

**SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Alumn Nick DePinna Receives
2019 SFJAZZ Hut Foundation Alumni Commission Award**

(San Francisco, CA, January 4, 2019) – SFJAZZ announces High School All-Stars alumnus and trombone player Nick DePinna has received the 2019 SFJAZZ Hut Foundation Alumni Commission Award. DePinna’s composition “Bloom” won the commission along with a \$1,000 award. On May 12 2019, the High School All-Stars Big Band will perform the composition at SFJAZZ Center.

SFJAZZ invites former High School All-Stars to submit original works to be evaluated by the SFJAZZ Education department based upon creativity, musical maturity, and a command of composition within the jazz orchestra idiom. This award is designed to maintain engagement with High School All-Star program alumni in a way that fosters their own creativity and artistry. SFJAZZ strives to support those who have come through the institution internally as students and contributors. This commission not only recognizes and rewards our awardee for their artistic contribution, but it also creates a dialogue between previous and current program participants. As well as being valuable to the awardee, this is valuable to current High School All-Stars as an educational and inspirational experience.

Originally from Pleasanton, CA, composer Nick DePinna studied music composition at UCLA, completing his M.A. in 2010. As a composer of concert, film, and commercial music, DePinna’s arrangements and scores are performed by professional ensembles and universities, as well as appearing in independent films. As a performer, DePinna has performed, toured, and/or recorded with Kenny Burrell’s Los Angeles Jazz Orchestra Unlimited, the Brian Setzer Orchestra, the John Daversa Big Band, and co-leads his own jazz orchestra, “Jazz Nexus.” He has also recorded and performed with Dee Dee Bridgewater, Herbie Hancock, Jerry Lee Lewis, Dianne Schuur, and Wayne Shorter.

"SFJAZZ was a deeply important part of my musical education in high school. I'm grateful for this wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the organization and engage with this year's ensemble" says DePinna.

"SFJAZZ Education is so excited to be able to commission original works," says SFJAZZ Ensembles Manager Erin Putnam. "For the All-Stars' talent to come full circle like this, wherein alumni are having the chance to provide not only original material to the current students, but also that inspiration, is so rewarding."

Formed in 2001 and directed by esteemed educator and performer Paul Contos, the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Big Band is comprised of 23 of the finest young Bay Area jazz musicians, selected annually by competitive audition. The ensemble has appeared at Jazz at Lincoln Center’s Essentially Ellington Competition, Monterey’s Next Generation Jazz Festival, the Savannah Jazz Festival, and at concerts in top professional jazz clubs, festivals, museums, and community arts centers throughout California. Ensemble members enjoy regular workshops, master classes, and mentoring sessions with leading artists, such as members of the SFJAZZ Collective, Esperanza Spalding, and Vijay Iyer.

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