance of thousands of jazz lovers each year. Attendees are comprised of listeners, educators, students, parents and musicians. Attendees travel to the festival from points all along the Mid-Atlantic seaboard and beyond. The MAJF showcases local and touring jazz artists of traditional genres. Also showcased are the gospel and blues genres that are primary influences of jazz music. One of the most important aspects of the festival is the focus on the education of young musicians. The MAJF programming consists of 3 days of jazz music performances by some of the top musicians in the country, which have included artist like Ellis Marsalis, Roy Haynes, Delfeayo Marsalis, Jimmy Heath, Mulgrew Miller, Bobby Watson, Terrell Stafford and Wycliffe Gordon, Joel Frahm, and Buster Williams. In addition, the event has an educational component that include master classes, film screenings and interviews in front of a live audience with some of the more popular performing artists.

In the high school band competition, 16 bands from 8 different states in the mid-Atlantic region performed in a day-long preliminary round on Saturday, Feb 17, beginning at 8am and finishing around 5pm. The bands performed for a panel of top jazz educators and performers and received written and verbal feedback. The top 3 ensembles are then selected to move on to perform the finals that evening. The Arlington Jazz Machine not only finished in the top 3 in the preliminary round, but went on to be named the 2nd place winner in the finals round.

The 16 schools that participated in the preliminary round (in order of appearance) were:

Thomas S. Wootton High School Jazz Band (MD)
Columbia Heights Educational Campus Latin Jazz Ensemble (DC)
Newark Academy "Chameleon" Jazz Band (NJ)
Arlington High School Jazz Machine (NY)
Lexington High School Jazz Ensemble (MA)
Winston Churchill High School Jazz Ensemble (MD)
Cape Henlopen High School Jazz Ensemble (DE)
Suitland CVPA Jazz Ensemble (MD)
Susan E Wagner High School Jazz Band (NY)
Walter Johnson High School Jazz Ensemble (MD)
Bethesda Chevy Chase High School Jazz Band (MD)
Walt Whitman High School Jazz Ensemble (MD)
Yorktown High School Big Band (VA)
Jefferson High School Big Band (WV)
Lower Moreland High School Jazz Ensemble (PA)
Washington-Lee Jazz Big Band (VA)

The top 3 finalist bands were Lower Moreland High School Jazz Ensemble (PA) in 3rd, the Arlington Jazz Machine in 2nd, and the Newark Academy Jazz Ensemble in 1st place. The Jazz Machine performed three musical selections, each of which varied greatly in style. The performance opened with the up-tempo "Tribute to Chick Webb", followed by "Rhapsody in Blue", as performed by the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and a contemporary piece titled "Apollo's Reel", by Tom Molter.

The Arlington students who are members of the Jazz Machine are:

Emma Bailie, Matthew Catron, Aidan Davidson, Sean Foley, Alexander Gray, Nicholas Grippo, TJ Hansen, Daniel Isak, Helena Lent, Ariana LoBrutto, Tyler Locke, Laurel Mangelsdorf, Nick Salomone, Michael Santiago, Ema Schwartz, Eric Waters and Brian Wu.

The Jazz Machine is under the direction of Richard Guillen, Arlington High School director of bands and music department coordinator.

For more information on the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival visit <https://www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org>, and to follow the Arlington Jazz Machine on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/ArlingtonJazzMachine.

Pictures of the Arlington High School Jazz Machine at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival



The Arlington High School Jazz Machine, pictured above, performing in the preliminary round of the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival



The Arlington High School Jazz Machine, pictured above, performing in the finals of the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival



The Arlington High School Jazz Machine pictured above, in front of the Lincoln Memorial