The Santa Cruz Jazz Festival features student performers from across the state.

Santa Cruz Jazz Festival concludes today

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OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Close to 2,000 student performers are lighting up Cabrillo College with an assortment of jazz as the 27th annual Santa Cruz Jazz Festival, which began Friday, concludes today.

The festival, taking place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., features student bands from all over the state performing in Cabrillo College's various performing arts complexes.

Scholarships for private musical instruction will be awarded to some individual performers. After the conclusion of the festival, judges will recommend students for the scholarships to the festival's board of directors, who make the final judgment.

Judges provide constructive criticism on what the performers are doing well and what needs improvement, said Steve Gray, president of the Jazz Festival.

Playing for a large audience is also an important component of the festival for the student performers, he said.

“They also get a chance to play in front of a live audience in a wonderful venue,” Gray said.

Gray said he hopes the audience, especially the students in the crowd, become inspired.

“Hopefully some local students will show up for the concerts like I did when I was in school and say, ‘maybe some day I’ll be up there performing,’” he said.

Admission to the festival is $10. For information, visit www.scjf.org.