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Jumpin' Jam Sessions Cap Off Weeklong Jazz Camp

By Jennifer Wake



Dave Martell's jazz combo band performs his composition, "Cool Raul."

fantastical frenzy of trumpet, tenor sax, flute, bass, drums and trombone solos filled the air during the Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop's final concert at Stanley Middle School Aug. 7. Twenty-five combo bands, each with as few as six players to as many as 11, most middle- and high-school aged, others older, belted out a medley of jazz tunes such as "Blue Train" by John Coltrane and "Cool Raul" by Dave Martell that kept the place jumping from 3:30 to 10 p.m.

The concert was the culmination of the weeklong camp that has been going strong for the past 17 years. Some of the songs played at the concert were given to performers just two days before the event.

"I really liked the expertise of the instructors and their ability to excite the kids," said parent Dani Bennett, whose son Kyle participated in the program. "It was such a positive environment with the opportunity to immerse yourself in jazz."

The workshop was directed by Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde and jazz curriculum director Kyle Athayde, and was supported by the Generations in Jazz Foundation. Each day, the camp was broken into different sections - master's classes, improvisation and free choice workshops and jazz combos and participants had direct access to highly experienced jazz musician faculty and experts throughout the week.

"The master's class gave me a

chance to work with really experienced players who taught me how to to do a duet. get better at my instrument," said 12year-old trumpet player Jon Wake. "I learned about mixolydian and Dorian,

First-time camper and drummer a free period with the freedom to ex-

different forms of scales or chord pro-

gressions for improvisation in a song

and key changes in a song."

plore the history of jazz or learn how

Jam sessions were offered every morning, and at different venues throughout Lafayette during the week. The players in the jazz combos not only learned the music, but how to work together as a band. "We just got to know each other," said musi-Kyle Bennett, 13, liked that there was cian and faculty member Alan Ferber at the event. "I want another week."



Drummer Kyle Bennett plays "Tenderly" as part of his jazz combo.

Cal Shakes Summer Conservatory Students Take to the Stage

By Clare Varellas

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"The Tempest"

inety-three performing arts students aged 8 to 18 performed six edited Shakespeare plays on the stage of the Bentley Upper School Theater on July 31, a product of only two weeks of training and rehearsals.

The students, a crew ranging in both age and acting experience, were participants in California Shakespeare Theater's Summer Conservatory, a program of two- and four-week summer camps aimed at delivering brief, but impressive training in acting, and

a lot of fun, too. The program, which includes a two-week session and fourweek session in both Lafayette and Oakland, has run every summer since 2002, enrolling about 300 youth an-

"I really like how they make fun, because there is always fun," said Laura Fleury, mother of 14-year-old participant Isabella Fleury. "They do educational stuff: they learn about the history, they learn about Shakespeare. Everybody seems to really seriously Photo Jay Yamada

get along, and my daughter has made a whole bunch of friends. Every sum-

mer they see each other." It is the sense of community that the camp fosters, in addition to a love for theater, that Cal Shakes director of artistic learning Clive Worsley emphasizes as a goal in planning the program. As students spend about six hours together each day for two or four weeks, he watches friendships form and grow, and perspectives ... continued on page B7