

SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Alum Owen Clapp Receives 2017 SFJAZZ Hut Foundation Alumni Commission Award

(San Francisco, CA, January 3, 2017) – SFJAZZ announces High School All-Stars Alumnus and bassist Owen Clapp received the 2017 SFJAZZ Hut Foundation Alumni Commission Award. Clapp's composition "Tokyo" won the award along with a \$1,000 check. On May 7, 2017, the award-winning High School All-Stars Big Band will perform this composition.

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 western Marin County in Northern California, Clapp graduated from Sir Francis Drake High School in 2009. He went on to study ethnomusicology and jazz studies at UCLA on scholarship, graduating in 2013. During his time there, he was mentored by bassist John Clayton and guitarist Kenny Burrell. Music has taken him through North America, Europe, Africa, Central America, and Asia in groups playing a range of styles, from jazz to modern Carnatic music. In 2016 he was chosen as one of four upright bass finalists for the Thelonious Monk Institute at UCLA. Most recently, Clapp was chosen for the inaugural Music Action Lab ensemble in San Francisco -- an innovative music residency uniting musicians from across the globe. He represents MTD Kingston electric basses.

"It is an honor to have the chance to write original music for such a fantastic group of musicians!" says Clapp.

"SFJAZZ Education is beyond excited to award this artist commission," says SFJAZZ Ensemble Coordinator Erin Putnam. "For the All-Stars' talent to come full circle like this, where 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 24 of the finest young Bay Area jazz musicians, selected annually by competitive audition. The ensemble has appeared at the San Francisco Jazz Festival, SFJAZZ Spring Season, Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington Competition, Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, the Jazz Education Network Conference, 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, Terence Blanchard, Christian McBride, and Vijay Iyer.

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