

Healdsburg High School Jazz Band – Past and Present  
June 4, 2008  
Raven Theater

The mission of the Healdsburg Jazz Festival (HJF) is to develop a greater appreciation of the American musical art form known as jazz. The objective is to educate students and adults through in-school and after-school programs, lectures and concerts in an effort to offer greater understanding and exposure to jazz.

This year as part of the Healdsburg Jazz Festival, we will be presenting a concert dedicated to featuring the current Healdsburg High School (HHS) Jazz Band plus alumni jazz band students. Students and community members will come together to celebrate and reflect upon the impact the HJF has had on jazz education in the schools. The program will help foster creation as the students prepare to perform a special, original composition by alumni jazz musician and jazz composer Sarah Wilson. This special concert will be a part of the 2008 Healdsburg Jazz Festival. The evening will also present the current HHS Jazz Band performing three pieces led by Randy Massalink and Khalil Shaheed.

One evening during the 2008 Healdsburg Jazz Festival, June 4 will be devoted to the Healdsburg High School Jazz Band – Past and Present. The evening will open with a group performance by jazz band alumni. Following the alumni performance, the current HHS Jazz Band will perform three pieces conducted by Randy Massalink and Khalil Shaheed. As the fourth piece, the HHS Jazz Band will perform the original composition by alumni Sarah Wilson. Sarah Wilson graduated from Healdsburg High School and the HHS Jazz Band in 1986 and has gone on to become a successful jazz musician and composer. See bio below. The evening will close with a performance by Sarah Wilson's Quintet, the "Trapeze Project" with special guest Myra Melford.

Prior to the concert, Sarah Wilson will conduct four jazz music workshops with the HHS Jazz Band. During these workshops, Sarah will teach the band to play one of her original compositions, to be performed during the Healdsburg Jazz Festival. Workshops will include one on one instruction for student musicians, rehearsals of Sarah's original jazz composition, and instruction on improvising. Khalil Shaheed and the Oaktown Jazz workshop will conduct three additional workshops to help the HHS Jazz Band members hone their improvising skills and help prepare them to play three jazz compositions for their featured part of the evening.

Sarah Wilson will begin work with HHS Jazz Band in March 2008, and meet monthly through May. Oaktown Jazz Workshops will be held from March until May also working with the Jazz Band during this time. The final concert will be a featured part of the 2008 Healdsburg Jazz festival to occur during the first week of June. The evening will include a four part concert.

#### Concert program schedule

Part 1 - The alumni group will perform together with as many past graduates from the jazz band as possible.

Part 2 – The current HHS Jazz Band will play three pieces led by Randy Massalink and Khalil Shaheed.

Part 3 – The HHS Jazz Band will perform the original composition by Sarah Wilson.

Part 4 – The Sarah Wilson Group will perform as the closing number.

The concert will realize our mission of developing greater appreciation of jazz as students and community members are exposed to professional jazz musicians and by demonstrating the success of our educational outreach over the past 10 years. The project will bring music into the Healdsburg community, encourage an appreciation for jazz, and illustrate to students the benefits and importance of learning to play music.

This concert addresses the current lack of awareness in Healdsburg of the importance of music and arts to a student's personal development and demonstrates how music education is applicable to the lives of students after graduation. HHS students will see the level of success possible through music. The evening will recognize the accomplishments of Randy Massalink and his work with the HHS Jazz Band, as well as the many contributions that the Healdsburg Jazz Festival has made to the schools over the past decade.

The concert will be a recognition of the history and success of the Healdsburg High School Jazz Band and ties together all activities in an effort to highlight the joy of jazz and the benefit of jazz education in the Healdsburg area schools.

The concert will involve close to 200 students and 200 adult community members in a variety of ways. 30 current HHS Jazz Band members will perform along with The Sarah Wilson Project plus approximately 12 alumni students. Other students will participate as audience members. The ticket price will be set at a modest rate as to encourage community attendance and student discount tickets will be available. Admission will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. We anticipate approximately 150 students and 200 adults will attend this concert.

#### BIOGRAPHY OF SARAH WILSON

Composer/trumpeter/singer Sarah Wilson is being hailed as "one of the most intriguing and promising composers and trumpeters on the contemporary music scene" (Derk Richardson, *San Francisco Chronicle* online, sfgate.com.) *Time Out New York* describes her music as "evocative, elegant and comfortably familiar at once."

Her 2006 Evander Music CD, *Music for an Imaginary Play*, featuring Peck Allmond (tenor sax), Steve Cardenas (guitar), Jerome Harris (bass) and Kenny Wollesen (drums), picked up a "Best in 2006 Bay Area Jazz CD's" accolade from music critic Andrew Gilbert who applauds her as a "a singular jazz artist with a tremendously evocative book of original material."

Known for her work as the musical director and composer of the Lincoln Center's Out of Doors Festival's annual giant puppet theater spectacle for six years, Wilson also directed music for internationally-acclaimed Bread and Puppet Theater. Additionally, she composed music for the American Museum of Natural History's "Body Art" exhibit including other film scoring projects. Her music has been performed in the U.S. and Europe with her own projects and those led by NYC drummer Kenny Wollesen. Wilson studied with John McNeil, Laurie Frink and Paul Caputo; received multiple funding from "Meet the Composer" grants, the McCord Foundation and the Irene Diamond Scholarship. As a trumpeter, she has performed with Butch Morris, Myra Melford, Kenny Wollesen and the Brazilian Girls. After 12 years in NYC, she currently resides in Berkeley, CA. Sarah graduated Healdsburg High School in 1986 and acknowledges Lou Sabrano (need correct spelling) the former high school jazz band teacher before Randy Massalink, as being very important in her decision to become a musician and composer.