Sac State jazz groups find success at Monterey

Sacramento State’s Jazz Ensembles are among the three best college jazz bands in the nation, according to the Next Generation Jazz Festival.

The Jazz Ensembles were initially one of six college jazz bands in the nation selected to compete in the March 30-April 1 event sponsored by the prestigious Monterey Jazz Festival.

When the notes settled, the Sac State musicians ended the festival in third place. Cal State Northridge and Azusa Pacific University placed first and second, respectively.

“We played great,” says Professor Steve Roach, Jazz Ensembles conductor and director of Sac State’s jazz programs. “The students had a great time, and they achieved yet another important experience in their musical timeline while honing their skills as students at Sac State.”

The Jazz Ensembles performed three numbers to an audience of jazz fans, musicians and educators – “Transit” by Darcy James Argue; “Here’s That Rainy Day,” arranged by Chris Walden; and Pat Metheny’s “Phase Dance,” arranged by Jazz Ensembles trumpeter Tim Weiss.

Sac State’s Jazz Singers also performed at the festival, but as an exhibition group because director Kerry Marsh served as a judge in the competition.

To view a video of Sac State’s jazz musicians, visit http://bit.ly/HtyyU9. For more information on Sacramento State’s jazz programs, visit www.csus.edu/music. For media assistance, call the University’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

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