# Jazz Pensacola 2025 Student Jazz Competition Winners

Jazz Pensacola conducted the Fifteenth Annual 2025 Student Jazz Competition on Saturday, March 22, in the Mainstage Theater on the campus of the University of West Florida. Part of Jazz Pensacola's mission is to encourage and assist emerging jazz musicians during their student years. The jazz community, including musicians and educators, feels that by welcoming students and giving them an opportunity to showcase and develop their talents, we are helping to create the jazz musicians of the future.

Finalists were chosen from submitted applications, each including recorded performances of two tunes demonstrating their jazz skills. Judges for the live event were professional musicians and educators Cynthia Domulot, Bob Maksymkow and Don Snowden. Also, the students were accompanied by professional musicians Mary Chavez, Steve Douglas and Jimmy Roebuck. Roger Villines was the Master of Ceremonies. Special thanks goes to the University of West Florida for providing the excellent venue and stage support.

Each student performed 2 jazz tunes of their choice before a live audience, after which the judges deliberated and determined the following placements. Students were then presented with monetary awards ranging from $100 to $500. They were all winners.

**High School Instrumental Division:**

First Place: Andersen Shell – Niceville High School

Second Place: Tristan Lopez – Pace High School

Third Place: Fawaz Hamid – Pace High School

**Jazz Vocal Division:**

First Place: Kayla Neely – University of West Florida

Second Place: Danylo Cherkashyn – Pensacola State College

Third Place: Gabrielle Carley – University of West Florida

**College Instrumental Division:**

First Place: David Lyon – University of West Florida

Second Place: Nehemiah Trotman – University of West Florida

Third Place: Alyssa-James Gray – University of West Florida

**Thanks to our Sponsors and Jazz Education Team Supporters (JETS)**

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Music Study Group of Pensacola

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Dr. Michelle Brandhorst

Steve Douglas

Roger and Kat Villines

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