



Dear Director,

It is our pleasure to announce the second annual Commencement Bay Jazz Festival hosted by Fife High School in partnership with the City of Fife and the FHS Booster Club. This festival will be a multi-stage event serving both vocal and instrumental high school jazz ensembles. The festival is divisional and competitive.

We are very excited to introduce our adjudicator and performer line-up. They are among the finest jazz educators in the region and the world. Adjudicating for the instrumental festival will be **Jim Sisko**, acclaimed trumpeter and Director of the instrumental music program at Bellevue College; **Tracy Knoop**, one of the best-known jazz artists in the region and Director at the University of Puget Sound; **Brian Kirk**, Professor of Jazz, Electronic Music, Music Theory, and Percussion at Seattle Central College; and **David Deacon-Joyner**, pianist, composer, and professor of jazz studies with over 30 years of experience at the University of North Texas and Pacific Lutheran University. Adjudicating for the vocal festival will be **Jeff Baker**, recording artist and former Director of Jazz and Contemporary Voice at Portland State University; **Dave Barduhn**, composer and instrumental and vocal jazz educator for over 30 years; and **Thomas Almli**, Director of Choral Music Activities and the vocal jazz ensemble "Celebration" at Bellevue College.

**For the two separate evening finals concerts, we have the distinct pleasure to present two outstanding and world-renowned performers:**

On our vocal stage, we are currently in the process of booking **Alicia Olatuja**! Praised by the *New York Times* as "a singer with a strong and luscious tone and an amiably regal presence on stage," Alice Olatuja has been astounding audiences with her exquisite vocals, artistic versatility, and captivating demeanor. She first came into the national spotlight in 2013, whilst performing as the featured soloist with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir at President Barack Obama's Second Inauguration. Shortly thereafter, she assembled her own jazz based ensemble and recorded her first solo album, *Timeless* (2014).

On our instrumental stage, we will be welcoming **Jeff Kashiwa**! Kashiwa is one of the most compelling saxophonists in contemporary jazz. He has performed all over the world and has recently expanded his career to include the realm of music education. He now teaches at Shoreline Community College in Seattle and is releasing his tenth solo CD entitled "Fly Away."

For more information on adjudicators and performers, as well as registration information, visit our website at [www.commencementbayjazzfestival.com](http://www.commencementbayjazzfestival.com). Questions? Send us an e-mail at [commbayjazz@gmail.com](mailto:commbayjazz@gmail.com), a message through our website, or follow our new Facebook page for information.

We hope the Commencement Bay Jazz Festival will become an exciting and enriching annual experience for you and your musicians.

Sincerely,

Karl Sorensen, FHS Music Director  
FHS Music Department  
City of Fife  
FHS Booster Club