

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

FALL JAZZ CONCERT

EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL THEATER

11.19.25

7:00 PM



WWW.ECHSBANDS.COM

PROGRAM

JAZZ LAB

Birk's Works (1957 | 2019)

Dizzy Gillespie, Arr. Rick Stitzel
(1917-1993 | b.1960)

Take the "A" Train (1941 | 2021)

Billy Strayhorn, Arr. Michael Sweeney
(1915-1967 | b.1952)

JAZZ WORKSHOP

Sofrito (2006 | 2024)

Mongo Santamaria, Arr. Michael Phillip Mossman
(1917-2003 | b.1959)

Easy Money (1962)

Benny Carter
(1907-2003)

The Intrepid Fox (1972 | 2011)

Freddie Hubbard, Arr. Eric Richards
(1938-2008 | b.1972)

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Off the Cuff (1988)

Jim McNeely
(1949-2025)

4 B.C. (2012)

Rob McConnell
(1935-2010)

Black Hole Sun (1994 | 2014)

Soundgarden, Arr. James Miley
(b.1964)

Kemet (The Black Land) (2012)

Javier Nero
(b.1990)

ABOUT ECHS BANDS

Located in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area, El Cerrito High School holds a proud history of musical excellence and award-winning ensembles that dates to the school's opening in 1941. Comprised of three concert bands and three jazz ensembles with an enrollment of over 170 students, the band program continues to be recognized among the best in the Bay Area. It 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. In addition to curricular ensembles, the program also offers several extra-curricular opportunities that include the Gaucho Band and Jazz Combos.

Led by El Cerrito alumnus Keith Johnson, all El Cerrito bands have received superior ratings and top honors at music festivals and competitions across the state over the last two decades. Notable events include performances at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Symphony Hall in Chicago, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Monterey Jazz Festival. Additionally, the program has traveled on international tours to Canada, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland for cultural exchanges and performances at the North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreux Jazz Festival, Umbria Jazz Festival, Jazz à Vienne, and at the City of Valencia International Wind Band Contest.

Through the work of several dedicated directors and unwavering community support, the band program has created a lasting legacy. Continuing in that tradition, El Cerrito's ensembles have recently been featured at music education conferences across the state and nationally, including the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Bay Section Conference in 2020 and 2024 (Jazz Ensemble), the California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) in 2014 and 2024 (Jazz Ensemble), 2018 (Wind Ensemble) and The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in 2024 (Jazz Ensemble).

In 2025, El Cerrito High School was awarded the prestigious Support Music Merit Award by NAMM Foundation. The SMMA Award recognizes individual schools for their support and commitment to music education. It is a "school-only" distinction awarded as part of the Best Communities for Music Education program.

**For a full history of El Cerrito High School Bands please visit our website
at www.echsbands.com/echsbandshistory**

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Keith Johnson serves as Director of Bands at El Cerrito High School and lecturer of music at California State University, East Bay where he directs the CSUEB Wind Ensemble and Jazz Orchestra. 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), the West County Ed Fund's Teaching Excellence Award (2014). He was also recognized as the West Contra Costa Teacher of the Year in 2014. 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. Under his leadership, the ECHS Jazz Ensemble was selected as featured performing ensemble at the 2024 Midwest Clinic in Chicago. 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

JAZZ LAB

SAXOPHONES

Henry Pulupa *
Jimmy Geller
Felix Reyes
Remi Roberts
Sierra Luna

TRUMPETS

Alec Gwin Scott *
Katie Lyons
Evelyn Williams

TROMBONES

Mark Reilly *
Canyon Fujisaka
Marilyn Hamrick

DRUMS

Nate Ricketts

BASS

Matias Monahan

PIANO

Winn Cheng

VIBES

Cormac Rubey

JAZZ WORKSHOP

SAXOPHONES

Isaac Pletcher *
Jackson Austin
Rafael Brenman
Tetsuya Shiozaki
Laertes Brard

TRUMPETS

Yahir Gomez-Porres *
Adam Feiszli
Evan Toth
Rommel Ampie
Lawrence Wong

TROMBONES

Curtis Beh *
Ailyn Arias Sanchez
Marco Ivicic
Penelope Ayala

DRUMS

Sevan Markarian

BASS

Henry Clason

PIANO

Winn Cheng

GUITAR

Ronan Wynden

PERCUSSION

Nessa Eisen

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

FLUTE

Corwin Gauna

SAXOPHONES

Sean Fivian *
Isaac Pletcher
Alexander Jacox
Javier Gutierrez
Thomas Connor

TRUMPETS

Matteo Diaco *
Mimi Odyniec
Andrew Ybarra
Stewart Parkinson

TROMBONES

William Bowden *
Neil Cooney
Matthew D'Amato
Aidan Herp

DRUMS

Rani Millstein

BASS

Leo Szarke

PIANO

Zeke Vlahos

GUITAR

Jack Huie

PERCUSSION

Sevan Markarian

* *Lead*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WCCUSD School Board Members

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