

CAVALCADE JAZZ

Education through musical involvement.

ANNOUNCER - CAVALCADE JAZZ FESTIVALS

Cavalcade Jazz "A Class" and "Open Class" Overview

In order to provide the best educational experience for our member bands, Cavalcade Jazz will be offering two different classes of evaluation this year - "A Class" and "Open Class". Each jazz band director chooses the class that they feel is most appropriate for their band, based on the experience and skill level of the students in the band. While all bands are judged using the same areas of skill evaluation (i.e., Precision, Interpretation, Balance and Blend, etc.), "A Class" is intended for developing bands where demonstrating an intermediate to intermediate-advanced level of skill is the expectation. "Open Class" is intended for more experienced bands where demonstrating an intermediate-advanced to advanced level of skill is the expectation. The goal of this system is to provide each band with the most relevant, contextual feedback possible while recognizing achievement and encouraging improvement at a level appropriate to each Class.

A Note about Awards and Ratings in Cavalcade Jazz

With the new two class system, there will be four Best Section awards presented in each class at every Cavalcade Jazz show to recognize outstanding section performances in both classes. The judges will also award 3 to 6 Best Soloist awards across the entire show for outstanding individual solos regardless of class, plus Honorable Mention awards as they see fit. Ratings for each band will be announced by class in performance order. Please note that since the ensembles are rated on different skill sets for A Class and Open Class, it is possible to have an A Class ensemble have a higher rating than an Open Class ensemble, but they are in no way comparable.

Cavalcade Jazz Festivals are sponsored by the Cavalcade of Bands Association, which is comprised of over eighty high schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Jazz Administrators of Cavalcade help to organize many jazz festivals each year and also sponsor the **CAVALCADE JAZZ CHAMPIONSHIPS**. **This year, the championships will be held on April 28 & 29, 2017. The New Jersey Regional Championship will be held April 1 at the Millville Performing Arts Center.**

Cavalcade Jazz Championships will be held at :

April 28 – Chichester HS

April 28 – Methacton (Arcola MS)

April 29 – Methacton (Arcola MS)

April 29 – Upper Moreland HS

The emphasis of Cavalcade Jazz Festivals is "Education Through Musical Involvement." There are no first, second, or third place bands. Each band is a winner as only ratings are announced at the end of the evening, along with special recognition of outstanding sections and soloists. Cavalcade provides each festival with a panel of three professional music educators. The adjudicators provide positive feedback and suggestions for improvement as they make taped comments during each performance. The purpose is to have each group improve their performance each week. Jazz Bands are also encouraged to have soloists perform during their selections.

Additional information is available at the Cavalcade website: <http://www.cavalcadeofbands.com>