

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**El Cerrito High School To Host 5th Annual Jazz Festival,
Featuring Chris Potter Circuits**

El Cerrito, CA – December 14, 2018

On **February 9, 2019**, the El Cerrito High School Band Program will host the 5th annual El Cerrito Jazz Festival (ECJF) featuring high school jazz programs from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Sponsored by the California Jazz Conservatory, World Projects, JW Pepper, and Spin Recruitment Advertising the event will be headlined by the nationally acclaimed jazz artist Chris Potter with James Francies and Nate Smith.

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 master classes, clinics, concerts, and adjudicated performances. Festival adjudicators and clinicians include guitarist **Mike Dana** from Fresno City College (retired), bassist **Peter Dominguez** from Oberlin Conservatory, trombonist **Alan Ferber** from New York University, trumpeter **Jeff Jarvis** from the CSU Long Beach, and saxophonist **Kasey Knudsen** from the Sonoma State University.

Participating schools include Acalanes, Albany, Berkeley, Buchanan, El Cerrito, Folsom, Livermore, Marin School of the Arts, Northgate, and Valley Christian high schools in addition to an afternoon concert featuring the CSU Long Beach Concert Jazz Orchestra.

The festival's culminating event will be the evening concert starting at 7:00pm with **Chris Potter Circuits** featuring **James Francies** (piano), and **Nate Smith** (drums). A world-class soloist, accomplished composer and formidable bandleader, saxophonist Chris Potter has emerged as a leading light of his generation. DownBeat called him "One of the most studied (and copied) saxophonists on the planet" while Jazz Times identified him as "a figure of international renown." Jazz sax elder statesman Dave Liebman called him simply, "one of the best musicians around," a sentiment shared by the readers of DownBeat in voting him second only to tenor sax great Sonny Rollins in the magazine's 2008 Readers Poll.

A potent improviser and the youngest musician ever to win Denmark's Jazzpar Prize, Potter's impressive discography includes 15 albums as a leader and sideman appearances on over 100 albums. He was nominated for a Grammy Award for his solo work on "In Vogue," a track from Joanne Brackeen's 1999 album Pink Elephant Magic, and was prominently featured on Steely Dan's Grammy-winning album from 2000, Two Against Nature. He has performed or recorded with many of the leading names in jazz, such as Herbie Hancock, Dave Holland, John Scofield, the Mingus Big Band, Jim Hall, Paul Motian, Dave Douglas, Ray Brown and many others.

All festival performances and concerts are open to the public. Tickets for daytime activities will be available at the ECHS Performing Arts Theater throughout the day for \$15. Tickets for the Chris Potter concert at 7:00pm are available for \$20 online at www.echsbands.com/festival.

A full schedule of events is posted online at www.echsbands.com/festival.

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