



News Release

February 2, 2007

Surrey School District's jazz festival celebrates 25th anniversary

For the 25th year, the Surrey School District is hosting the Envision Jazz Festival, Canada's largest and longest-running educational jazz event. The festival brings together top student musicians from the Pacific Northwest, along with world-class professional jazz artists.

The Surrey School District event showcases 2,500 secondary school jazz musicians over three days. This year, the festival boasts participation from 38 schools, with over 100 performing ensembles. The students, from Grades 8 through 12, perform and compete in six jazz categories and are evaluated by professional adjudicators.

The Envision Jazz Festival takes place February 8, 9 and 10. Daytime events are held at the Sheraton-Vancouver Guildford Hotel (104 Ave. @ 152 St.) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and are free of charge. Free noon hour concerts include performances by jazz vocalist **Jennifer Scott**, recording artist **Gabriel Hasselbach**, as well as the family based jazz group, **3 Storys High**.

In the evening, events move to the elegant Bell Performing Arts Centre (64 Ave. @ 144 St.), where audiences will hear the student choirs and bands picked as the best from the daytime showcase, along with the finest professional jazz artists. Awards and scholarships are also presented during each of the evening performances.

On the evening of Thursday, February 8, **The Seattle Jazz Singers** take the stage at the Bell. Led by Frank DeMiero, this is one of the newest and most exciting vocal groups on the scene today.

On Friday, February 9, audiences will be amazed by the churning beat, driving organ and tight horn parts of **Dr. Lonnie Smith with the Cory Weeds Quartet**. Funk gets dressed up with elements of swing and other good things to get the brain cells jumping!

Saturday evening's show will feature **The Surrey Alumni Big Band**, directed by festival founder Bob LaBonte and comprised of former district students and special guests.

Tickets for the 25th Annual Envision Jazz Festival are available in advance 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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