

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ MACHINE TAKES 1st PLACE AT THE 2019 MID-ATLANTIC JAZZ FESTIVAL!

LaGrangeville, NY - The Arlington HS Jazz Machine returned to Rockville, MD to participate in the 10th annual Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival High School Big Band Competition on Feb. 16, 2019. After an exciting 2nd place finish in 2018, the Jazz Machine was eager to return to the festival looking to achieve another successful appearance. 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.

In the high school big band competition, 14 bands from 7 different states from around the mid-Atlantic region performed in a day-long preliminary round on Saturday, Feb 16, beginning at 8am and finishing around 4pm. The bands performed for a panel of top jazz educators and musicians 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 was selected as one of the top 3 finalists to move on to the evening finals round. Saxophone and Clarinet soloist Alex Gray was awarded one of two the Outstanding Overall Soloists Awards for woodwinds for his solo work in the performance. Each finalist band is asked to perform 2 of the 3 prelims selections of their choice for the evening's competition. **At the conclusion of the three finalists performances in the finals competition that evening, the Jazz Machine was awarded with a 1st Place finish!**

The 14 schools that participated in the preliminary round (in order of appearance) were:

Baltimore School of the Arts (MD), Wakefield HS (VA), TC Williams HS (VA), Suitland HS (MD), Jefferson HS (WV), Walter Johnson HS (MD), Cape Henlopen HS (DEL), Bethesda Chevy Chase HS (MD), Walt Whitman HS (MD), Yorktown HS (VA), Washington Lee HS (VA), Arlington HS (NY), Lower Moreland HS (PA), Newark Academy (NJ)

The top 3 finalist bands were the Washington Lee HS Big Band from Virginia (3rd place), the Lower Moreland HS Jazz Ensemble from Pennsylvania (2nd place), and the Arlington HS Jazz Machine in 1st place.

The Jazz Machine performed three musical selections, each of which varied greatly in style. Those program selections were:

STRAIGHT, NO CHASER by Thelonious Monk/arranged by John LaBarbera

Soloists were: Michael Santiago, Drums; Tyler Locke, Alto Sax; Alex Gray, Tenor Sax; Eric Waters, Tenor Sax; Dan Isak, Trumpet

SUNSET AND THE MOCKINGBIRD by Duke Ellington/transcribed by David Berger

Soloists were: Brian Wu, Piano; Alex Gray, Clarinet; Tyler Locke, Alto Sax

LIBERTANGO by Astor Piazzolla/arranged by Fred Sturm
Soloists were: Alex Gray, Clarinet; Eric Waters, Tenor Sax

The members of the 2019 Arlington Jazz Machine are:

Nicholas Alvarez, Ryan Baker, Todd Caputo, Aidan Davidson, Caleb Duden, Alex Gray, Nicholas Grippo, Thomas Hansen, Daniel Isak, Ethan Laferriere, Helena Lent, Tyler Locke, Christian Mandel, Cole Quinby, Michael Santiago, Aidan Sears, Eric Waters, 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.