

Press Release - February 21, 2023 - For Immediate Release

For Information Contact: Rich Guillen, Jazz Machine Director, at 486-4860, ext. 31136 or rguillen@acsdcny.org

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ MACHINE TAKES 1st PLACE AT THE 2023 MID-ATLANTIC JAZZ FESTIVAL!

LaGrangeville, NY - **The Arlington HS Jazz Machine was once again crowned the winner of the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival High School Jazz Band Competition!** The Jazz Machine returned to Rockville, MD to once again participate in the MAJF on Feb. 18, 2023. The Jazz Machine had also previously performed in the MAJF in 2018 (taking 2nd place), 2019 (taking 1st place) and 2020 (taking 2nd place). The Jazz Machine was eager to return to the competition after the Covid-19 pandemic paused the festival in 2021. In 2022, the festival was back but was non-competitive, and the Jazz Machine performed at the event in the spirit of the festival's 2021 slogan, "Real Jazz Is Back!". The festival takes place over 3 days, this year from Feb. 17-19, 2023 at the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center in Rockville, MD. In addition to performances all weekend long by professional Jazz musicians and college & high school Jazz ensembles, there are also clinics, master classes, jam sessions, and performances by some of the biggest names in Jazz.

In the high school big band competition, 12 bands from 5 different states from around the mid-Atlantic region performed in a day-long preliminary round on Saturday, Feb 18, beginning at 9am and finishing around 4pm. The bands performed for a panel of top jazz educators and musicians. Performers then received written and verbal feedback from the adjudicators. The top 3 ensembles were 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. Bass soloist Owen St. Onge was awarded one of the three Outstanding Overall Soloists Awards 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 the 1st Place trophy!**

The 12 schools that participated in the preliminary round (in order of appearance) were:

Susan E Wagner HS (NY), Bullis High School (MD), Richard Montgomery High School (MD), Marriotts Ridge High School (MD), Cape Henlopen (DE), Walt Whitman High School (MD), Winston Churchill High School (MD), Bethesda Chevy Chase High School (MD), Jefferson High School (WV), Walter Johnson High School (MD), Lower Moreland High School (PA), Arlington High School (NY).

The top 3 finalist bands were the Winston Churchill High School Jazz Ensemble from Maryland (3rd place), the Lower Moreland HS Jazz Ensemble from Pennsylvania (2nd place), and the Arlington High School Jazz Machine in 1st place.

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

STRIKE UP THE BAND by George & Ira Gershwin, Arranged by Sammy Nestico
Soloists were Deacon Sawyer, Tenor Sax & Will McDonald, Drums

SEPIA PANORAMA by Duke Ellington
Soloists were Owen St. Onge, Bass; Jessica McGuire, Trombone; Josh Buessem, Trumpet; Gabe Kennedy, Bari Sax; Kelvin Dong, Piano

I REMEMBER CLIFFORD by Benny Golson
Soloist was Patrick Tirch, Trumpet

NUTVILLE by Horace Silver
Soloists were Deacon Sawyer, Tenor Sax; Gabe Kennedy, Bari Sax; Philip Ouma, Trumpet; Max Labouseur, Trumpet; Logan Purcell, Trumpet; Josh Buessem, Trumpet; Will McDonald, Drums

The members of the 2023 Arlington Jazz Machine are:

Josh Buessem, Kelvin Dong, Logan Duffy, Patrick Grady, Charles Haight, Jameson Hanna, Gabe Kennedy, Max Labouseur, Will McDonald, Jessica McGuire, Arsenjy Nechaev, Philip Ouma, Logan Purcell, Deacon Sawyer, Owen St Onge, Patrick Tirch, Sebastian Woods-DeLeon, and Aaron Wrafter

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

For more information on the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival visit <https://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 2023 MAJF are in the document below and many more can be found [IN THE FOLDER LINKED HERE!](#)



[OTHER PHOTOS AT THE FOLDER LINKED HERE](#)

