

ECHS
JAZZ
ENSEMBLE

El Cerrito, CA

With guest soloist
Aaron Lington, Baritone Sax

Friday, January 5, 2024
4:00pm | San Jose State University

CMEA BAY SECTION
Conference

PROGRAM

Straight Ahead George Stone

Publisher: Walrus Music

Grade: 5 | \$60.00

She Won't Look Back Anthony Wilson, Arr. Alan Ferber

Publisher: Alan Ferber

Grade: 4 | \$60.00

Easy Money Benny Carter

Publisher: Sierra Music Publications

Grade: 4 | \$65.00

Blood Count Billy Strayhorn

Publisher: Essentially Ellington

Grade: 4+

Nutville Horace Silver, Arr. Bryan Kidd

Publisher: FJH Music Company

Grade: 3 | \$65.00

Kopi Luwak Alan Ferber

Publisher: Alan Ferber

Grade: 6 | \$60.00

ABOUT OUR GUEST

Grammy Award-winning baritone saxophonist and composer **Aaron Joseph Lington** (b. 1974) received his BM in music education from the University of Houston, Moores School of Music, and both his MM in jazz studies and DMA in saxophone performance from the University of North Texas where he studied with James Riggs.

His performing and compositional credits include collaborations with the San Francisco Symphony, Maynard Ferguson, the BBC Radio Orchestra, the Count Basie Orchestra, Doc Severinsen, Bo Diddley, Joe Lovano, Jamie Davis, Tommy Igoe, Pacific Mambo Orchestra, and many others. In addition, he has won awards for both his playing and writing from Downbeat Magazine, ASCAP, and was the 2003 recipient of the Sammy Nestico Award. He was named the 2011 Jazz Educator of the Year by the California Music Educators Association, and has been recognized multiple times in the both the Downbeat Magazine Critic's Poll and Reader's Poll. In 2015 he was named as a Silicon Valley Artist Laureate.

The San José Mercury News praises Dr. Lington's playing as "revelatory... he obviously relishes the beautiful, blustery bark of his instrument..." and that he possesses a "... finely honed melodic sensibility..." Josh Davies from the International Trumpet Guild states that Lington "... [shows] a true command of his instrument with a very studied and soulful essence." Cadence magazine declares "Lington and compatriots come up with a wonderful and totally American jazz sound, [resulting in] a solid mainstream set based on some sweet melodic improvisation."

In addition to his position as professor at San José State University where he serves as Coordinator of Jazz Studies, Dr. Lington is also the director of the San José Jazz High School All Stars. Aaron Lington is a Saxophone Performing Artist for Selmer Saxophones and is a D'Addario Performing Artist and performs exclusively on Rico Reeds.

ECHS BANDS

Located in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area, El Cerrito High School holds a proud history of musical excellence that dates to the school's opening in 1941. The band program at El Cerrito High School offers students the opportunity to develop their skills and passion for music through a variety of experiences that include performances, clinics, festivals, and travel opportunities. The program is comprised of three concert bands: the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band as well as three jazz bands, the Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Workshop, and Jazz Lab. In addition to our classes, the program also offers several extra-curricular ensemble opportunities that include the Gaucho Band and Jazz Combos.

Since 1965 the El Cerrito Jazz Ensemble has been recognized as one of California's top high school jazz bands and has performed in venues throughout the United States and abroad. Led by El Cerrito alumnus, Keith Johnson, the El Cerrito Jazz Ensemble has earned top ratings and first place awards at numerous jazz festivals across the west coast and have been finalists regular finalists at Monterey's Next Generation Jazz Festival. Over the past 10 years the group has hosted and performed alongside prominent jazz artists that include Chris Potter, Wycliffe Gordon, Alan Ferber, John Daversa, Donny McCaslin, Eric Harland, and Terell Stafford, among others. Notable performances include appearances at the Monterey Jazz Festival, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Jazz à Vienne, and Umbria Jazz Festival. The El Cerrito Jazz Ensemble has twice been selected as featured performers for both the CMEA Bay Section Winter Conference (2020 and 2024) and California All-State Music Education Conference (2014 and 2024).

Throughout its 60-year history the El Cerrito High School Wind Ensemble has received superior ratings at local and state festivals and has been recognized as one of the San Francisco Bay Area's top high school wind bands. The band has made regular appearances at the California Music Educator's Association (CMEA) State Band and Orchestra Festival and has performed in venues and cities across the country including San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Vancouver. Notable performances include Carnegie Hall in New York City (2015), Chicago's Symphony Hall (2017), and the 2018 California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) in San Jose where the group was selected as a featured performing ensemble.

CMEA BAY SECTION *Conference*

THE DIRECTOR

Keith Johnson serves as Director of Bands at El Cerrito High School and lecturer of music at California State University, East Bay as conductor of the CSUEB Wind Ensemble. A San Francisco Bay Area native, his career as a music educator spans two decades with experience at the middle school, high school, and collegiate levels. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and a Master of Arts degree in music education with an emphasis in wind conducting from San José State University.

Keith has been the recipient of various teaching honors that include the El Cerrito High School Teacher of the Year (2020), CMEA Bay Section's Outstanding Jazz Educator Award (2018), KRON 4 Teacher of the Week (2016), CMEA Bay Section's Outstanding Music Educator Award (2014), and the West County Ed Fund's Teaching Excellence Award (2014). In 2014 he was also recognized as the West Contra Costa Teacher of the Year. Groups under his direction have received multiple awards and performed across the United States and Europe in venues that include Carnegie Hall in New York, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and at several international jazz festivals including Jazz à Vienne and the Montroux, North Sea, Umbria, Victoria, and Monterey jazz festivals.

Since arriving to El Cerrito High School in 2009, the ECHS Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble have been featured ensembles at the California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) in 2014, 2018, and 2024. Prior to joining ECHS, Keith held positions as jazz director at Portola Middle School in El Cerrito, CA and later director of the Jazzschool Young Musicians Program at the California Jazz Conservatory. As program director at the CJC, Keith founded and directed the award-winning Jazzschool Studio Band, recipient of four national Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards and winner of the "Large Jazz Ensemble" category in 2011.

In addition to his teaching commitments Keith works frequently as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor throughout Northern California and has served on the boards of several professional music education organizations including the California Music Educators Association (CMEA), California Alliance for Jazz (CAJ), and is a Past President of CMEA Bay Section.

BAND MEMBERS

SAXOPHONES

Nigel Weiss	<i>Alto 1</i>
Sean Fivian	<i>Alto 2</i>
Javier Gutierrez	<i>Tenor 1</i>
Julian Rosenthal	<i>Tenor 2</i>
Kenji Malaowala	<i>Baritone</i>

TRUMPETS

Linden Stacey	<i>Lead</i>
Sam Schweitzer	<i>Trumpet 2</i>
Brenna Moore	<i>Trumpet 3</i>
Matteo Diaco	<i>Trumpet 4</i>

TROMBONES

Arvid Pokhrel	<i>Lead</i>
Lucy Lebeck	<i>Trombone 2</i>
Amelia Harrington	<i>Trombone 3</i>
Benjamin Dutta	<i>Bass Trombone</i>

RHYTHM SECTION

Isaac Satzman	<i>Drums</i>
Guy Gibson	<i>Bass</i>
Henry Clayton	<i>Bass</i>
Evan Steinkoler	<i>Piano</i>
Willow Bown	<i>Guitar</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CMEA Bay Section

Dave Gregoric, CMEA Bay Section Jazz Representative

Dr. Aaron Lington, Coordinator of Jazz Studies, San Jose State University

WCCUSD School Board Members

Dr. Kenneth Chris Hurst, Superintendent of Schools

Malcom Norington, ECHS Principal

Kate Bloomer, ECHS Assistant Principal

Jacob Gran, ECHS Assistant Principal

Monica Eng, ECHS Assistant Principal

ECHS Counseling Department

Chris Read, WCCUSD VAPA Coordinator

El Cerrito Band Association Committee Members

Tiffany Carrico, Director of Bands, Korematsu Middle School

Christian Manzana, El Cerrito Area Elementary Band Director



Join us for our performance at

CASMEC on February 3, 2024 at 12:00 pm

For more information visit www.casmec.org