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**El Cerrito High School To Host Fourth Annual Jazz Festival, Featuring the  
Walter Smith III Trio**

El Cerrito, CA – January 18, 2018

On **February 10, 2018**, El Cerrito High School will host its fourth annual Jazz Festival featuring high school jazz programs from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Sponsored by the City of El Cerrito Arts and Culture Commission, the California Jazz Conservatory, Stanford Jazz Workshop, and World Projects the event will be headlined by the nationally acclaimed jazz artist Walter Smith III with Eric Harland and Harish Raghavan.

The festival will take place in the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Center located at 540 Ashbury Avenue in El Cerrito, CA beginning at 8:00am.

The El Cerrito Jazz Festival will include workshops, master classes, clinics, concerts, and adjudicated performances. Festival adjudicators and clinicians include include **Barb Catlin** from Pomona College, **Patrick Langham** from the University of the Pacific, **Dave Loeb** from University of Nevada Las Vegas, **Steve Owen** from the University of Oregon, and **Rob Tapper** from the University of Montana.

Participating schools include Acalanes, Albany, Aragon, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Folsom, Marin School of the Arts, Northgate, and Valley Christian high schools in addition to an afternoon concert featuring the University of Montana Jazz Ensemble.

The festival's culminating event will be the evening concert featuring the **Walter Smith III Trio** featuring **Walter Smith III** (sax), **Eric Harland** (drums), and **Harish Raghavan** (bass). Although it may appear Smith is a new voice on the scene, he is widely recognized as an adept performer, accomplished composer, and inspired educator. Smith will release his 5th album as a leader, "Twio" in February of 2018 with his longtime trio of Harish Raghavan and Eric Harland including guest appearances by Christian McBride and Joshua Redman.

In the Jazz tradition, Smith has developed under the wings of many of the music's greats. Walter is/has been a member of several legendary groups (recording and/or touring) including the Roy Haynes Fountain of Youth Band, Terence Blanchard Quintet, Eric Harland's "Voyager", Jason Moran's "In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall", Ambrose Akinmusire Quintet, the Christian McBride "Situation", Christian Scott group and the Sean Jones Quintet to name a few. Smith has performed all over the world participating in virtually every international festival as well as famed venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Village Vanguard, and the Kennedy Center. In addition, he has shared the stage and/or appeared on recordings with many Jazz notables including Mulgrew Miller, Eric Reed, Billy Childs, Joe Lovano, Herbie Hancock, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Terri Lynne Carrington, Bill Stewart, Ralph Peterson, and a host of others. To date, Walter has appeared on over 100 recordings that are released worldwide.

All festival performances and concerts are open to the public. Tickets for the entire day's activities will be available at the ECHS Performing Arts Theater throughout the day for \$15.

A full schedule of events is posted online at [www.echsbands.com](http://www.echsbands.com).

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