



News Release

January 11, 2006

Surrey School District stages Western Canada's largest educational jazz event

For the 24th year, the Surrey School District is hosting the Envision Jazz Festival, bringing together top student musicians from the Pacific Northwest, along with world-class professional jazz artists.

Canada's largest and longest-running educational jazz festival, the Surrey School District event showcases 2,500 secondary school jazz musicians over three days. The students, from grades eight through 12, perform and compete in six jazz categories and are evaluated by professional adjudicators.

The Envision Jazz Festival takes place February 2, 3, and 4. Daytime events are held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel (104 Ave @ 152 St.) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and are free of charge.

In the evening, events move to the elegant Bell Performing Arts Centre, where audiences will hear the student choirs and bands picked as the best from the daytime showcase, along with the finest professional Canadian jazz artists. Awards and scholarships are also presented during each of the evening performances.

At 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 2, Toronto's hottest new vocal sensation, **Cadence** takes the stage at the Bell. Four men, four microphones – unbelievable sounds! Come and see why **Cadence** took home first place and "Audience Favourite" at the Harmony Sweepstakes in New York in 2003.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, audiences will delight in the hot Cuban rhythms and soaring soprano saxophone of Canadian jazz superstar, **Jane Bunnett and Band**.

Saturday evening's show will feature our all-star **Adjudicator's Combo** with festival adjudicators, special guests and award-winning student soloists under the direction of one of North America's finest saxophonist, Campbell Ryga.

Tickets for the 24th Annual Envision Jazz Festival are available now for \$15 for adults and \$10 for students for the evening concerts. For tickets and more information, please call (604) 507-6355 or visit www.envisionjazzfestival.com.

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