



2018 OVERVIEW OF HEALDSBURG JAZZ MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE SCHOOLS

From its inception, Healdsburg Jazz has placed great emphasis on music education, on creating programs that expose youth to jazz's history and values. Jazz over the decades has demonstrated a singular capacity to bridge cultural gaps and bring people of diverse backgrounds together in a positive and productive atmosphere.

Healdsburg Jazz and area educators understand that jazz, with its simultaneous focus on individual creativity and group cooperation, reflects the American experience at its most profound and that the organization's music education programs instill in the community jazz's core values of respect, civility and collaboration. Providing the programs free of charge makes them readily available to everyone, including the county's lower socio-economic population, and advances Healdsburg Jazz's mission to have music serve as unifying force in an increasingly diverse region.

OPERATION JAZZ BAND (OJB) - YouTube Link http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbCE_ofXZT8

Operation Jazz Band, over the past 17 years has introduced thousands of grade 5 students to the living tradition of jazz by bringing professional musicians into their classrooms. Students learn about music in general, jazz in particular and are



encouraged to take up an instrument. These music education programs represent a vital service to constituents in an era when such curriculum has virtually disappeared from California classrooms.

Follow the link above to a short video we created about this successful program.

Professional musicians, led by Bay Area percussionist and educator *Babatunde Lea*, spend an intense week in six area schools. Two groups of musicians each visit three schools a day for consecutive days each spring, and all meet up at the Raven Theater for a fifth day of combined performance and engagement. Beginning

with percussion and continuing through rhythm, melody and vocals, every fifth grade student in the area learns about the history and fundamentals of jazz and the jazz band.

OJB classes provide positive, sophisticated and enjoyable opportunities for students to witness creative musical performances that boost cross-cultural understanding and learn about jazz, which has been a part of American music for a century. OJB helps students develop creative thinking and curiosity and stimulates cooperative class work.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Healdsburg Jazz expanded its capacity to serve its constituents in 2012 by creating a Black History Month program for students in grades 3-6. It is a four-part program that includes nine school lecture-demonstrations with a concert field trip and after school Student Choir and Band that will perform in front of their peers at the student concert.

Drawing on its ties to the Bay Area jazz community, the organization engaged bassist-composer Marcus Shelby to conduct Civil Rights-themed workshops at eight Healdsburg and Geyserville schools. Shelby blends music and other

media to present in-depth but accessible portraits of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman and other relevant themes, that empower students to fulfill their role in society's ongoing struggle for full equality.

Students have the opportunity to join a student choir. Under Shelby's direction, this ensemble of 20-30 voices learns a wide range of blues-based compositions over the course of three or four after-school rehearsals and perform them accompanied by professional musicians at the Raven Theater.



All participating schools attend a concert with music based on the theme of the current year, during the last week of February at the Raven Performing Arts Theater with Marcus Shelby Quintet and a special guest vocalist. The student choir is featured on stage as Shelby and his ensemble perform his jazz oratorio. Over 800 students participate in this program and for this reason there are two concerts

on this day.

STUDENT JAZZ COMBO COMPETITION – https://youtu.be/tC92J3_b5Qs

The latest addition to Healdsburg Jazz music education, the Student Jazz Combo Competition (SJCC) recruit's young musicians from across Sonoma County to form ensembles of up to six members to meet either in school or during the after-school hours to select and/or write material that reflects their personal vision of jazz. To support the creative process, SJCC provides to students the opportunity to work with professional musicians to address specific areas where the groups feel they need the most help, including arranging, rhythm and horn sections, and how best to incorporate vocals. SJCC's inaugural year culminates this April with the groups performing before family, friends and community members at a juried competition, with the top ensemble receiving \$1,000 and the opportunity to open for a Healdsburg Jazz Festival headliner.



SJCC represents an important contribution to Sonoma County education by providing the incentive and information students need to make the creative leap from reading charts in school bands and orchestras to understanding the exhilaration of jazz improvisation. Participants are empowered to make valuable contributions to the county's cultural and economic life while forming vital, supportive relationships with peers and adults that will strengthen leadership and interpersonal communications skills and foster life-building values.

MARCUS SHELBY ORCHESTRA AND THE FREEDOM JAZZ CHOIR.

Lift Every Voice and Sing: Uplifting Freedom Songs and Spirituals will be an educational concert presented at the 2018 Healdsburg Jazz Festival on June 10. *Lift Every Voice and Sing* will be a free community concert featuring the 20-piece Marcus Shelby Orchestra, the 100-voice Freedom Jazz Choir and guest performers James Newton and Ruth Naomi Floyd presenting a program celebrating music's capacity to serve as unifying force in a diverse society.



Over the past 19 years Healdsburg Jazz has emerged as one of Sonoma County's leading performing arts and music education organizations by developing effective outreach strategies to forge mutually beneficial relationships with the region's diverse communities. From its inception Healdsburg Jazz has provided engaging and accessible performance and music education programs to grow its audience and further instill jazz's core values of respect, civility and cooperation in Sonoma County. Healdsburg Jazz will build on those connections to maximize the number of people in the Sonoma County region attending and participating in "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The nation's deepening polarization makes it more important than ever that Americans embrace their shared values in order to reach across the cultural divide and work together to address our most pressing social problems. Music is a unique art form that brings community members together in a shared performance opportunity.

With this program of uplifting freedom songs and spirituals, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* will celebrate the strength of unity and diversity while advancing Healdsburg Jazz's mission to have music serve as a unifying force in our diverse region. Bay Area bassist-composer-historian Marcus Shelby is an in demand performer and educator, and has received acclaim for blending original and traditional compositions with a variety of other media to create full-scale jazz oratorios and accessible school workshops that provide for audiences a spirited and engaging examination of music's vital role in bringing people together. Shelby will fully utilize that background in selecting the compositions for *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. He will also direct the 20 professional musicians in his orchestra and collaborate with guest artists composer/flautist James Newton and vocalist Ruth Naomi Floyd. Vocalist and assistant choir director Tiffany Austin will assist Shelby in rehearsals of the Freedom Jazz Choir.

Shelby and Austin will meet with the ensemble for four, three-hour Saturday afternoon rehearsals to prepare for the choir for this special concert to be presented on June 10 as part of the Healdsburg Jazz Festival 20th Anniversary Celebration. These sessions will include in-depth socio-musicology studies of American history and diversity; mastering the program of freedom songs and spirituals that comprises "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*"; and learning essential performance skills. Through this process The Freedom Jazz Choir will uplift and empower participants as they explore the social themes underlying the selected music.

Established in 2013, the Freedom Jazz Choir has emerged as one of Healdsburg Jazz's most successful music programs. Open to everyone free of charge and regardless of age, background and musical ability, the 100-voice ensemble provides to members ranging in age from 5 to 85 the opportunity to collaborate with acclaimed, professional musicians in rehearsing and performing educational and interactive music programs that explore American history, celebrate diversity's impact on the national identity and empowers artists and audiences to consider their role in society's ongoing effort to achieve full equality.

The choir was supported in its first two years by a James Irvine Foundation grant. The program proved so successful that Healdsburg Jazz budgeted education funds to sustain it for the next two years. The organization suspended the choir in 2017 to devote its resources to launching the countywide Student Jazz Combo Competition. With that program established, Healdsburg Jazz will revive the choir for a performance at the milestone 20th anniversary festival that will provide to both Freedom Jazz Choir and audience members the opportunity to experience a fulfilling cultural experience that celebrates music's power to bring people of different backgrounds in together in the most positive and constructive ways.

Lift Every Voice and Sing will promote engagement in the arts among Sonoma County's ethnically diverse and low-income population by presenting a free educational and culturally relevant program of music. Freedom Jazz Choir members will have the opportunity to experience large-scale collaboration, group goal setting, personal development, deep cultural inquiry and a uniquely enriching experience with professional musicians. *Lift Every Voice and Sing* will provide to its performers and audience the opportunity to rehearse, perform and listen to music that brings communities together and fosters greater compassion and understanding.

LATIN JAZZ LECTURE AND CONCERT IN HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

John Santos Quintet, featuring spoken word artist Rico Pabon will present performances before the full student bodies at Healdsburg High School, Healdsburg Junior High and Geyserville High School. The lecture portion by Santos describes the roots of Latin Jazz, highlighting the significant roles played by Cuban, Puerto Rican, Brazilian and Mexican Caribbean music on the development Latin Jazz. To engage the students and to improve their ability to appreciate the music, Mr. Santos will describe various styles of jazz, each of which will be demonstrated live by himself and/or members of his Quintet. The Quintet's performances of various Latin Jazz music, including highly popular Salsa, will energize the students and create an experience will truly enjoy. The addition of spoken word by Rico Pabon, engages the students and demonstrates to them that spoken word can be part of jazz and Latin music. Santos' presentation and music will resonate with Latino students, enhancing respect for their cultural roots and its music among themselves and their classmates.



Recognizing that many of the Latin American families in our community are of Mexican descent, Santos will mention in his narrative the significant role of music from Mexico and how it has played a significant role in the development of Latin Jazz.

An important benefit to the community of the youth learning about the roots of Latin Jazz could be summarized by Mr. Santos's statement that, "The greatest asset of this music is that it is truly a hybrid with influences that connect all of us."

Mr. Santos summarized the respect and the pride which he and his group bring to Latin Jazz when he stated: "Today's interpreters of Latin Jazz are of all ages and colors. We are honored to consider ourselves part of a musical movement which owes its existence to generations of pioneers and innovators who dedicated their lives to the preservation and development of creative forms of cultural expression. We strive to uphold their legacy."

The excitement of nationally acclaimed musicians of diverse ethnic backgrounds in the schools, playing music with varied Latin origins and influences, encourages students to appreciate the invaluable influence of multi-ethnic contributions to the jazz art form and to open a broader perception of their place in the world.

John Santos (Performer): Five-time Grammy-nominated percussionist and US Artists Fontanals Fellow, Santos is among the world's foremost exponents of Afro-Latin music. The San Francisco native is known for his innovative use of traditional forms and instruments in combination with contemporary music. Santos is a prolific performer, composer, teacher, writer, radio programmer and producer whose career has spanned more than 35 years. He has worked with Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Max Roach and Eddie Palmieri, among many others.