



February 2017

The Joy of Learning Jazz - County-style

The TD Jazz Education Program offers high school musicians a chance to learn from and play with some of the world's top pros in Prince Edward County

Louis Armstrong learned a lot about jammin' when Joe King Oliver took him under his wing. There were no trumpet parts in Oliver's band for Armstrong to read, and so he had to listen and just make it up. Miles Davis was mentored by the legendary Clark Terry while he was still in high school.

So if you're an aspiring high school jazz pianist in modern-day Ontario, imagine going one-on-one with a two-time JUNO winner. Or saxophone sessions with a guy who backed Tony Bennett and Herbie Hancock. Or trombone talk with a two-time nominee as Canada's best...or drum discussion with one of the country's most-recorded musicians.

That's just the plan for nearly eighty central and eastern Ontario high school musicians who will take part in **The TD Jazz Education Program** in Prince Edward County April 21-23. It's a crucial part of the **Prince Edward County Jazz Festival's** commitment to the future of jazz.

The young musicians will gather at the Isaiah Tubbs Resort for three days to soak up all the performance help and jazz knowledge their master mentors can offer. And at the end, on Sunday April 23, they show what they've learned, and actually perform with the pros. The high school ensembles will share the **Regent Theatre** stage in Picton with the **Brian Barlow Big Band** and 2017 JUNO-nominated vocalist **Barbra Lica**. Show time is 2:30 p.m. Sun. April 23.

"This thing is now a fixture in Canadian jazz education," says program director Blair Yarranton.

"Both the teachers and students tell us it's the best extra-curricular jazz experience they have. And what's really fun is thinking about how a few of these students may well be back here performing as professional artists on our festival's main stage. It's happened before, and it'll happen again. It's good for our festival, and it's good for jazz."

Several alumni have established their own successful careers in jazz. One of the most accomplished is Barbra Lica herself, who will perform at this year's culminating

concert April 23rd. Drummers Ian Wright and Sarah Thawer, and pianist Hannah Barstow are also “grads.”

However, Prince Edward County Jazz Festival Creative Director Brian Barlow points out that only a few will become professional musicians.

“What they really take away from this program are invaluable lessons in life skills - working as a team, cooperation, listening, knowing when to take the lead and when to follow, taking risks. They also move on with a much better understanding of what it takes to make a life in the arts, and an appreciation of the arts. This will make them far more likely to support the arts as adults, and that's important.”

Tickets are on sale at the Regent Theatre as of March 1. www.theregenttheatre.org/

For more TD Jazz Education Program information: www.pecjazz.org

Participating jazz orchestras: Campbellford Secondary School, Brooklin High School, O’Neill Collegiate and Vocational Institute (Oshawa), Ottawa Junior Jazz Band

Jazz Artist-Mentors: Scott Alexander (bass), Vern Dorge (saxophone), Jason Logue (trumpet), Kelsley Grant (trombone), Robi Botos (keyboard), Brian Barlow (drums/ percussion)

Information/Interviews

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